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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(25)11  
(English only)**

**25 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**

**Cargill to buy out Brazil sugar, ethanol producer SJC Bioenergia - Bloomberg** - Cargill has agreed to acquire the remaining 50% stake in Brazilian sugar and renewable energy producer SJC Bioenergia, expanding its presence in the renewable energy sector, the US major agricultural trader said. Financial details were not disclosed. The deal, which requires approval from Brazil's antitrust regulator CADE, will give Cargill full control of SJC, which operates two plants in Goias state in the municipalities of Quirinópolis and Cachoeira Dourada. SJC processes both sugarcane and corn to produce sugar, ethanol, corn oil and animal feed. The company employs 4,500 workers and has been partially owned by Cargill since 2011. Cargill said it has invested BRL6.8bn (\$1.2bn) in its Brazilian operations in recent years.

**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.

**EU plans to restrict imported crops treated with banned pesticides, draft shows – FT** - The European Union is planning tougher restrictions on imported crops treated with pesticides banned in Europe, a draft European Commission document showed, a move that would impact suppliers including the U.S. U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday shrugged off an earlier report of the EU plans from the Financial Times, which cited unnamed EU officials as saying they would present the idea this week.

**Atvos receives certifications to export ethanol and SAF to the EU and Asia - Novacana** - Atvos, in the sugar and ethanol sector, has just received the ISCC EU, ISCC Plus, ISCC Corsia and ISCC Corsia Plus certifications, the company told Broadcast Agro, Grupo Estado's real-time news system. According to a statement from the company, the certifications "attest to its commitment to sustainability in its eight agro-industrial units". Atvos informs that the first two seals enable the company to export ethanol and its derivatives to the European Union and Asia, while the last two qualify it to sell ethanol for the production of aviation biofuel (SAF).

## Sugaronline Ebriefing

### **NIGERIA: Dangote reaffirms commitment to support country's sugar self-sufficiency**

Dangote Group is working to help Nigeria achieve self-sufficiency in raw sugar production and stop imports, according to the Daily Post.

During the "Dangote Special Day" at the 14th Gateway International Trade Fair on Feb. 12, the company's president, Aliko Dangote, said Dangote has committed over \$700 million to land acquisition, machinery, infrastructure and other activities to boost local sugar production.

### **ZIMBABWE: Hippo Valley's sugar production rises amid higher yields, cane delivery**

Hippo Valley Estates increased sugar production in the crushing season concluded in December 2024, due to higher yields and sugarcane delivery, the company said in a [trading update](#) on Feb. 13, reports Sugaronline.

"The harvesting season closed with good performances following an 18% in cane deliveries from the company's plantations (miller-cum-planter) driven by a 7% improvement in yields and a more consistent rate of delivery of sugarcane," the company said.

Hippo Valley's cane deliveries totaled 1.02 million metric tonnes and sugarcane yield reached 95.4 t/ha in the season. Sugar production rose 13% to 219,112 tonnes.

According to the company, Zimbabwe's sugar industry produced a total of 439,542 tonnes of sugar in the season, up 19% year-on-year.

Hippo Valley Estates plans to start the 2025/26 season in April.

### **FRANCE: Tereos and Lénéo to develop biomethane production at former distillery site**

France's Tereos announced on Feb. 18 an agreement with start-up Lénéo to develop a biomethane production project on a former distillery site in Morains, with the capacity of producing 200 gigawatts-hour (GWh) of biomethane annually, reports Sugaronline.

The project will require an investment of more than EUR60 million, allowing the maintenance of industrial activity on the Marne site and the creation of 35 jobs, according to a [statement](#) released by the sugar producer.

Tereos said that since the announcement of the closure of its Morains distillery in March 2023, it had been working to identify an industrial project to ensure the continuity of activity at the site. The new project will produce energy from crop residues.

Tereos said that one metric tonne of crop residues could generate power from biomethane or bioNGV that is equivalent to approximately 200 litres of diesel.

