

Source : BANGKOK POST

Date : 22 FEB 2016 Page : ๒3

No : 59085907

## COMMODITIES

# Buriram Sugar looks for partners

Buriram Sugar Plc (BRR) is seeking foreign partners to invest in two new sugar mills to serve rising demand in Asia.

The SET-listed miller expects the new plants to double its sugar-crushing capacity over the next few years.

The move is also part of the company's plan to expand its renewable energy business using by-products and waste from sugar crushing as power-generating resources.

Anant Tangtongwechakit, the managing director, said Buriram Sugar was in talks with foreign partners to join it in building two new sugar milling houses with crushing capacity of 20,000 tonnes of sugar cane per day each.

Its total crushing capacity is 23,000 tonnes of cane per day now.

"The new sugar milling houses are expected to be located in Buriram and Surin provinces," said Mr Anant.

He estimated the investment for the milling houses would be 10 billion baht. The company has already received licences from the Industry Ministry to start building the new factories.

"Construction of the first milling house is due to be complete in 2019, when it can start crushing," he said.

Mr Anant said added crushing capacity would help increase production to meet rising demand, especially in Asia.

The company plans to use waste and sugar by-products in developing a biomass power plant as well as produce fertiliser from molasses and sugar-crushing waste.

Buriram Sugar has two biomass power plants with a combined generating capacity of 19.8 megawatts, with plans for a third biomass power plant with a capacity of 9MW.

The company is conducting a feasibility study on building new ethanol plants to produce biofuel from molasses. A new ethanol factory is expected to have production capacity of 150,000 litres per day, he said.

The company posted a net loss of 7 million baht in the third quarter of 2015, a reverse from a net profit of 35 million baht in the same period of 2014, largely because of rising expenses and investments.

However, in the first nine months of 2015, the company posted a net profit of 269 million baht, up from 145 million in the same period of 2014.

BRR shares closed Friday on the SET at 12.30 baht, down 10 satang, in trade worth 8.63 million baht.