



Cane Burning Problem in Thailand



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Thai-Queensland Sugar Industry Dialogue

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Samui Island, Surathani

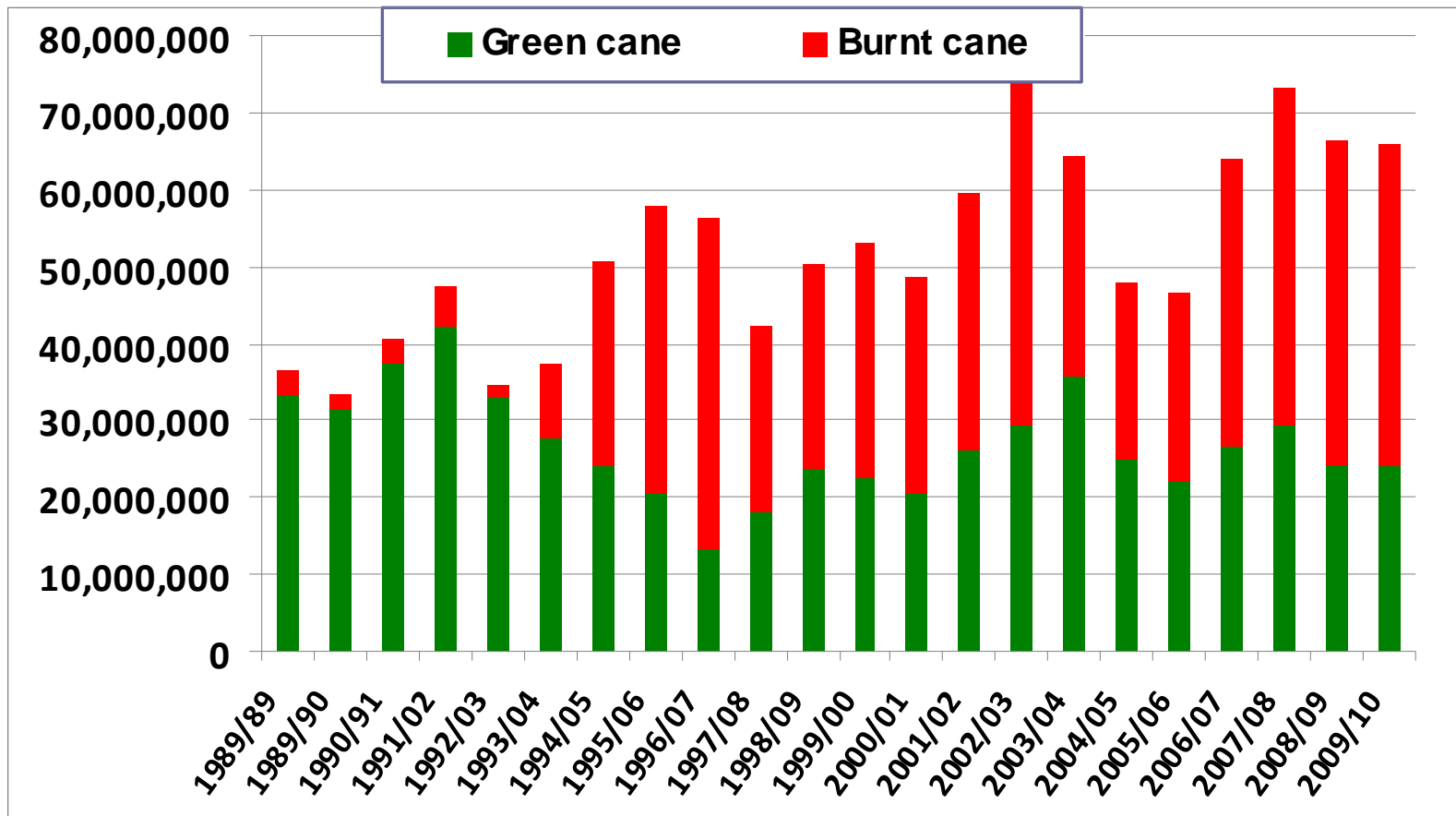
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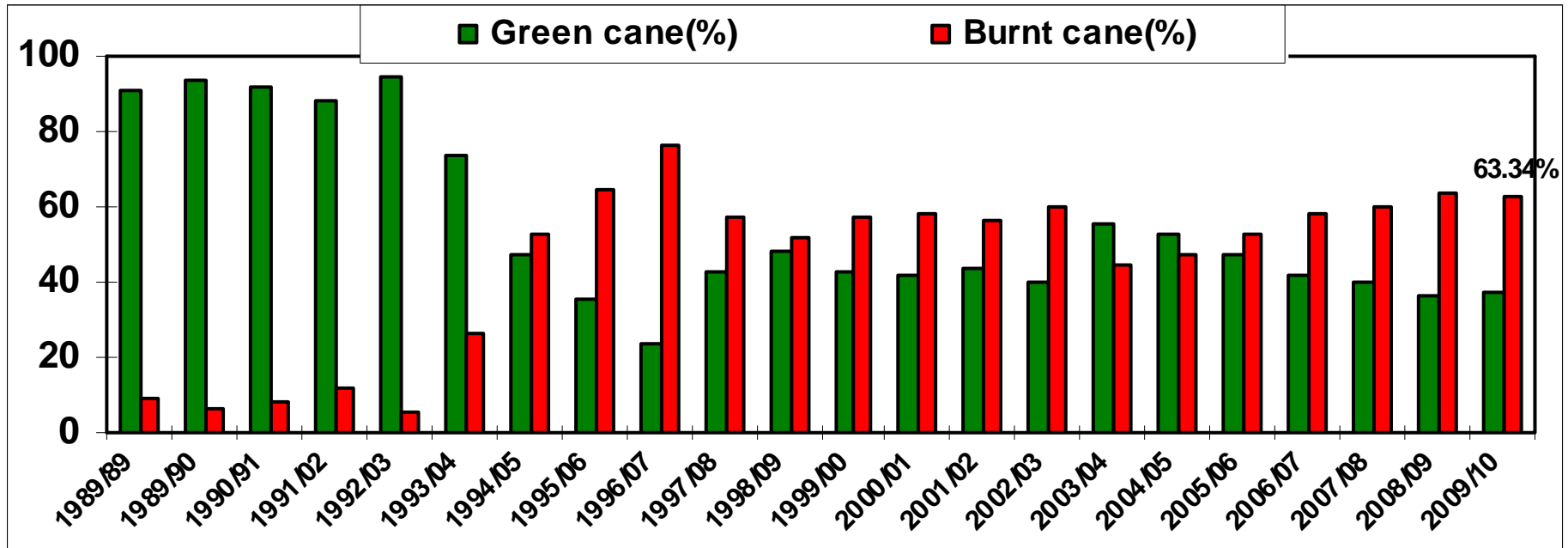
Cane Production (tons)



