



International Sugar Organization

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Various sugar related articles

The Executive Director would like to draw your attention to the articles below all of which are relevant to the sugar sector.

Sugaronline Ebriefing

BRAZIL: Raízen sells 31 solar power generation projects

Raízen and its subsidiary Raízen Energia announced on April 18 that they signed a deal to sell 31 distributed solar power generation projects with a total installed capacity of 115.4 megawatt-peak (MWp) to Élis Energia for about BRL700 million (US\$133.5 million), reports Sugaronline.

Élis Energy will pay for the projects as they are developed and built by Raízen and then transferred to the new owner. The transactions are expected to be completed by December 2025.

Raízen said in a statement that the sale is in line with its strategy to recycle its portfolio, create value for the company, and reduce debt.

The completion and closing of the operation are subject to verification and approval by Brazil's competition authority.

ESWATINI: Sugar production seen rising 6% in 2024/25

Sugar production in Eswatini is expected to rise 6% in 2024/25 to 635,000 tonnes due to an increase in cane deliveries, a rebound in cane quality and improved mill efficiencies, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) post in Pretoria, reports Sugaronline.

Sugar output in 2023/24 dropped 4% to 599,000 tonnes, mainly due to a decrease in cane deliveries and cane quality. Additionally, one milling company ended the season earlier than usual due to the effects of weather conditions and pest pressure on cane quality.

Sugarcane production in 2023/24 was affected by unfavourable climatic conditions and the proliferation of the yellow aphid leaf.

Cane output in 2024/25 is expected to rise 6% to 5.5 million tonnes, considering the return to normal weather conditions, carryover cane from 2023/24, average yields, sufficient water for irrigation, and installation of more efficient irrigation systems.

ZIMBABWE: Sugarcane output expected to increase to 3.3 million T in 2024/25

Zimbabwe's sugarcane production is estimated to rise 6% in 2024/25 to 3.34 million metric tonnes, supported by a rebound in yields, carryover sugarcane and timely harvesting, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) post in Pretoria, reports Sugaronline.

Some growers are continuing aerial spraying to control for yellow leaf aphids and improve yields.

In 2023/24, sugarcane production is estimated to have fallen 8% to 3.17 million tonnes due to the impacts of the yellow leaf aphid, causing losses to yield and sugar content. In addition, at the beginning of the 2023/24 season, harvesting was delayed by about six weeks due to a contractual dispute between growers and millers.

Once the dispute was resolved, mills experienced congestion of deliveries and mill breakdowns, which contributed to high cane carryover to the 2024/25 season, estimated at 3,995 hectares of sugarcane.

EL SALVADOR: Irrigation and investments contribute to increase sugar production

Sugar production in El Salvador is expected to increase from 765,000 to 787,000 metric tonnes in the 2024 marketing year as it continues to improve due to investments in irrigation, refining equipment and seeds, according to the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) post in San Salvador, reports Sugaronline.

Around 6.75 million tonnes of sugarcane are expected to be harvested in 2024, compared to 6.56 million tonnes in 2023, supported by the continued rebound in economic growth after the adverse effects of COVID-19 on the economy, including the sugar sector.

The sugarcane planted area should remain at 79,000 hectares.

"Planted area could increase in the near future if the security situation continues improving in rural areas, sugar prices increase, and the ethanol production law is implemented," according to the [USDA report](#).

About 300,000 hectares of idle land in the country could be devoted to increased sugarcane production, according to the FAS San Salvador post.

AUSTRALIA: Sugar production expected to increase to 4.2 million T in 2024/25

Sugar production in Australia should rise to 4.2 million metric tonnes in 2024/25 from an estimated 4.1 million in 2023/24 due to a larger sugarcane crop area and higher yields, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) post in Canberra, reports Sugaronline.

The total volume of crushed sugarcane is estimated at 30.5 million tonnes in 2024/25, from 29.8 million tonnes in the previous season.

"With overall good growing conditions for the first nine months, the sugar content of the cane is forecast at the past 10-year average," it said in [a report on April 16](#).

