



# Bio-Energy Projects & Opportunities from Sugarcane

TSB is geared for the future and sustained growth

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- What is sugarcane?
- Energy opportunities under development
- Energy in Action - Our Partnership with Growers



# Tsb Cane Supply Area

## 70% of Irrigated North of SA Industry





## What is sugarcane?



# Sugarcane history

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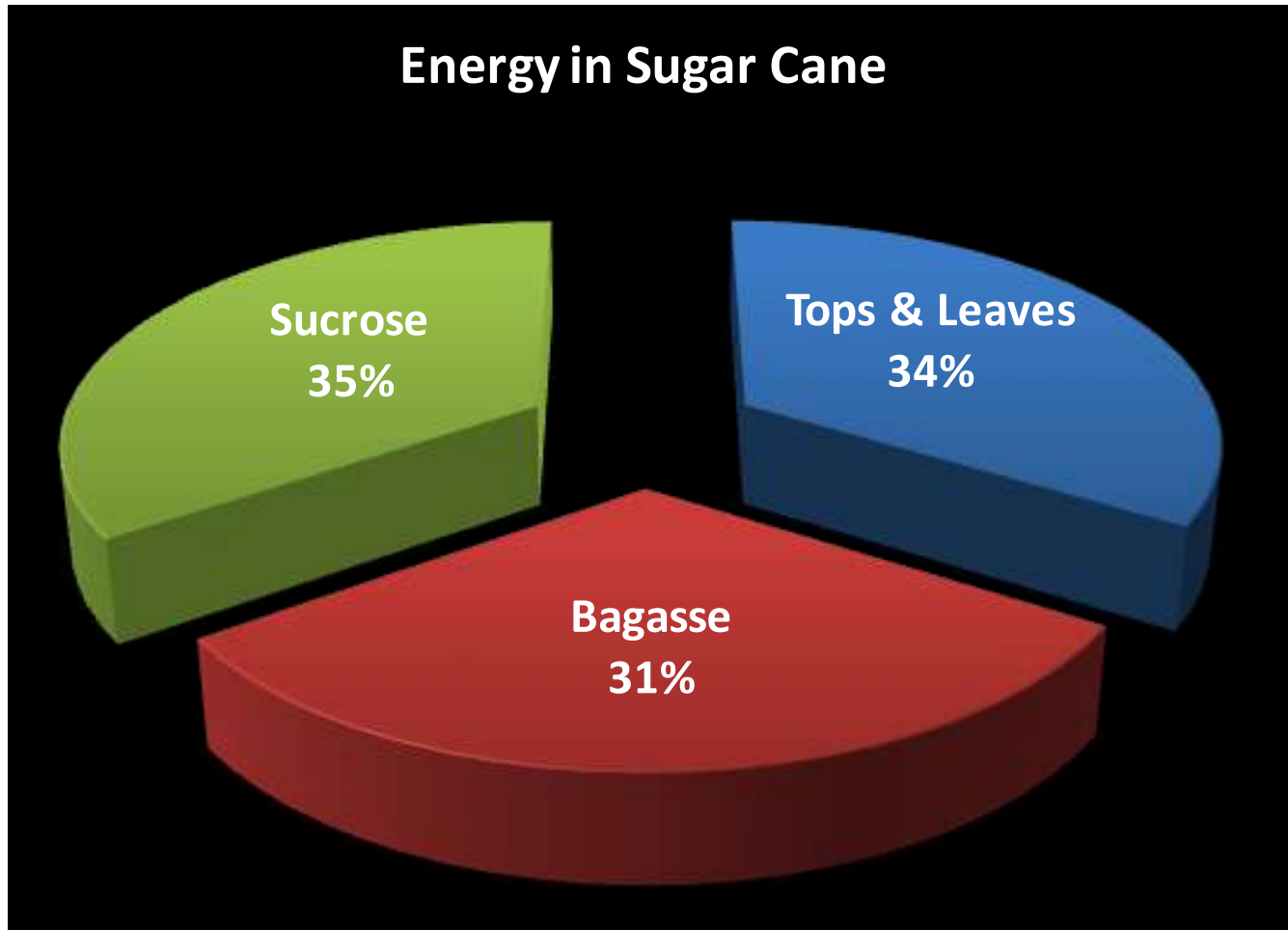
- Cultivated since 6000BC
- Columbus introduced sugar cane to the “new world.”
- Jan van Riebeeck tested cane from Jakarta in the Cape.
- “Imfe” was already grown by the Zulu in KwaZulu-Natal when the first settlers arrived.
- The first sugarcane crop in SA planted by Edmund Moorewood in 1848 at his farm “Compensation”. In 1851 the first sugar in SA was made with a wooden roller mill.
- By 1860 there were 40 mills scattered over KwaZulu-Natal – actively exporting sugar.
- Currently 14 Mills, 2,2 mil tons sugar from 19,9 mil tons cane

