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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(25)09  
(English only)**

**13 February 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.

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**Sugaronline Ebriefing**

**BRAZIL: Cargill signs agreement to take full control of SJC Bioenergia**

Cargill announced on Feb. 6 that it has signed an agreement to purchase the remaining 50% stake in Brazil's SJC Bioenergia, taking full control of the company, according to Reuters and Poder360.

The value of the transaction was not revealed. SJC Bioenergia, which has had Cargill as a business partner since 2011, has two production units in Quirinópolis and Cachoeira Dourada, both in Goiás state. The firm processes sugarcane and corn, and produces raw sugar, hydrous and anhydrous ethanol, corn oil and dried distillers grains (DDGs), in addition to generating electricity.

**US: ASR Group's net-zero targets approved by the SBTi**

ASR Group's near-term and net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets have been approved by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), a corporate climate action organization that develops standards and tools to help companies worldwide seeking decarbonization goals, reports Sugaronline.

"Our net-zero target approval from the SBTi is a company-first, displaying our innovation and commitment to having a clear plan to reduce carbon emissions and do our part to protect our planet," ASR Group said in a post on [its website](#). The SBTi approved ASR's targets for 2030 and 2050 in December, with the addition of the Forest Land and Agriculture (FLAG) objectives validated independently. ASR has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions across the value chain by the 2050 financial year.

**FRANCE: Cristal Union announces agreement to buy Lesaffre Frères sugar refinery**

Cristal Union has entered into an agreement for the acquisition of the Lesaffre Frères sugar refinery in Nangis, Seine et Marne, according to a [statement](#) released by the French sugar producer on Feb. 5, reports Sugaronline.

"This new entity will make it possible to sustainably perpetuate beet cultivation in the south of the Paris Basin, while strengthening Cristal Union's industrial network," Cristal Union said in the statement.

"The geographical positioning of the Nangis sugar refinery and its beet basin is a real asset for expanding the group's activities in the south of Paris."

The Lesaffre Frères sugar factory in Nangis processes around 600,000 metric tonnes of beets annually, delivered by 330 growers who cultivate more than 8,000 hectares of sugarbeets.

**BRAZIL: São Martinho reports a 21% rise in revenue for 9M 2024/25**

São Martinho's net revenue increased 21.4% in the first nine months of the 2024/25 season (April-December) to BRL5.46 billion (US\$943.6 million), due to increased sales volumes and higher sugar and ethanol prices, the company said in its [earnings release](#) on Feb. 7, reports Sugaronline.

Revenues from sugar sales increased 9.2% in the period to BRL2.66 billion (US\$459.8 million), due to a 7.7% rise in the volumes sold to 1.08 million metric tonnes and an 1.5% increase in the average price to BRL2,471/tonne (US\$427.1).

Ethanol sales totaled BRL2.21 billion (US\$382 million), up 41.6% year-on-year, due to higher volumes (+35 to 819,200 cubic metres) and prices (+4.7 to BRL2,698.2/m3).

São Martinho's net profit declined 47% to BRL451.7 million (US\$78.1 million) in the first nine months of the 2024/25 season, primarily due to the end of the receipt of installments from the Copersucar Registered Warrant, known as IAA precatórios.

Adjusted EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) increased 39.5% to BRL2.67 billion (US\$461.5 million).

São Martinho [crushed 21.8 million](#) tonnes of sugarcane in the first nine months of 2024/25, down 5.5% from the same period in the previous season, due to lower sugarcane availability and rains reducing the number of days dedicated for harvesting.

**SOUTH AFRICA: Vision appoints former Illovo Sugar executive as new CEO**

Vision Investments has appointed as its new chief executive officer (CEO) the former Illovo Sugar CEO Gavin Dalgleish, according to Business Live.

The Vision consortium is acquiring the assets of Tongaat Hulett, with the transfer's closing date scheduled for April, when Dalgleish should start his CEO role at Vision Investments, according to the news report. Vision is buying Tongaat Hulett's ZAR8.5 billion (US\$460.8 million) debt and converting most of it into equity.

**BELIZE: New project focuses on building climate resilience in cane sector**

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), in partnership with the Government of Belize and key industry stakeholders, has launched a program to strengthen the sugarcane industry's resilience in the face of climate change, reports Sugaronline.

The project "Building the Adaptive Capacity of Sugarcane Farmers in Northern Belize" (BAC-SuF) has secured US\$38.8 million in funding, including a US\$25 million grant from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with counterpart resources totaling US\$13.8 million, according to a [statement](#) released by the Climate Centre on Feb. 7.

