IJVAST | Vol. 2, Issue 1 | May 2026 | Open Access — Peer Reviewed Review Article

Design and Implementation of a Sugarcane Trading Management System

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Abstract—The sugarcane trading process — spanning farmer registration, harvest scheduling, transport coordination, weighbridge measurement, quality assessment, and payment settlement — remains largely manual or partially computerized in many sugar mill catchment areas, resulting in scheduling delays, weighment disputes, payment latency, and limited transparency for growers. This paper presents the design and implementation of a Sugarcane Trading Management System intended to digitize and streamline the end-to-end trading workflow between sugarcane growers, transporters, and sugar mills. The system architecture spans farmer and land-record registration, harvest and transport scheduling, weighbridge and quality-grading integration, and payment and ledger management modules, supported by a relational database backend and role-based reporting dashboards for mill administrators. The paper describes core functional modules including cane-supply slip generation, weighment recording, and automated payment computation based on recovery-linked pricing, and reviews relevant management information systems and agricultural supply chain literature underlying the system design. A comparative analysis against manual and partially computerized trading practices highlights the efficiency, transparency, and record-keeping benefits of the proposed system. The paper identifies key implementation challenges including weighbridge data accuracy, rural connectivity, and farmer digital literacy, and outlines future enhancements including IoT-integrated weighbridge automation, mobile applications for growers, and predictive harvest-scheduling models.

Index Terms—*Sugarcane Trading, Management Information System, Agricultural Supply Chain, Weighbridge Integration, Harvest Scheduling, Payment Management, Database Design, Farmer Registration.*

I. Introduction

Sugarcane trading between growers and sugar mills involves a multi-stage process encompassing farmer registration, harvest and transport scheduling, weighbridge measurement, quality-based recovery assessment, and payment settlement. In many mill catchment areas, particularly those served by smaller cooperative or private mills, significant portions of this process remain manual or only partially computerized, relying on paper-based cane-supply slips, manual weighbridge registers, and delayed, error-prone payment reconciliation [1]. These inefficiencies can result in scheduling conflicts during peak crushing season, disputes over weighment accuracy, and delayed payments to growers, undermining trust between farmers and mill management.

Management information systems have long been used in agricultural and industrial supply chains to improve coordination, transparency, and record-keeping [1],[2]. More recent work on digitized agricultural supply chains highlights the potential of integrated information systems to reduce transaction friction, improve traceability, and support data-driven decision-making across multi-stakeholder agricultural value chains [6],[7]. Applying these principles to sugarcane trading offers the potential to streamline scheduling, reduce disputes, and accelerate payment cycles for growers.

This paper presents the design and implementation of a

B. Limitations of Manual Practices

Manual, paper-based trading records are prone to transcription errors, difficult to audit, and slow to reconcile across the scheduling, weighment, and payment stages, often resulting in payment delays that are a persistent source of grower dissatisfaction in many cane-growing regions.

III. System Architecture

A. Farmer Registration and Land-Record Module

This module maintains grower profiles, land-holding records, and historical cane-supply data, forming the master data foundation upon which scheduling and payment calculations depend.

B. Harvest and Transport Scheduling Module

This module coordinates harvest slot allocation and transport scheduling based on mill crushing capacity and grower supply commitments, aiming to reduce cane deterioration from harvest-to-crushing delays and to balance daily cane inflow against mill processing capacity.

C. Weighbridge and Quality Module

This module records weighbridge measurements and quality/recovery-percentage assessments for each consignment upon arrival at the mill, forming the basis

Sugarcane Trading Management System intended for deployment at a sugar mill or cooperative to digitize the end-to-end trading workflow. The primary contributions are: (1) a layered system architecture for sugarcane trading management; (2) a description of core functional modules spanning registration, scheduling, weighment, and payment; (3) a review of relevant management information systems and agricultural supply chain literature; (4) a comparative analysis against manual and partially computerized trading practices; and (5) identification of implementation challenges and future enhancements.