# Sugarcane



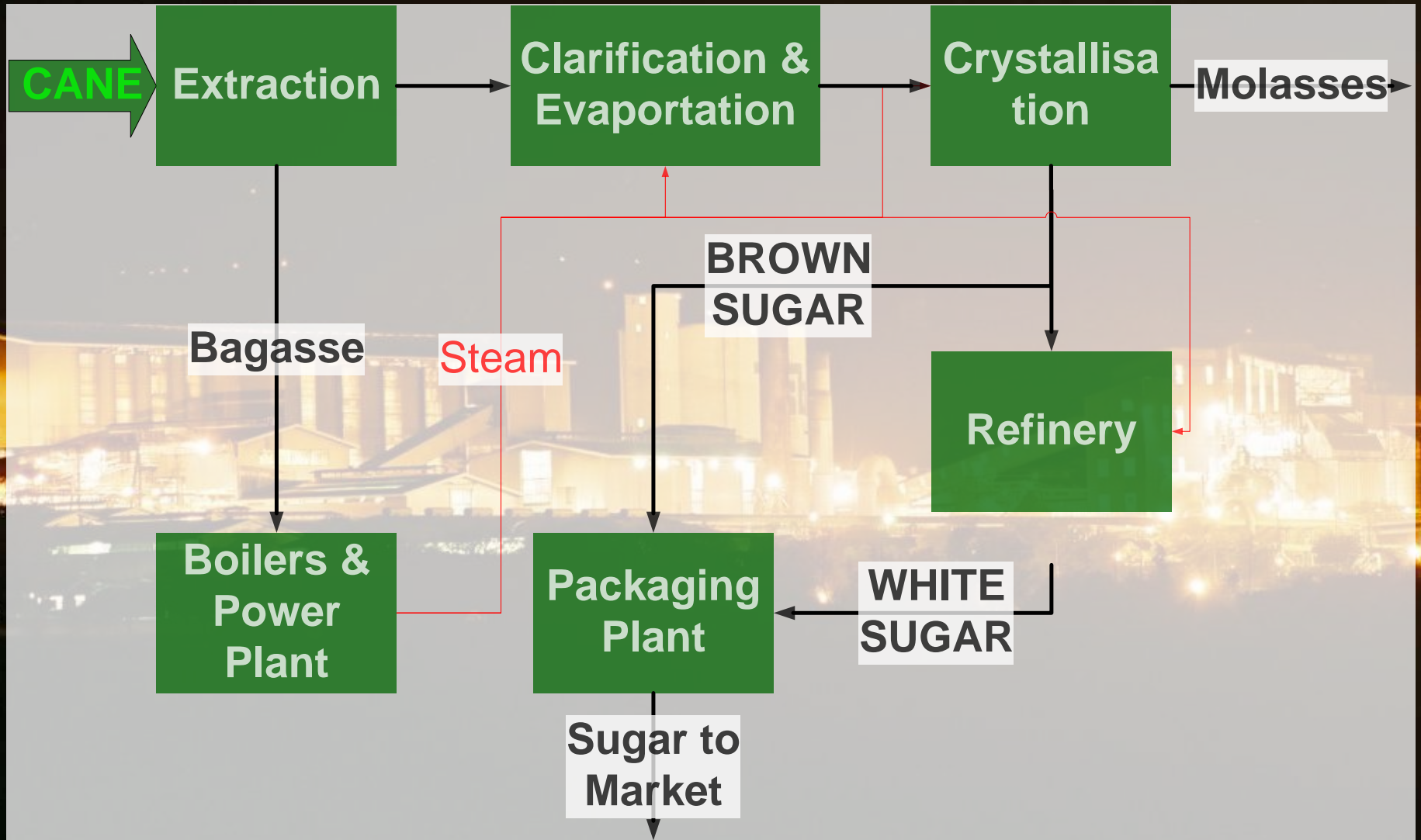
- Sugarcane is one of the most efficient plants to capture and convert atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.
- For sugarcane to produce carbohydrates it needs:
  - Carbon (from Carbon Dioxide)
  - Water and
  - Sunlight (temperate climate)
  - Also soil with the right nutrients





- 6 625 MJ/ton cane (422 kg dry) = 0.153 tons oil ; Pippo & Luengo, 2013

# Understanding a Sugar Mill







## Direct Energy Opportunities



## Current Initiatives in Tsb

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- Detailed investigation of using “brown leaf” as a fuel source to generate additional energy.
  - “Green Cane” has additional cost to deliver.
  - Brown Leaf has challenges and require separation prior to the sugar process – work in progress.
  - Brown leaf can increase SA’s renewable power generation and provide an additional source of income to the Grower.

