

discussions should be encouraged with countries within COMESA and SADC including Kenya and other Sub-Saharan countries, which represent a deficit of 3 M t annually. Mauritius is presently seeking preferential access into the Tanzanian market.

13.4 It was decided that bilateral discussions should be maintained to follow up development on that request for more market access and trade opportunities.

14.0 Fund for derocking / Mechanisation equipment under LEMs

14.1 The producers have requested that financing facilities shall be made available for derocking, land preparation and in-field mechanization works under LEMS. This measure will encourage registered Contractors / SMEs / Service Providers / Planters to prepare the land of sugarcane planters to cater for mechanization of all the in-field operations including the harvest and transport of canes to the mills with a view to address the problem of scarcity of labour, which is impacting on their cost of production and resulting in a significant extent of unharvested fields resulting in increasing the phenomenon of abandonment of cane cultivation.

14.2 The above measure will also address the difficulties encountered by the small / medium growers during the derocking, land preparation, plantation of fields, harvest, transport of canes and undertaking post cultural operations through the utilization of cost effective equipment / machines adapted to their fields' conditions and specificities.

14.3 This measure will also enable the mechanized collection of cane trash in small / medium planters' fields and transport of same to the power plants for electricity generation thereby ensuring planters to secure additional proceeds from the cane biomass and contributing to the preservation of the environment and green energy.

14.4 JTC examined this proposal and suggested that a meeting be held with the State Investment Corporation with the MoFED, MCIA and MCA to propose project for consideration under LEMS or PHS.

14.5 Following consultations the MoAIFS, MoFED, MCIA and MCA has with the SIC and meetings SIC had with leasing companies, the latter have agreed to accommodate those equipment submitted by MCIA and MCA for the cane industry extension of LEMS. The interest rate will remain at 5.5 % of LEMS 1 (small planters) and 6 % for LEMS 2 and 3.