II. Background

A. The Sugarcane Trading Workflow

A typical sugarcane trading cycle begins with grower registration and land-record verification, followed by harvest scheduling coordinated with mill crushing capacity, transport arrangement, weighbridge measurement upon arrival at the mill, quality/recovery-based grading, and finally payment computation and disbursement to the grower [1]. This sequence mirrors the coordinated, multi-stage flow of goods and information central to broader supply chain management practice [3].

for payment computation.

D. Payment and Ledger Module

This module computes grower payments based on recorded weight and recovery-linked pricing formulas, maintains a running grower ledger, and generates payment records for disbursement, improving transparency and auditability relative to manual reconciliation.

IV. Comparison with Manual and Partially Computerized Practices

Table I compares the proposed system against manual paper-based trading practices and partially computerized systems that digitize only isolated stages (such as standalone weighbridge software) without end-to-end integration. The proposed system is designed to provide integrated, end-to-end digitization across the full trading workflow.

Approach	Scheduling	Weighment Recording	Payment Processing	Transparency for Growers
Manual (Paper-Based)	Ad hoc, register-based	Manual register entry	Manual reconciliation, delayed	Low
Partially Computerized (Standalone Weighbridge Software)	Manual/register-based	Digital, but isolated from scheduling	Manual/semi-automated	Moderate
Proposed Integrated System	Database-driven, capacity-aware	Digital, linked to grower record	Automated, recovery-linked pricing	High

TABLE I — Comparison of Sugarcane Trading Practices

V. Core Functional Modules

A. Farmer Registration and Land-Record Management

Growers are registered with details including land holdings, cane variety, and expected yield, forming a master record that supports harvest planning and historical supply tracking across seasons.

B. Harvest Scheduling and Slip Generation

The system generates cane-supply slips specifying allocated harvest dates and transport arrangements, coordinated against mill crushing capacity to minimize the interval between harvest and crushing, which is important for maintaining cane sucrose recovery, consistent with the broader case for digitally virtualized coordination in food supply chains [4].

C. Weighbridge Integration

The system supports recording of gross, tare, and net weight from weighbridge measurements, either through manual entry or integration with digital weighbridge hardware, associating each weighment record with the

VII. Database Design and Supporting Technology

A. Relational Database Schema

The system employs a normalized relational database schema, following established relational data-modeling principles, to represent grower records, harvest schedules, weighment transactions, and payment ledgers with referential integrity across related entities [10].

B. Reporting and MIS Dashboards

Role-based dashboards provide mill administrators with aggregated views of daily cane inflow, pending payments, and grower-wise supply summaries, supporting operational decision-making during the crushing season, reflecting the broader potential of data-driven dashboards in agricultural management [5].

C. Notifications for Growers

SMS or mobile notifications inform growers of scheduled harvest dates, weighment confirmations, and payment status, improving communication transparency relative to manual, in-person coordination.

corresponding grower and consignment.

D. Payment Processing and Ledger Management

Payments are computed automatically based on net weight and recovery-percentage-linked pricing formulas, with running grower ledgers maintained to track cumulative supply and payment history across the crushing season.

VI. Comparative Analysis

Table II compares the proposed system's design approach against principles drawn from management information systems and digitized agricultural supply chain literature. The system's modular, database-centric design follows established MIS design principles [1],[2], while its emphasis on end-to-end traceability across scheduling, weighment, and payment reflects priorities identified in recent agricultural supply chain digitization research [6],[7].

D. Security and User Roles

Access to system functions is governed by user roles (administrator, weighbridge operator, accounts staff), restricting sensitive operations such as payment approval to authorized personnel and maintaining an audit trail of record modifications.

VIII. Implementation and Technology Stack

Table III summarizes the technology stack used in the implementation, spanning the application interface, backend logic, database, and notification components of the system.

