

ADVANTAGES IN PROCESSING WHITE SUGAR WHEN SUGAR FACTORIES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH AN ETHANOL PLANT

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Cane sugar industry utilizes sugar cane to produce raw sugar in mills. Raw sugar is then refined to white sugar, in separate unities. Some sugar mills produce ethanol from molasses or from juice in attached ethanol plants, jointly with white sugar. In this case, the sugar processing can be changed in order to have a more efficient, more economical and less pollutant process. In this paper are presented the changes that the ethanol production allows to the sugar processing. Some of these changes, as separating the low purity juices for ethanol production, are already applied. However other changes, as utilization of ethanol as a regeneration chemical in decolourizers systems are not applied nowadays. These changes will open the possibility to produce white sugar directly in cane mill with a much more economical process. Some of the changes presented here can also be applied in beet sugar industry.