2009/10* : figure as of 22 March 2010



Cane Burning



Why burning

> 90% deliberately burning

- Labor shortage
- Facilitate manual harvesting practice
- Carelessness
- Sabotage ???



Cane Burning

Region		2008/09	2009/10
North	Cane prod.(mln.tons)	18.71	17.438
	Burnt cane(%)	74.4	72.92
	C.C.S	12.33	11.59
	Sugar prod.(mln.tons)	2.01	1.73
	Sugar yield(K.g./toncane)	107.53	98.98
Central	Cane prod.(mln.tons)	21.78	21.52
	Burnt cane(%)	59.45	60.99
	C.C.S	12.06	11.11
	Sugar prod.(mln.tons)	2.32	2.99
	Sugar yield(K.g./toncane)	106.42	97.52
East	Cane prod.(mln.tons)	3.23	3.53
	Burnt cane(%)	75.23	66.52
	C.C.S	11.88	11.09
	Sugar prod.(mln.tons)	3.34	3.43
	Sugar yield(K.g./toncane)	103.35	98.57
N.E	Cane prod.(mln.tons)	22.75	23.62
	Burnt cane(%)	56.92	57.92
	C.C.S	12.55	11.94
	Sugar prod.(mln.tons)	110.95	2.44
	Sugar yield(mln.tons)	2.52	103.27
Average	Cane prod.(mln.tons)	66.46	66.11
	Burnt cane(%)	63.57	63.34
	C.C.S	12.33	11.53
	Sugar prod.(mln.tons)	7.19	6.61
	Sugar yield(K.g./toncane)	108.13	100.02

Cane burning in Thailand

- increasing remarkably
- Mechanized harvest: <10% (500 cane harvesters in the country)
- Becoming typical practice
- Environmental and human concerns
- Ecological cane management practice
- Trade regulation/non tariff barriers(NTBs)
- Brazil: ban cane burning practices in CS region by 2031



Burnt Cane



Air Quality: Critical

Bangkok Post The world's window to Thailand

Smog Hits Emergency Levels

Chiang Mai, the jewel of northern Thailand, is shrouded in a blanket of cancerous smoke. Famous tourist landmarks like Doi Suthep lie hidden, smothered by smog and invisible to the eye

The Pollution Control Board, Regional Area Air Quality Data webpage shows **Chiang Mai's PM 10 levels are dangerously high at 268.4 micrograms/cubic meter, Mae Sai 328 and Mae Hong Son a staggering 437.8 (Standard level: 120)**.