TABLE II — Comparative Analysis Against MIS and Agricultural Supply Chain Literature

Design Aspect	Reference	Key Principle Applied	Relevance to Proposed System
Modular MIS design	Laudon & Laudon [1] (2020)	Integrated functional modules for organizational data	Registration, scheduling, weighment, payment modules
Supply chain coordination	Mentzer et al. [2] (2001)	Cross-stage coordination reduces friction	Scheduling linked to mill crushing capacity
Digitized agri-supply chains	Wolfert et al. [6] (2017)	Data-driven decision-making in farming systems	MIS dashboards for mill administrators
Agricultural supply chain traceability	Kamble et al. [7] (2020)	End-to-end data traceability improves sustainability performance	Grower ledger and audit trail design
Enterprise system integration	Panetto & Molina [8] (2008)	Interoperability across functional subsystems	Integration of weighbridge and payment modules

TABLE III — Implementation Technology Stack

Layer	Technology/Approach	Purpose
Application Interface	Web-based administrative and grower interface	Data entry, scheduling, dashboards
Backend Logic	Server-side application layer, RESTful API [9]	Business logic, payment computation
Database	Relational database, normalized schema [10],[11]	Grower, schedule, weighment, and payment records
Notifications	SMS/mobile messaging gateway	Harvest and payment status alerts to growers
Access Control	Role-based access (admin, weighbridge operator, accounts)	Restrict sensitive operations to authorized roles

IX. Key Challenges

A. Weighbridge Data Accuracy

Ensuring accurate and tamper-resistant weighbridge readings is critical, since payment computation depends directly on recorded weight; manual entry processes remain vulnerable to transcription error absent direct hardware integration.

B. Rural Connectivity Constraints

Reliable system operation depends on network connectivity at mill premises and, for grower-facing notifications, at the recipient's location, which may be

B. Blockchain-Based Traceability

Recording weighment and payment transactions on a distributed ledger could provide growers with an immutable, independently verifiable record of their trading history, further strengthening trust in the payment process.

C. Mobile Application for Growers

A dedicated grower-facing mobile application, offering harvest schedule visibility, weighment confirmation, and payment tracking, could improve engagement particularly among digitally literate younger growers.

D. Predictive Harvest Scheduling

inconsistent in some rural cane-growing areas.

C. Farmer Digital Literacy

Grower engagement with digital scheduling and payment-status notifications depends on digital literacy levels, which vary considerably across grower populations, suggesting a continued role for in-person and paper-based communication alongside digital channels during transition periods.

D. Integration with Government and Cooperative Reporting Systems

Sugar mills in many regions are required to report cane procurement and payment data to state agricultural or cooperative authorities, requiring the system to support compatible data export or integration formats.

E. Peak-Season Scalability

Cane crushing season involves a sharp seasonal peak in transaction volume, requiring the system to handle concentrated weighbridge and payment transaction loads reliably during this period without performance degradation.

X. Future Enhancements

A. IoT-Integrated Weighbridge Automation

Direct integration with IoT-enabled weighbridge hardware could eliminate manual weight entry, reducing both data-entry errors and opportunities for weighment disputes between growers and mill staff.

Incorporating predictive models that account for cane maturity, weather forecasts, and mill crushing capacity could improve harvest scheduling efficiency beyond current rule-based allocation approaches.

XI. Conclusion

This paper has presented the design and implementation of a Sugarcane Trading Management System intended to digitize the end-to-end trading workflow between growers and sugar mills, spanning registration, harvest scheduling, weighbridge measurement, and payment processing. The system's modular architecture and relational database design draw on established management information systems and agricultural supply chain principles to improve transparency, reduce transaction friction, and accelerate payment cycles relative to manual or partially computerized practices. Persistent challenges including weighbridge data accuracy, rural connectivity, and farmer digital literacy must be addressed for successful deployment at scale. Future enhancements in IoT-integrated weighbridge automation, blockchain-based traceability, and grower-facing mobile applications are expected to further strengthen the system's transparency and usability for sugarcane trading stakeholders.

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