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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(25)10  
(English only)**

**19 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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**ED & F Man Daily Research**

**SA sugar industry unveils bold diversification plans amid crippling sugar tax crisis - Reuters** - The South African sugar industry has announced ambitious plans for product diversification, including plans for bioethanol petrol, sustainable aviation fuel, and electricity generation, in a bid to counter the challenges such as the sugar tax. This was announced by the South African Sugar Association (SASA) on Friday as part of the second phase of the Sugarcane Value Chain Masterplan 2030 to ensure the survival of 25 000 cane farmers nationally. Brian Tait, a consultant for SASA, said that product diversification was necessary, adding that sugarcane has many uses and product diversification will ensure the survival of the industry. "Extracting juice from the sugarcane gives the ability to produce bioethanol. Ethanol is a platform chemical for downstream products, such as sustainable aviation fuel, bio-polyethylene," Tait said.

**Brazil's Raizen swings to loss in Q3 of the 2024/25 crop - Reuters** - Brazilian sugarcane processor Raizen RAIZ4.SA posted on Friday a 2.57 billion real (\$450.5 million) net loss in the third quarter of the 2024/25 crop, compared with a profit of 793 million reais in the same period a year earlier. Adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) came in at 3.12 billion reais in the quarter, down 20.5% year-on-year and below the 3.42 billion reais estimated by analysts in a LSEG poll.

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**Sugaronline Ebriefing**

**INDIA: NFCSF reaffirms 2024/25 sugar production estimate at 27 million T**

The National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) on Feb. 17 reaffirmed [its estimate](#) for India's sugar production in the current 2024/25 season at 27 million metric tonnes, considering updated data on sugar output so far this season, reports Sugaronline.

Around 217.5 million tonnes of sugarcane has been crushed across India through Feb. 15, compared to 227.7 million tonnes by the same date last year, NFCSF said in a statement sent to the press.

Of 531 operated sugar mills in the country, 454 factories continued the crushing season. Sugar production has reached 19.76 million tonnes, down 12.1% from the same period last year, according to NFCSF.

The average sugar recovery (excluding diversion for production of ethanol) in the country has been 9.09%, compared to 9.87% by the same date last year.

"It is expected that after studying all the above figures, the level of selling prices in the local market will remain satisfactory so that it will be possible for the factories to pay off the cane payments to sugarcane producers," NFCSF president Shri Harshvardhan Patil said in a statement. He said the government's decisions to increase the minimum selling price of sugar and the purchase price of ethanol produced from the sugar industry would improve the sugar industry's cash liquidity.

### **SOUTH AFRICA: Canegrowers urge government to scrap sugar tax**

Sugarcane producers' group SA Canegrowers has urged the government to scrap the Health Promotion Levy (sugar tax), arguing that it has been causing job losses in the agricultural sector, reports Sugaronline.

In a letter to Finance minister Enoch Godongwana, SA Canegrowers invited the minister to KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga to engage with the sugar industry "to understand how the Treasury's policies are not supporting economic growth and rural employment."

"Since the introduction of the sugar tax in 2018, the sugar industry has repeatedly sought to engage with Treasury about how the tax is harming the economy and about the ways the sugar industry is seeking to find a path forward," SA Canegrowers said in a [statement](#) on Feb. 13.

Citing an independent study by Nedlac, SA Canegrowers said the sugar tax destroyed more than 16,000 jobs and ZAR2 billion (US\$109.2 million) in income in its first year.

Minister Godongwana put a moratorium on increases in the tax until this year, citing the inflationary and environmental pressure faced by the industry. Health advocates have been seeking increases in the sugar tax.

SA Canegrowers argues that the sugar tax puts excessive pressure on sugarcane growers, in an already challenging environment. "Should sugarcane growers leave the industry, the viability of alternative projects such as biofuels and sustainable aviation fuel are threatened as these projects rely on a stable supply of sugarcane as a feedstock," the group said.

