

Legal and economic aspects of cogeneration in the Brazilian Sugar Cane industry

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The cogeneration of electricity in the sugar cane industries in Brazil has been improved in the last decade. That happens mainly because of the specific characteristics of the sugar cane industries that demand both mechanical and electrical energies as well as steam to the main industrial process. The sugar cane industries have a high level of self-producing electrical energy what allows them to sell the exceeding energy to the Brazilian electricity companies. The selling prices and the rules established by the Brazilian Government have been changing along the last decade in such a way that it could be stimulated by the exceeding electrical energy production by the sugar cane industries. The amount of electrical energy that could be put in the Brazilian energy market is significant but the sugar cane industries have been discouraged mainly because of the low expected prices (US\$/MWh) as well as by the legal and political weakness. Actually there are many social and economic interests involved. This paper presents a discussion about the legal and economic aspects of the cogeneration in the Brazilian sugar cane industry.