The project will focus on climate-adapted sugarcane and improved agronomy, establishing nurseries for climate-resilient varieties, replanting 10,000 acres, and implementing improved soil health and ratoon management practices.

It will also include investment in drainage, irrigation, and pest management systems aligned with climate-smart Agriculture and Integrated Pest Management standards. The project will develop a center to provide training, enhance capacity building, and improve information sharing within the industry, expecting to directly benefit over 5,000 sugarcane farmers in Northern Belize and indirectly impact approximately 87,000 individuals within their families and communities.

**UAE: Al Khaleej Sugar says there is sugar production overcapacity in the Middle East**

Al Khaleej Sugar managing director Jamal al-Ghurair said on Feb. 11 that the company is operating at 70% capacity due to overcapacity of sugar production in the Middle East, according to Reuters.

He told reporters on the sidelines of the Dubai Sugar Conference that there is a 60-70% overcapacity in the Middle East, and some refineries are operating at 30-40% capacity in the region, according to the news report.

**PAKISTAN: Sugar exports boost to Afghanistan in 2024/25**

Pakistan exported sugar worth \$262.7 million to Afghanistan in the first seven months of the 2024/25 financial year (July to January), compared to \$5.9 million exported to the country in the same period last year, according to The News International, citing unnamed government sources on Feb. 11.

Pakistan's government has allowed exports of 750,000 metric tonnes of sugar in June-October 2024. According to the news report, Pakistan's sugar prices have risen since late November.

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**ED & Man Daily**

**Kazakhstan to construct \$126mn sugar plant in Atyrau Region** - bne IntelliNews - Kazakhstan is set to construct a KZT58bn (\$126mn) sugar plant in Atyrau Region. The plant will have a planned annual capacity of 144,000 tonnes, KazTag has reported, citing the Ministry of Agriculture. The project, led by Goldbridge International Company LLP, aims to reduce reliance on sugar imports and strengthen the country's food security. The facility will process 900,000 tonnes of sugar beet or cane raw materials annually, catering to Kazakhstan's domestic sugar demand. The ministry confirmed that negotiations were under way with a local Atyrau-based company to supply sugar beets for production, the news outlet's report said. The initiative comes as Kazakhstan seeks to expand its agricultural processing sector, following recent disruptions in global sugar supply chains.

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**FoodNavigator.com**

**Coca-Cola brushes off threats of aluminum tariff, GLP-1 drugs and 'potential regulatory changes'**



The beverage giant is ready to manage, mitigate and adjust to the "dynamic macro environment," including potential tariffs imposed on steel and aluminum imports into the US and regulatory changes to food ingredients

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/02/12/coca-cola-brushes-off-potential-aluminum-tariff-glp-1-drugs-and-policy-changes/>

## **What does FDA’s freeze mean for the food industry?**



FDA’s communication pause comes at a time of significant food regulatory initiatives, including tightening ingredient safety reviews and implementing updated nutrition labeling requirements <https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/02/11/fdas-communication-freeze-and-its-potential-impact-on-food/>

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## **Sugaronline Ebriefing**

### **INDIA: Country may struggle to meet sugar export quota – news report**

India may struggle to fulfill the sugar export quota of 1 million metric tonnes allowed by the government this season, according to Reuters.

Around 500,000 metric tonnes of sugar have been exported so far this season, but the sales pace is slowing, according to the news report, citing industry and trade sources on Feb. 12.

### **ANGOLA: Uganda’s Modern Group plans to invest up to \$400 million in sugar production**

Uganda’s Modern Group plans to invest up to US\$400 million in sugar production in Angola, contributing to the country’s self-sufficiency, according to Angola’s National Radio (RNA).

Modern Group chief executive officer (CEO) Ashish Monpara revealed the company’s plan during a meeting with Angola’s minister of Economic Coordination, José de Lima Massano, on Feb. 12, according to the news report.

The planned factory is expected to produce around 10,000 tonnes of sugar daily.

### **ALGERIA: Tafadis Sugar Refinery prepares to launch operations**

The Tafadis Sugar Refinery is preparing to start its trial phase by the end of March before fully launching operations, with a production capacity of 2,000 metric tonnes per day, according to Dzair Tube.

The refinery will be able to produce 1,300 tonnes of white sugar, 200 tonnes of brown sugar, and 450 tonnes of liquid sugar per day, supplying local consumption and exports.

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