"The number of people seeking emergency help for asthma, allergies and COPD [Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease] is much higher now. The air is so polluted and today. The PM 10 levels are so high. "

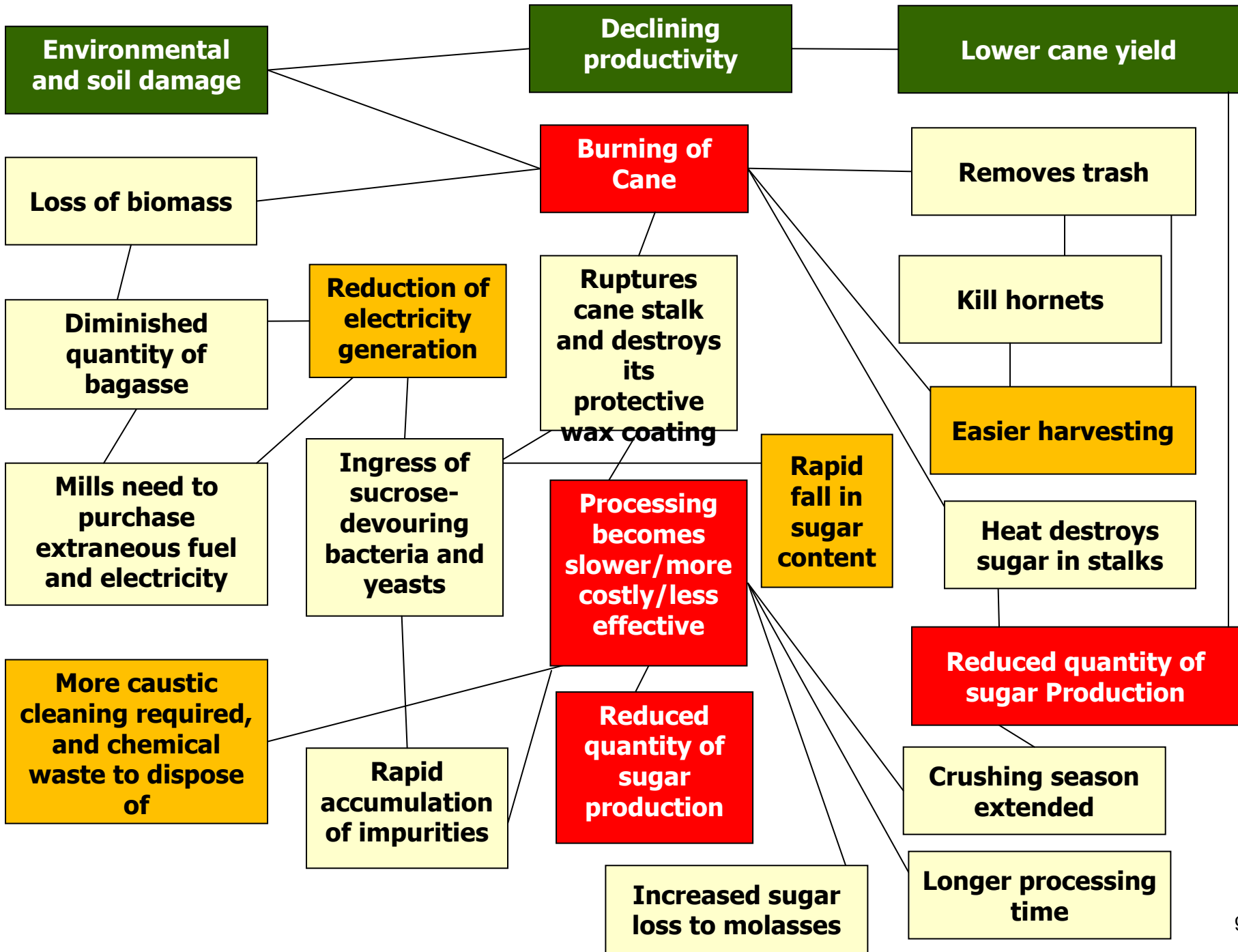
14 March 2010



Impacts of Cane burning

- **Emit green house gas**
- **Endanger human health**
- **Reduce biodiversity**
- **Diminish quantity and quality of sugar recovery**
- **More costly and less efficient processing**
- **Soil damage: loss of nutrients, organic matters, humus, bacteria, microorganisms I**
- **Diminish potential of biomass for cogeneration power plants**





