

Zimbabwe

Triangle Sugar

Triangle Limited is an agri-based sugar company situated in the south-east lowveld of Zimbabwe, 445 km south east of the capital city of Harare, and is wholly owned by The Tongaat Hulett Group.

Murray MacDougall, assisted by Tom Dunuza founded the company in 1919 to ranch cattle but a severe downturn in the economy during the post World War 1 recession led Triangle into crop production in the late 1920s. The main crop cultivated was wheat but Triangle started growing sugar cane in 1934 with only 18 hectares under irrigation. This is a far cry from the current 13 927 hectares at Triangle Estate, the 4 650 hectares at Mkwesine and 1 916 hectares at Mwenezana.

The first sugar-processing mill in Zimbabwe was opened at Triangle on 11 September 1939. Numerous problems followed, which saw the Government taking over the company in 1944. In 1954 a South African company, the Natal Syndicate purchased Triangle, only to be taken over in 1957 by Guy Hulett who was running a business consortium in Natal. This marked the beginning of the Tongaat Hulett era.

Triangle's incredible expansion was started in the early 1960's, with the development of water storage and canal irrigation of sugar cane. Triangle currently crushes around 2,5 million tonnes of cane, producing up to 320 000 tonnes of sugar, of which 90000 tonnes is refined. In addition, an alcohol plant attached to the sugar factory annually produces up to 100 000 litres of grade rectified spirit from molasses, for sale predominantly into Europe. A livestock unit is also part of the company, with a head of cattle being ranched on the Triangle estates.

Triangle has a fully developed value chain, which places emphasis on quality, from the inbound logistics to the final product. The company maximises customer satisfaction with the Huletts and SunSweet sugar brands. In addition, Triangle is a major employer in Zimbabwe through the export of sugar and alcohol products.

Corporate Social Investment is an area towards which Triangle directs great efforts, recognising the significance of its role to its stakeholders, and assistance is provided to the communities in which Triangle operates, supporting projects to improve the quality of life. The company provides the means for employees to continuously better themselves and in the process improve the welfare of all residents at Triangle.

A Socio-Economic Development Programme focuses Triangle's contribution towards the indigenisation of the sugar industry, the settlement of company-owned land under cane, support given to emergent sugar cane farmers, expansion of sugar production to an excess of 500 000 tonnes per annum once the Tokwe-Mukorsi dam is constructed, and facilitation of greater economic growth in Zimbabwe. Triangle seeks to act as a catalyst for sustainable development and wealth creation in partnership with its stakeholders.

Triangle's vision is to continue expanding sugar production in the lowveld of Zimbabwe, thereby significantly contributing to the economic growth of Tongaat Hulett Group and Zimbabwe.

Triangle Production Capacities

Mill

The Triangle Mill has two separate crushing lines (throughput based on cane of 15% fibre)

- BMA diffuser rated at 300TCH*
- 6 mill 66" milling tandem rated at 160TCH

* TCH = Tons of Cane per Hour

Refinery

The refinery is rated at 60,000t of white sugar per annum and utilises a 3 boiling system after a carbflotation process to produce high quality grade refined sugar.

Alcohol Plant

The alcohol plant takes the final molasses from the sugar production operation and then through fermentation, distillation and molecular sieve dehydration. This process produces fuel grade alcohol at a rate of 100 000 litres per annum.

Hippo Valley

Triangle Sugar Corporation Limited acquired a 50,35% stake in Hippo Valley Estate in September 2006. Hippo Valley is the second largest producer of sugar in Zimbabwe. Founded in 1956, the company is situated on a citrus estate, and canned Hippo Valley fruit was exported across south Africa. The sugar plantations cover 124 square km of the estate and a mill constructed. The sugar plantations cover 124 square km of the estate was listed for compulsory acquisition by the Government of Zimbabwe.

Hippo Valley is an estate bordering the Triangle estate, and with Triangle is an equal listed on the Zimbabwean Stock Exchange (under the ticker HIPPO). Tongaat Hulett Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tongaat Hulett Corporation Limited. Other shareholders include Tate & Lyle (10%). Tongaat Hulett (Pty) Ltd.



Triangle Mill



Triangle Mill at night



Aerial view - Triangle fields



Ethanol plant



Hippo Valley