

► 25 According to Jan van Niekerk, Supply Chain Manager, Darnall Sugar Mill: "Prior to FREDD, we used to operate with as many as 23 trucks in the holding yard and seven in the mill. I never thought I would be comfortable with only three trucks in the mill."

The implementation of FREDD in the Southern African sugar industry has been an unprecedented and massive undertaking. FREDD is currently running in four mills in two countries, operated by three very different milling companies, namely Tongaat Hulett, TSB Sugar and Royal Swaziland Sugar Cooperation.

A few key people from industry bodies such as the South African Sugar Research Institute (SASRI) and South African Cane Growers' Association (SACGA) and from the local mill leadership have been intimately involved. However, it is Crickmay which has, in reality, driven this project and in the process, managed to change an entire industry.

"Since 2006 when the FREDD process began in South Africa, the turnaround times have reduced from around 2 hours to 0.7 hours per delivery, equating to a 67 percent reduction in just two years. The cost savings for growers and hauliers from the FREDD Project in 2008 emanating from the reduced mill turnaround alone are estimated conservatively at over R12.7-million per annum at one mill alone. And that's just the start of it," says Giles.

If that doesn't help 'trim the fat',



▲ Educating transport controllers on the intricacies of integrated software.



▲ A weighbridge operator at Maidstone Mill checks an incoming truck's payload.

▼ Crickmay and Associates have adapted the Australian-developed FREDD software to suit local conditions.



▲ A Unitrans rig gets loaded in KZN

**Increased vehicle productivity and reduced operating costs have exceeded even our wildest expectation with an 85% return on investment. Drivers do not regard the system as punitive but rather as a mechanism to help them generate more earnings that are paid out of savings made from improved driving style and higher productivity.**

**Don McLoughlin, General Manager  
Umzimkulu Planters Co-Operative**

the mill 'no-cane-stops' (crusher downtime due to non delivery of raw sugarcane) have also been significantly reduced thanks to FREDD.

"The no-cane-stops at one Tongaat Hulett Mill decreased by more than 50 percent from 1 369 hours to 636 hours in the first year of FREDD operation. The savings associated with the reduction in mill stops accruing to the miller are estimated to be in excess of R14.7-million per annum," states Giles.

According to Giles, the power of the FREDD system is to ensure all role-players operate as a single unit