

Text for the audio; Station 7

Energy plays a very big role in our life and can be obtained from various sources. In order to reduce poverty, energy supplies in developing countries must be established and expanded. One of the regrowing raw materials from which affordable and clean energy can be obtained is sugar cane. Being discovered over 9.000 years ago, it's the world's oldest cultivated plant. Sugar cane first spread to the west over high mountains and through deserts into the Mediterranean area with the conquest of the Arabs and reached Spain and the Caribbean with Columbus in the early Middle Ages. Did you know that sugar cane belongs to the gramineae (grass) family although it is such a big plant?

You see, sugar
20 stems
3 and 6 m in
3 and 5 cm in
shaped flowers
60cm and the
mm long. The
"giant" grass is



cane consists of 5 to
measuring between
height and between
diameter. It's panicle-
measure from 40 to
fruits are roughly 1,5
great thing about this
that also it

reproduces without problems vegetatively. The best condition is to have high temperatures during the reproduction. The processing of the cane must begin within 12 to 26 hours after cutting it. One ton can produce 115 kg of sugar. Isn't that impressive? It needs very easy conditions to grow and it is extremely clean at the same time. Consequently, it is a great way to provide energy and food even for poor countries because it is manufactured so affordably and effortlessly. Sugar cane is truly a hero saving our everyday life but does this really compliment the truth? Growing sugar cane, as earlier mentioned, requires a warm and rainy climate which actually limits its potential as a global fuel source. Sugar cane ethanol is one of the leading renewable fuels for the transportation sector. As the temperatures on our earth drastically increase, the sugar cane industry benefits but us humans really don't. A warmer climate would not only harm our environment and weather but also our health. So would you rather have a almost never ending source of a fuel or a healthier life?