

remunerative price levels in their own markets, sugar producing countries would classify sugar as a 'sensitive' product and would be reluctant to the opening up of their respective markets to imports. Although we can always argue that the Mauritian industry is not subsidized while its exports represent only some 0.5% of the volumes actually traded worldwide, hence unlikely to distort prices, countries with which preferential access is negotiated could still be reluctant to consider sugar owing to the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle whereby any preference allowed should be extended to other countries with which they have trade agreements. Bearing in mind that the bulk of production (and consumption) in most countries is in the form of white refined sugar, preferential access could be sought, in such circumstances, namely for the high value-added special sugars.

13.2 The list of countries of interest (also taking into consideration the ease of logistics from Mauritius) and the difficulties being faced in each of these markets referred to are listed below:

- (i) China – opportunities for sales of high value special sugars (target ~~at least~~ 50,000 tons);
- (ii) India – opportunities for sales of high value special sugars (target 30,000-50,000 tons) and white sugar in case of market deficit;
- (iii) SADC (Southern African Development Community) – opportunities for sales of white sugar (up to 100,000 tons) and high value special sugars (target 20,000 tons in SACU market);
- (iv) COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) – opportunities for sales of white sugar and direct consumption (DC) raw sugar (target 100,000-200,000 tons);
- (v) United Kingdom – opportunities for sales of white sugar (target 100,000-200,000 tons) and special sugars;
- (vi) Turkey – opportunities for sales of special sugars (target 30,000 tons);
- (vii) Japan – opportunities for sales of special sugars (target 30,000 tons); and
- (viii) Indonesia – opportunities for sales of white sugar and high value special sugars.

13.3 The JTC had a meeting with the International Trade Division of the MoFARIIT, which has been apprised of the above market opportunities and the difficulties which need to be addressed at the diplomatic level. Negotiations on special sugars with India, China and Turkey have already been initiated. Furthermore, bilateral