# Current Initiatives in Tsb

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- Extensive Review of Energy Efficiency & Energy Use
  - Ultimate goal is to achieve Risk Mitigation and Energy Independence through efficient use of underutilised process streams and resources for example:
    - Komati Mill needs thermal energy and not all the steam generated passes through turbines – opportunity exist to utilise the “work” contained in the high pressure steam.

# Current Initiatives in Tsb

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- Tsb is currently in advanced engineering phase to use this steam more effectively. Opportunities are:
  - Possible additional turbine to increase electrical output (EIA in progress)
  - Thermal recompression of low pressure vapour to reuse in the factory.
- But nothing comes for free or cheap!

# Opportunities from Sugar Cane



- Sugar Cane can contribute to the SA Economy by producing: (Proven Technologies)
  - Biofuels – Ethanol & Butanol, Petrol & Diesel via gasification
  - Renewable Electricity via Co-Generation & the use of Brown-leaf
  - Biosolvents – Furfural & Acetone, Butanediol
  - Bioplastics – Polylactic Acid, Polysuccinic Acid & Bio-Polyethylene, Starch Based packaging

“Anything that can be made from a hydrocarbon (petroleum) can be made from a carbohydrate (plants).” - Henry Ford & William Hale



# Hurdles to Implementation

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- Lack of clear enabling regulatory framework to participate in National Initiatives:
  - Co-generation of renewable electricity from sugar in SA can supply electricity mostly in winter peak demand. Fortunately Co-Generation has been included in the determination announced on 19 December 2012. The procurement process is expected to commence in 2013.
  - Ethanol – Sugar cane is the best performing crop GLOBALLY to contribute to fuel-ethanol. (USA Advanced Fuel) In SA Government is proposing to price ethanol based on sorghum. SA already missed the 2013 blending target. Licensing criteria is unclear – will an established industry that can **protect jobs** be considered or only new green field projects?



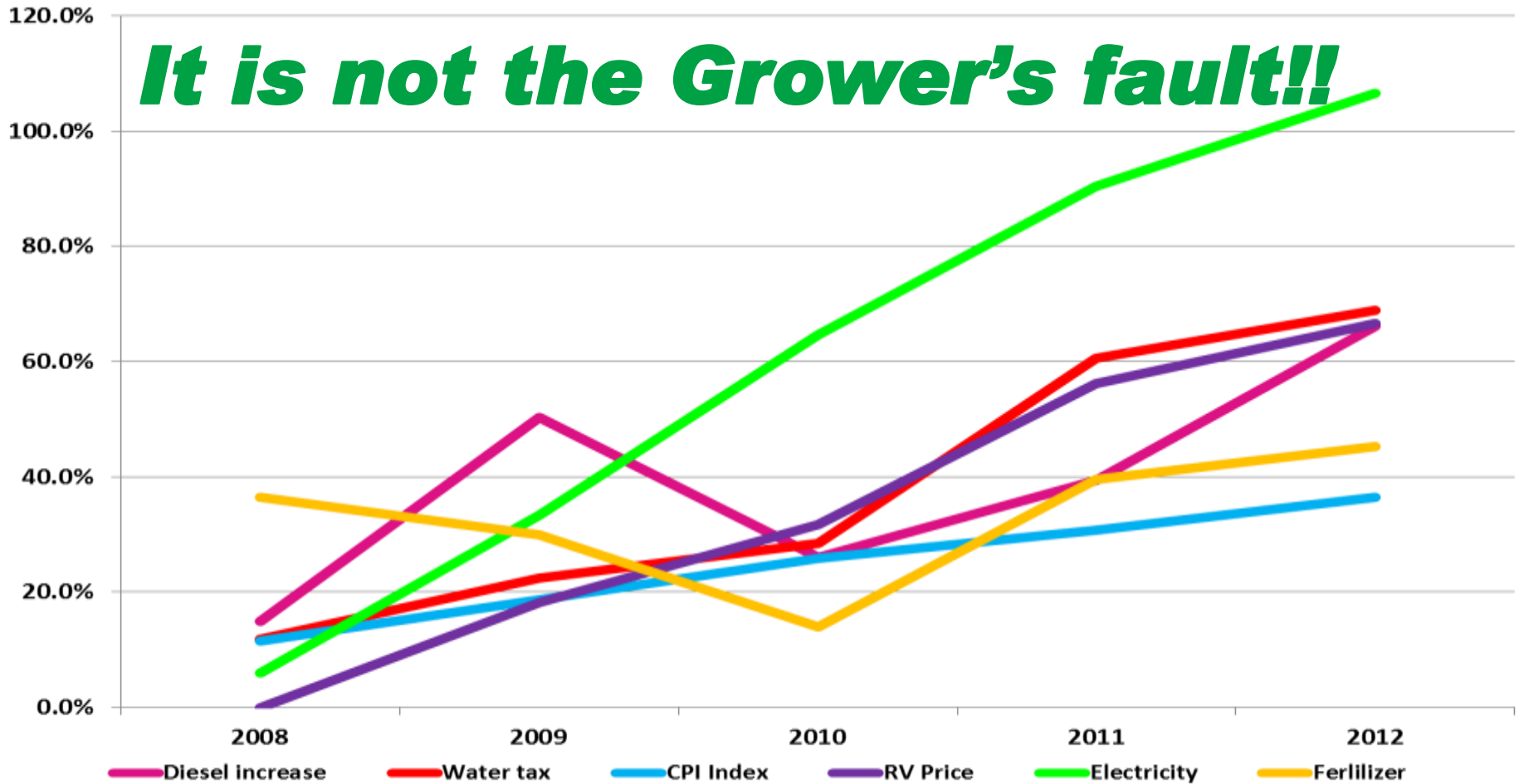
## Partnership with Growers to develop a rural energy solution