The project is expected to be commissioned by 2028/29.

### **ETHIOPIA: Dangote plans to expand investment in sugar sector**

Dangote Group chief executive officer (CEO), Aliko Dangote, has announced plans to expand investments in Ethiopia's sugar sector, according to the Ethiopian News Agency (ENA).

Dangote said on Feb. 15 that the group will make new investments in Ethiopia's sugar industry, enhancing operations at Omo Kuraz Sugar Company in Ethiopia.

### **SOUTH AFRICA: Finance minister's postponed budget cancels sugar tax increase**

South African Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana's postponed budget has canceled the increase in the sugar tax that was due to become effective in April, attending a request by the local sugar industry, according to The Sunday Times.

The budget proposal says that the government proposes to cancel the Health Promotion Levy (sugar tax) increase to allow the sugar industry more time to restructure in response to regional competition.

**TANZANIA: Kilombero Sugar to double production capacity by mid-year**

Kilombero Sugar is going through an expansion project that will double its total production capacity by mid-2025 to 271,000 metric tonnes, according to Daily News.

The expansion project dubbed K4 Mills has reached a 95% completion rate and is receiving a total investment of around TZS732 billion (US\$282.5 million).

Around 60% of the sugarcane crushed in the expansion project will be bought from out-growers, with the remaining 40% sourced from Kilombero's farms.

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**FoodNavigator.com**

**How will RFK Jr.'s confirmation to lead HHS shape food and agriculture policy?**



Most – not all – Republicans aligned to confirm Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to head the Department of Health and Human Services, which includes FDA

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/02/14/senate-confirms-rfk-jr-to-lead-hhs-and-brooke-rollins-to-head-usda/>

**Brooke Rollins' confirmation to lead USDA comes at 'critical time' for food policy**



As USDA Secretary, Rollins will oversee distribution of food benefits, school meals, finalization of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the ongoing bird flu outbreak and farm programs

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/02/14/rollins-confirmed-to-lead-usda-with-oversight-of-food-benefits-school-lunch-and-dietary-guidelines/>

**Cocoa prices and Trump: global food's biggest anxieties**



Many of the world's biggest food and drink makers, such as Mondelez International and Unilever, boasted strong 2024 financials, but they all warn of a tough year ahead

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/02/14/cocoa-and-trump-how-food-and-drink-brands-will-weather-2025/>

## Do consumers still care about sustainability? Opens in new window



Sustainability has become a major buzz word in food and beverage. But is it still important to consumers? And, if not, what does this mean for the industry?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/02/14/do-consumers-still-care-about-sustainability/>

## 5 ways EU agri-food strategy changes food and farming



The strategy comes after agricultural worker protests that have shaken several major European countries and centres on farmers

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/02/20/eu-agrifood-strategy-revealed/>

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### PR Newswire

#### Announces Receipt of Unsolicited Proposal

LUXEMBOURG, Feb. 18, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- Adecoagro S.A. (NYSE: **AGRO**) (the "Company"), a leading sustainable production company in South America, announces its Board of Directors received an unsolicited non-binding proposal from Tether Investments S.A. de C.V. ("Tether") on February 14, 2025 to acquire outstanding Common Shares of the Company at a price of \$12.41 per Common Share through a tender offer that would result in Tether collectively holding 51% of the outstanding Common Shares of the Company. Tether is already a shareholder of the Company, holding approximately 19.4% of its outstanding Common Shares according to Tether's last public filing on Schedule 13D dated November 14, 2024.

The Board of Directors held a meeting on February 16, 2025 to discuss the terms and conditions of the proposal and decided to engage legal and financial advisors to further assist the Board in its evaluation of the proposal and whether it is in the best interests of all shareholders and the Company. The Board of Directors will respond in due course. The Company's shareholders are not required to take any action at this time.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/adecoagro-announces-receipt-of-unsolicited-proposal-302378835.html>

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