

## STATEMENT FROM FLOR DE CAÑA

*Note of clarification: Flor de Caña is produced and owned by Compañía Licorera de Nicaragua. Compañía Licorera de Nicaragua buys molasses from a sister company named Ingenio San Antonio.*

The health and safety of the workforce at Ingenio San Antonio and all of our facilities is of the utmost importance to our company and our communities.

Over the last several years, Ingenio San Antonio has been at the forefront of a cross-industry effort aimed at eradicating CKD (Mesoamerican Nephropathy), which affects workers across many industries in hot climates around the world. Specifically, Ingenio San Antonio has collaborated with international research groups from Boston University and the Baylor School of Medicine to study the presence of CKD in our region. In partnership with these institutions, and based on their independent recommendations, Ingenio San Antonio has developed our country's most advanced and comprehensive programs to prevent, control, monitor and measure the incidence of CKD among our workforce. Ingenio San Antonio has also established training programs so that other companies and organizations can learn from and utilize these best practices. While these efforts have led to a significant reduction in the incidence of the disease, in no way does this progress lessen our continued commitment to this critically important area.

Ingenio San Antonio's track record of making strides to reduce the incidence of CKD include many important best practices implemented not only in the sugarcane business but also across the region's many diverse industries. Ingenio San Antonio's comprehensive program to protect its workers adheres to international best practice, and it utilizes what we believe are the industry's most stringent and rigorous procedures related to health and safety practices.

These practices include leading programs to reduce the risk of heat stress among our workers, based on a series of recommendations by Boston University. Ingenio San Antonio has established industry best practices in terms of hydration, rest and shade and it has continually invested to expand the number of health and security personnel in the fields to ensure policies are followed. All employees, alongside management, receive regular training from medical personnel to learn about relevant health risks and how to prevent them. Ingenio San Antonio was the first in our industry to establish a mobile health clinic to provide preventative care and attention, with two more clinics expected to be added in 2016.

Ingenio San Antonio's health and safety programs are certified and audited by numerous domestic and international institutions on a regular basis. Over the last ten years, Ingenio San Antonio has consistently received an award in the category of Excellence in Occupational Safety and Health, and has repeatedly been chosen as a Leading Company by the National Council of Occupational Safety and Health of Nicaragua.

We regret the partial portrayal of the working conditions in Chichigalpa recently presented in certain media, which neither reflect nor contribute positively to the efforts that are being made in terms of research, treatment and prevention of CKD. While we are appreciative of the recognition in the same media of Ingenio San Antonio as a leading company in these efforts, Ingenio San Antonio will continue to invest in industry-leading research and health and safety practices, and hope that the current discussion compels a greater level of involvement and investment in these efforts.