Growers revenue loss

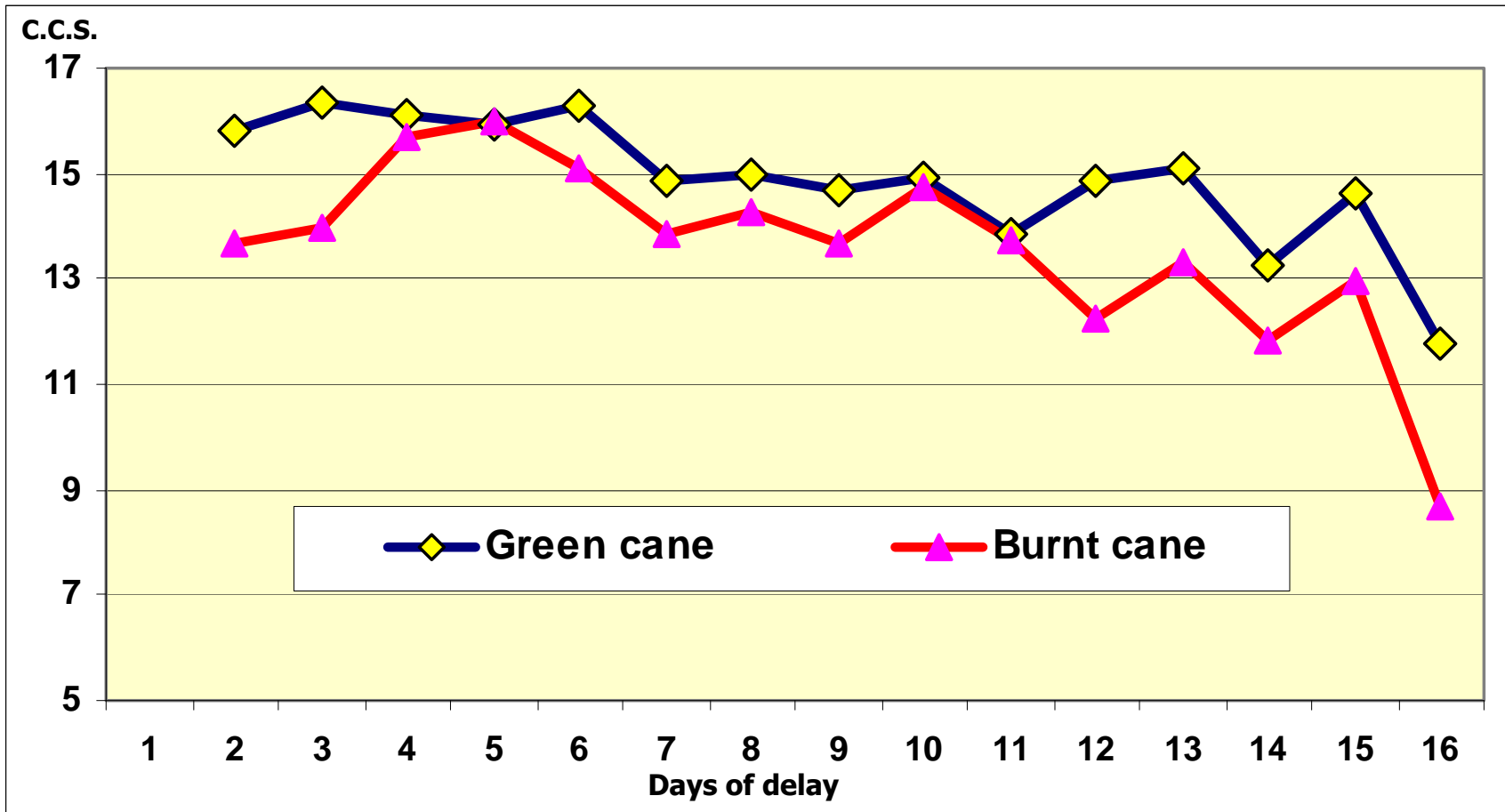
Burnt cane	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days
Weight loss (%)	3	5.1	7.2	8.9
Revenue loss (mnl.baht)	1,281	2,178	3,074	3,800

Based on:

- Estimated 2009/2010 cane production: 69 mln.tons
- Cane price 1,020 baht/ton at 12.33 C.C.S.



Growers revenue loss



- **Estimated 2009/2010 cane production: 69 mln.tons**
- **Cane price 1,020 baht/ton at 12.33 C.C.S.**
- **1 C.C.S. loss/ton cane = -58 baht/ton cane**
or total revenue loss: 4,002 mln.baht

Green cane harvesting promotion

1. Educate cane growers
2. Green harvest campaign
3. Penalty and promotion measures:
 - **Burnt cane:** fine 20 baht/ton
 - **Green cane:** additional 70 baht/ton
4. Soft loan scheme (3 yrs) for buying cane harvesters (1,000 mln.baht/yr.)

