



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(25)06
(English only)**

27 January 2025

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

ZIMBABWE: Delta Corporation says sugar tax impacting price competitiveness

Beverage producer Delta Corporation has said in a recent [trading update](#) that demand was relatively strong for all product categories during the third quarter ended Dec.31, 2024, despite local economic challenges, reports Sugaronline.

The company said it maintained its focus on affordable pricing but that there were “unavoidable price adjustments in local currency in line with exchange rate developments.”

“The introduction of the sugar content surtax in January 2024 necessitated significant increases in the prices of soft drinks and cordials. The surtax impacted the group’s price competitiveness which fuelled the influx of imports of similar products from the region, which is further compounded by rampant smuggling,” the company said.

Delta’s revenue increased 1% in the third quarter, from the same period in the previous year, and 7% in the first nine months of the financial year.

“This reflects the mixed volume performance across business units, with part of the revenue increase in soft drinks being related to the sugar tax induced price increases,” the company said. The company said the total sugar tax from February to December 2024 amounted to US\$31.2 million covering both sparkling beverages and cordials.

INDIA: Sugar export authorisation to support 3% increase in sugar industry’s revenue

India’s sugar industry is expected to see a revenue increase of 3% in the current financial year, after the government decided to allow 1 million metric tonnes in sugar exports, per a report by CRISIL Research, according to Business Standard.

This measure is expected to increase local sugar prices by 1%. CRISIL had earlier estimated a decline between 2% and 3% due to a higher inventory of 8.3 million tonnes this season.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) may see a margin expansion of 50-80 basis points.

BRAZIL: São Martinho raises US\$165 million with IFC for biomethane unit

Sugarcane processor São Martinho has raised US\$165 million in financing with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to support the implementation of its first biomethane production plant,

reports Sugaronline.

The credit line, with a term of 10 years, will support the implementation of a biomethane plant to be installed at the Santa Cruz unit, in Américo Brasiliense, São Paulo state, which will produce renewable natural gas from sugarcane vinasse.

The company will also use the funds to renew and treat sugarcane fields at the Santa Cruz unit, which will be used for biomethane production.

In addition to the approved financing, IFC will support two São Martinho's projects focused on sustainable development. The São Martinho Inova is one of the programs, focused on developing new business opportunities to ensure the continuous production of renewable carbon at a lower cost.

The other project is focused on the education and professional qualification of communities surrounding São Martinho's units in São Paulo and Goiás states.

BRAZIL: CTC says new cane varieties increase crop yields by at least 20%

A study conducted by the Centro de Tecnologia Canavieira (CTC) has found that the use of newer sugarcane varieties can increase crop yields by up to 2 metric tonnes of sugar per hectare, according to Novacana.

The study was based on CTC platform, which includes over 175 participating mills representing 80% of the sugarcane crushed in the centre-south.

CTC study also shows that cane varieties developed after the year 2000 have a 20.6% higher performance than varieties developed in the 1980s when considering tonnes of sugar per hectare.

UK: Farmers urge government to support initiative against virus yellows

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) has urged the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) to discuss support for the industry's Virus Yellows Resilience Package, after the government announced it won't grant emergency authorisation for the use of a neonicotinoid on sugarbeets this year, reports Sugaronline.

"As a result of not having this emergency application granted, growers will not have a single viable solution to protect their crop in 2025 in the event of severe disease pressure. We are asking Defra to meet us to discuss immediate support for our Virus Yellows (VY) Resilience Package to mitigate any threat posed by a high VY year in 2025," NFU Sugar Board chair Michael Sly said in [a statement](#).

NFU Sugar and British Sugar had applied for emergency authorisation for the use neonicotinoid seed treatment on sugarbeet in the event of a high forecast of virus pressure in 2025. The use would only have been triggered if the independent Rothamsted Model surpassed a threshold of virus severity.

Defra [announced](#) on Jan. 23 that it won't grant the emergency authorisation this year, citing evidence that the Cruiser SB is extremely toxic to pollinators such as bees.

Sly said the virus yellows disease has caused crop losses of up to 80% in recent years, putting farm businesses under pressure at a time when the sector is struggling with high production costs, extreme weather and the transition to Environmental Land Management schemes.

FoodNavigator.com

Why 'food as medicine' will dominate 2025



Growth of the 'food as medicine' trend is having a major impact on food and beverage, with 2025 set to take its success to a whole new level.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/01/21/food-as-medicine-trend-set-to-dominate-2025/>

Mexico teed up as EU food export major as bloc girds for Trump's tariffs



The European Union has bolstered its trading agreement with Mexico, particularly for food and drink exports, as the bloc prepares for President Trump's 'golden era'.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/01/21/mexico-teed-up-as-eu-food-export-major-as-bloc-girds-for-trumps-tariffs/>

Nostalgia, authenticity, and adventure - The flavours trending in 2025



What do consumers want food to taste like this year?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/01/22/flavour-trends-2025/>

ED & F Man Daily

Raw Sugar Rebounds With Investors Seen Turning Less Bearish - Bloomberg - Raw sugar futures climbed in New York and are heading for the biggest weekly gain in four months on the back of currency volatility and an expected shift in bets from speculative investors. The rebound comes after futures slumped in previous weeks while money managers were building a

strong bearish position in sugar. Most market participants now estimate that there isn't much room left for even more selling from those investors, said Livea Coda, an analyst at Hedgepoint Global Markets. Recent gains for the Brazilian real also support prices, as it reduces incentives for mills in the world's top producing country to sell futures. "If we continue to see an appreciation of the currency, this could also be a trigger for a change in the behaviour" of speculative investors, Coda said.