### **THAILAND: Sugar production could reach 7-year high**

Thailand's sugar production in the 2025/26 season could reach the highest level in seven years, as declining cassava prices have encouraged growers to produce more sugarcane, according to Reuters.

Market analyst at sugar producer Mitr Phol Group, Sasathorn Sanguandeeikul, said Thai sugarcane production next season is expected to increase to 105 million metric tonnes, with sugar output rising to 11.5 million tonnes.

### **UK: Sugarbeet sector discusses challenges and opportunities**

Sugarbeet industry experts have discussed new challenges and opportunities for the sector's future during a fringe sector session in the run-up to the NFU Conference, according to a post on the NFU website on Feb. 18.

NFU Sugar Board chair Michael Sly said the UK government, supply chain and consumers "are asking more of food producers than they ever have before," highlighting the role the beet industry is expected to play in the transition in terms of a low carbon future and increased carbon capture, as well as the need to cater to the UK's changing tastes.

**SPAIN: Acor concludes 2024/25 campaign with lower-than-expected yield**

Spanish sugar cooperative Acor concluded its 2024/25 sugarbeet campaign on Feb. 8 with lower-than-expected agricultural yield, the company said in [a statement](#) on Feb. 13, reports Sugaronline.

The cooperative received over one million metric tonnes of sugarbeets with an average polarisation of more than half a point higher than that of the 2023/24 campaign. However, this improvement was not reflected in the typical tonnage per hectare, which stood at 87.25.

"Surely, several factors come together, but since the elimination of neonicotinoids in seeds, the level of polarization has not risen again. We need new tools, crop protectors that deal with pests to return to the yields of a few years ago," Acor president Jesús Posadas said in the statement. He described the campaign as "difficult" due to the low yields achieved per hectare.

Acor's beet harvesting began on Sept. 30, but start of deliveries was delayed until Oct. 11 due to rains.

At the end of November, Acor had to stop the harvest in the areas where the most complicated plots had already been harvested in order not to prolong the period between harvesting and loading.

The most significant challenges in completing the harvesting were concentrated in the provinces of Álava and León. Despite the absence of rainfall in Castilla y León, Álava registered more than 300 litres of rainfall since October.

Acor said that rains in early February prevented all the harvesting from being completed on time, and 135 hectares remained to be harvested.

For the second consecutive year, Acor reached an agreement with Azucarera for the processing of sugarbeets that had not been delivered to the cooperative's facilities in time.

Acor's 2024/25 beet procurement campaign ends on April 30, for which a guaranteed minimum price of EUR55 per tonne has been approved for contracted deliveries.

**POLAND: Sugar and chocolate production set new records**

Poland's sugar output exceeded 2.5 million metric tonnes in the 2024/25 season, per data from the local sugar producers' association, according to TVP World.

Favourable weather conditions for cultivation have contributed to the record production, according to the news report.

Chocolate exports in the first 11 months of 2024 reached PLN12 billion (US\$3 billion), up 5% year-on-year.

**INDIA: 2024/25 sugar production could fall to 26 million T**

Executive director of Shree Renuka Sugars, Ravi Gupta, has said India's sugar production could fall to 26 million metric tonnes this season after a disease affected sugarcane crop in Uttar Pradesh, according to Bloomberg.

Gupta made the statement on the sidelines of the Dubai Sugar Conference last week. He added that he was seeing strong demand for white sugar and lower supplies from the EU and Thailand, and a very low crop in Pakistan was possible.

**FoodNavigator.com**

**Snacking is the new self-care: Mondelez report reveals why consumers can't stop munching**



The Oreo maker's latest State of Snacking report reveals more consumers than ever are turning to snacks for emotional support. But is this a lasting shift in eating habits, or just a clever rebrand of emotional eating?

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/02/18/snacking-as-self-care-mondelez-report-taps-consumer-trends/>

**What Trump's policies could mean for the future of fresh food**



Consumer demand for fresh food remains high, but macroeconomic factors like stubborn inflation and trade tension can impact the category moving forward

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/02/18/trumps-tariffs-pose-threat-to-fresh-food-market-experts-argue/>