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DISCUSSION SUMMARY I

Mr. Girwar made some additional comments re the future of sugar in a small scale economy. In these he warmly endorsed the policy of the St. Kitts Government with regard to sugar cane production. Even as he empahsized the weakening marketing position for sugar, he argued further in favour of agrarian reform though on the basis of leasing and expressed support for product diversification. He questioned the desirability of mechanization, however, given the labour surplus situation in the Caribbean. Worker participation which he appeared to link with agrarian reform, he also endorsed.

It talking of the Australian situation he pointed out four bases for its superior efficiency: (i) climate, (ii) mechanization, (iii) the newness of the industry and hence of its technology, and (iv) its industrial structure.

Mr. Laurie also made additional comments on the sugar industry as a source of fuel, as a source of fibre and as a source of feed for livestock. He saw a problem with the extraction of fibrous products in the relatively small scale nature of the St. Kitts sugar industry and some need for coping with the constraints of high sucrose content where feed for livestock was concerned.

Reference was made by commentators to the prevailing research on derinded sugar cane 'comfith' and chopped cane as a base for livestock feed and some scepticism was expressed about this line of research given prevailing low returns in the area of beef and milk production.