Australia is expected to export 3.45 million tonnes of raw sugar and 10,000 tonnes of refined sugar in 2024/25.

UKRAINE: Astarta wants to increase sugar sales outside EU

Astarta plans to increase sugar exports to countries other than the European Union amid import restrictions imposed by the bloc on Ukraine's agricultural products, according to Bloomberg.

Romania and Poland have been important destinations for Astarta's sugar in the EU.

According to the report, Astarta has recently started shipping sugar from Odesa ports.

UKRAINE: Astarta's 2023 sugar production was the highest in 5 years

Astarta said on April 17 that it recorded 2023 the highest levels of beet processing and sugar production over the past five years, reports Sugaronline.

"Despite the extended harvesting campaign due to difficult weather conditions, Astarta's farmers achieved record harvests, benefiting from highest-ever corn and sugar beet yields," the company said in its earnings release for the 2023 financial year.

White sugar production increased by 34% to 377,000 metric tonnes. Sugarbeet processing rose 37% to 2.7 million tonnes in 2023.

Revenue in the sugar segment increased 28% to EUR199 million (US\$212.4 million), mainly due to a 26% rise in sugar sales volumes. Exports of sugar and its by-products contributed 20% of the sector's revenues in 2023, compared to 14% in 2022.

Astarta operates sugar plants in three regions of Ukraine. In 2023, the company farmed 39,000 hectares of sugarbeets, 20% more than in 2022. The gross sugar beet yield was a record high of 58 tonnes/ha in 2023 versus 56 tonnes/ha in 2022 amid warm and humid weather during the vegetation period.

From the end of October 2023, heavy rainfalls in some areas of operation extended harvest time and made it difficult to load and transport sugarbeets. Later in November, frost and snow added to the challenge.

"Delayed sugar beet harvesting resulted in higher logistics and loading costs, but harvesting was successfully completed. The record-high sugar beet yield led to a longer processing period until the end of January 2024," the company said.

Overall, the 2023 sugar production campaign lasted 130 days versus 111 days the previous year.

Astarta said that it launched its spring sowing campaign at the end of March 2024, and that the sowing of sugarbeet has been completed.

ED& F Man Daily

US International Trade Commission (ITC) clears way for Mexico sugar dumping probe

– CPI - The US International Trade Commission unanimously offered a preliminary ruling that favored the US sugar industry in its argument that Mexico rivals are harming competition. According to reports, US sugar companies accused its Mexican counterparts of unfairly subsidizing sugar imports and selling sugar products in the US at below-marked prices. The ITC's decision, announced Friday, clears the way for the US Department of Commerce to commence its investigation into the matter. Reports say should authorities conclude that Mexico sugar companies harmed competition in the US, a new tariff could be imposed on certain imports.

Copersucar acquires 50% of Comerc's trading company and advances in energy sales

- Reuters - Copersucar, a global leader in the trading of sugar and ethanol, and Comerc Energia announced the formation of a joint venture for trading electricity in the free market, in an agreement that guarantees robustness finance and access to new markets for companies. The partnership will take place through an investment by Copersucar to acquire a 50% stake in Newcom, one of the traders in the Comerc group, which has Vibra as a partner. The new company, which will have shared control between Copersucar and Comerc, will operate independently and on an open platform model, focusing on the free energy market. Through the joint venture, Copersucar will be able to sell energy produced from biomass from its 37 associated plants on the free market. Sugarcane mills use production waste to generate electricity for their own industrial activities and generally sell the surplus.

Food Navigator.com

Mondelēz International under investigation: What is parallel trade?



In 2021, the European Union opened up a formal investigation into Mondelēz International for allegedly restricting parallel trade. What is parallel trade? And how can it harm competition?

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/04/19/mondelez-international-under-investigation>

Cocoa feels the bite of climate change



Climate change will affect many industries, but few more than cocoa. While farmers on the ground struggle with fluctuating climatic conditions changing working practices, large companies grapple with environmental regulation.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/04/18/how-climate-change-is-affecting-cocoa>
