Conference focus on uses for sugar

ALTERNATIVE uses for sugarcane will be examined at the 29th annual conference of the Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists in Cairns.

The conference, to be held from May 8-11 at Cairns International Hotel, is expected to attract 500 delegates from around Australia and several other sugar producing countries.

ASSCT president David Calcino said the conference theme was Sugarcane: the Future Biofactory.

Keynote speakers will be Robert Birch, Professor of Plant Molecular Biology at University of Queensland and Lars Nielsen, Professor and Chair of Biological Engineering at the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology at University of Queensland.

Professor Birch will address biofactory aspects (things made in sugarcane). Professor Nielsen's presentation will examine biorefinery issues (things produced immediately downstream using products from sugarcane).

Sixty agricultural, manufacturing and general papers covering a wide range of sugar industry issues will be presented during the conference.

Further information can be found at www.assct.com.au or by contacting David Calcino on 4056 1255 or dcalcino@aus.csiro.au.