# Primary Driver for the Project

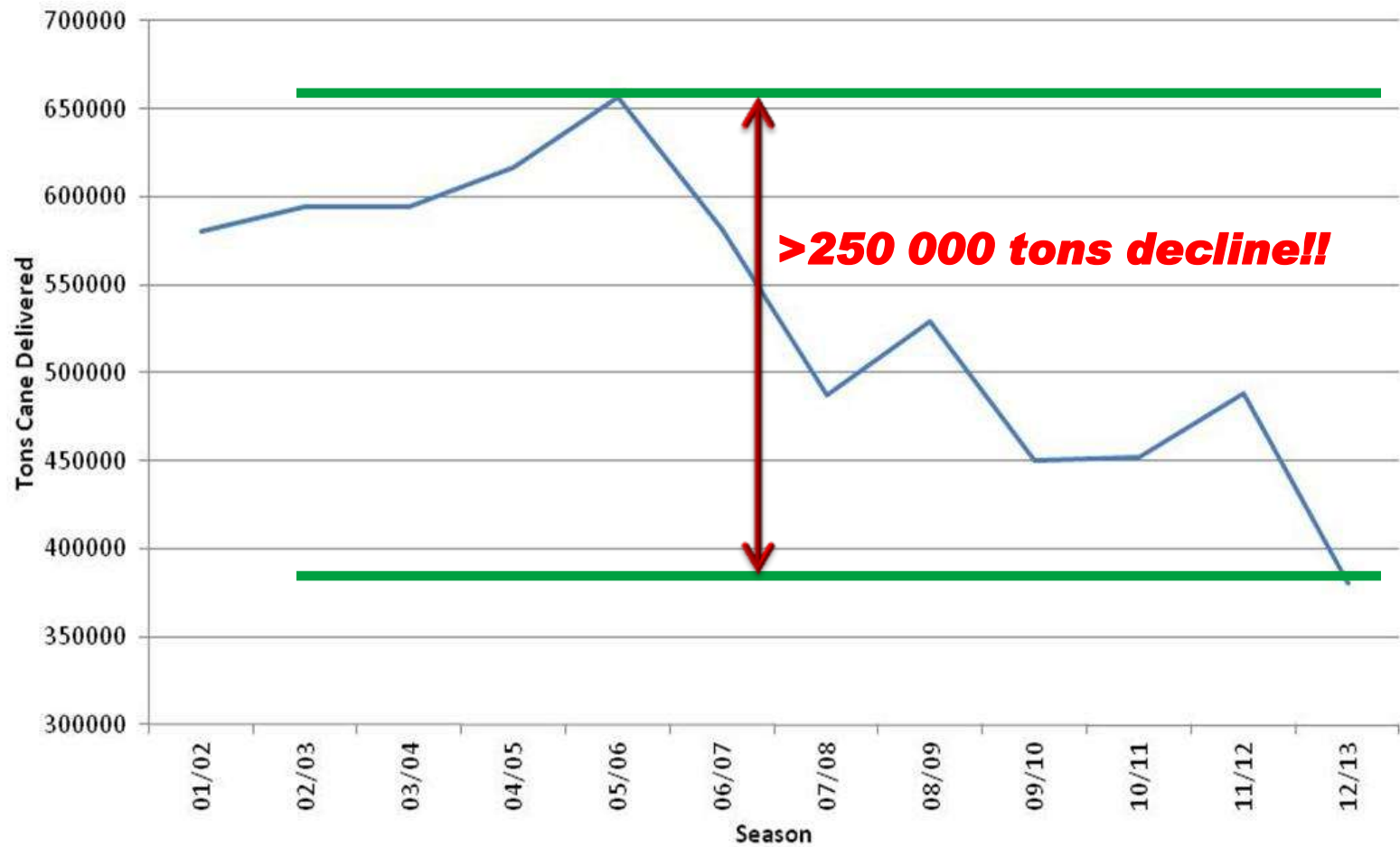


***It is not the Grower's fault!!***

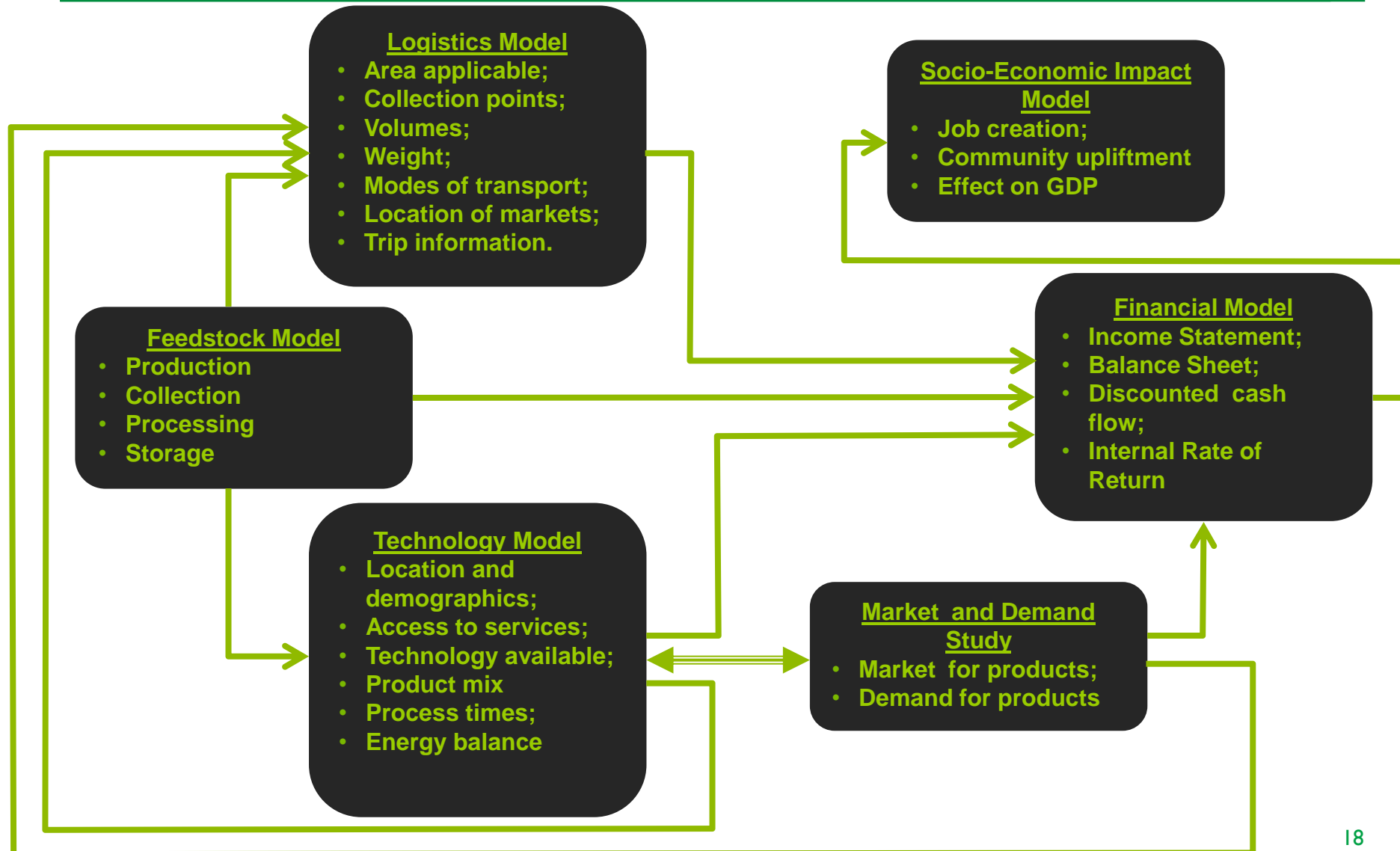




# SSG Production declining



# Partnership between Tsb, MpCGA & Aurecon with co-funding from EEP





**Product – Market Acceptance Testing**


# Next Steps



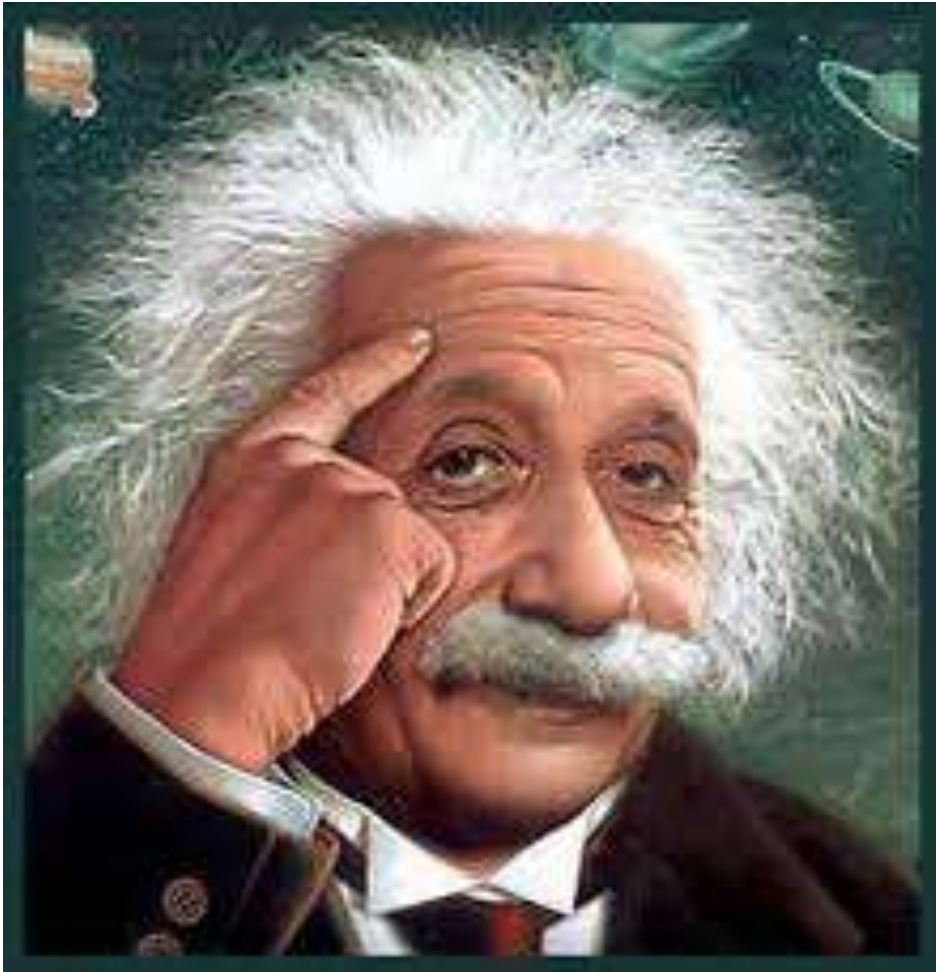
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**Way Forward:** A detailed Feasibility study has to be completed. This study will address:

- Validating and Increasing the volume of tops and green leaves used prove inbound transportation costs. (Equipment & operational)
- Markets must be explored and letters of intent secured for the products.
- Establish a pilot plant and operate for a season to understand the effect of externalities and process variables



**Mpumalanga has people and resources to establish a sustainable bio-energy industry and help make the world a better place.**



**We can't solve  
problems by  
using the same  
kind of thinking  
we used when  
we created  
them.**

**Albert Einstein**



Thank  
you

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