



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(25)21
(English only)**

10 March 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.

FoodNavigator.com

Will aspartame be banned?



Aspartame is approved for use in thousands of food and beverage products worldwide, but calls to ban the popular sweetener are growing. Will European Commission proceed with a ban and what would this mean for manufacturers?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/02/26/will-aspartame-be-banned/>

EU may 'simplify' sustainability regs, saving business €6bn but reducing scope on key requirements



The EU has announced that the regulation rules may be simplified to ease burden on companies

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/02/26/csddd-and-csrd-rules-to-be-simplified/>

Food industry trust in the dumps, but things are looking up



Consumer trust in the food industry is at dire levels. But there are modest reasons for positivity. What can the industry do to build on dwindling trust?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/02/25/trust-in-food-industry-low-but-there-are-signs-of-improvement/>

Sweet and salty flavors: It's all in your head



From honey and vanilla to umami and kokumi, flavor ingredients can enhance taste perception by engaging multiple senses, offering innovative solutions for sugar and salt reduction
<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/02/25/how-sweet-and-salty-flavors-can-help-reduce-sugar-and-sodium-consumption/>

Food industry blamed for 60% overweight and obesity rate by 2050



The globe's obesity problem is notching up another belt loop, with well over half of adults expected to be overweight by 2050. And the food industry has been called out as a sinner
<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/03/03/how-fat-is-the-worlds-population/>

Nutri-score abandoned by European Commission



Following a years-long battle, the European Commission appears to have ditched plans to enforce its Nutri-score policy
<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/03/04/has-the-european-commission-abandoned-nutriscore/>

ED & F Man Daily

Nordzucker Successfully Concludes Long 2024/2025 Campaign; High Beet Yields And Reliable Processing – Sugar Producers - In Braunschweig, Germany, With an average duration of 145 days (previous year: 135 days), the campaign was one of the longest in the company's history. While high beet yields were recorded across the Group, the sugar content remained slightly below the five-year average. A later sowing date than in previous years and a cool, wet spring initially slowed the development of the beet. However, a growth spurt in summer was able to partially compensate for this. As the season progressed, regular rainfall ultimately led to high beet yields, but also affected the sugar content of the beet. Beet quality was generally good in most regions, with the exception of Slovakia. In Slovakia, as well as in Germany, leaf diseases occurred in many places. "Stable temperatures during the winter ensured good harvesting and processing conditions, so that the beet was of good quality well into January.

Government to eliminate import tariffs on sugar and corn to reduce prices, says Alckmin – Novacana - Vice President and Minister of Development, Industry, Commerce and Services (MDIC), Geraldo Alckmin, announced this Thursday, the 6th, that the federal government will eliminate the import tax on sugar, as part of a series of measures to reduce food prices. In an interview with journalists at Planalto after a meeting with representatives from the food sector, Alckmin stated that the decision is part of a “first” set of measures, which also includes zeroing import tariffs on meat, coffee and corn, among other products. The minister also stated that the package will not harm Brazilian producers and stressed that the measures are not intended to replace, but rather to complement national food production. He also said that the increase in export taxes was not on the meeting's agenda. Foods with their respective current rates that will be reduced to zero include meat (up to 10.8%), sugar (up to 14%), corn (7.2%), coffee (9%), sunflower oil (up to 9%), pasta (macaroni) (14.4%), sardines (32%), olive oil (9%) and biscuits (16.2%). According to Alckmin, the reductions still need to be approved by the MDIC's executive management committee and Foreign Trade Chamber, but should come into effect in “a matter of days”.

Government sees US focus on Brazilian ethanol and low risk for meat and coffee - Novacana - The Brazilian government sees limited focus from the United States on Brazilian ethanol. For members of the executive branch, any tariff announcements by President Donald Trump are unlikely to affect other Brazilian agricultural products, such as meat and coffee, at this time. Government officials classify the threat of US tariffs on ethanol as imminent. The United States was the second largest destination for Brazilian agricultural products last year, with exports of US\$12.092 billion, accounting for 7.4% of the total exported by agribusiness in the year. Shipments were concentrated in green coffee, cellulose, fresh beef, orange juice and leather, according to data from the Brazilian agribusiness foreign trade statistics system. Brazilian ethanol was explicitly cited by the White House about two weeks ago as an example of a product that lacks reciprocity. There has been long-standing pressure from the United States to reduce the import tax applied by Brazil on the North American product, from 18% compared to the 2.5% tariff charged on Brazilian ethanol entering the United States.

Sugaronline Ebriefing

SOUTH AFRICA: Government vows commitment to supporting small-scale cane growers

South Africa's Agriculture minister, John Steenhuisen, met small-scale growers and leaders in the country's sugar industry last week when he said the government was committed to securing the sustainability of 24,000 black small-scale sugarcane farmers, according to the South African Government News Agency (SANews).

He cited funding initiatives provided to small-scale farmers over the years as positively supporting growers to remain active.

The minister said that the strategy is to ensure that small-scale farmers remain in cane farming with improved productivity in the short term while medium to long-term interventions are being developed.

ETHIOPIA: Ethiopian Sugar and Cuban ambassador discuss cooperation in sugar sector

The chief executive officer (CEO) of Ethiopian Sugar Industry Group, Ato Weyo Roba, and the newly assigned Cuban ambassador to Ethiopia, Meylin Suarez, have recently held discussions on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries to work in collaboration on the sugar industry sector, according to a [post](#) on the Ethiopian Sugar Industry Group's Facebook page on Feb. 27.

Ambassador Meylin has delivered a document of the Cuban technical team, which will help to address bottlenecks in Ethiopia's sugar industry. A total 16 Cuban sugar industry experts are

expected to visit Ethiopia and start applying the remedial solutions sought.

BARBADOS: 2025 harvest delayed by a day due to weighbridge inspection

The start of the 2025 sugarcane harvest at the Portvale Sugar Factory was delayed by a day due to a last-minute inspection of a weighbridge, according to Barbados Today.

Minister of Agriculture Indar Weir said the delay was not due to mechanical issues at Portvale. He added that the person responsible for the inspection of the weighbridge was only available on March 4 morning.

The season was scheduled to begin on March 4. After the inspection, Portvale was set to start receiving sugarcane from the early morning of March 5.

BRAZIL: UNICA's president says cut in sugar import tariff is "appropriate"

The president of Brazil's sugarcane industry association UNICA, Evandro Gussi, has said that the government's decision to reduce sugar [import tariffs](#) to zero is "natural and appropriate," according to Broadcast Agro.

He made the statement to journalists after meeting with federal ministers and representatives of the production sector in Brasília on March 6.

Asked about the impacts of the measure on the domestic market, including whether companies would start importing sugar, Gussi said that there hasn't been a similar situation in the past to help estimate how the market will behave.

TÜRKIYE: Sugar industry says climate change impacts production

The president of Türkiye's Pankobirlik and chairman of the board of the Konya Sugar Beet Growers Cooperative, Ramazan Erkoyuncu, has said that the temperature increase due to climate change has resulted in a decline in sugar extraction from sugarbeet, impacting sugar production, according to the Hurriyet Daily News.

Sugarbeet production in Türkiye totaled 25 million tonnes in the 2024/25 season, but Erkoyuncu said the sugar production volume declined due to global warming.

FAO Sugar Price Index rises in February after 3 consecutive declines

The FAO Sugar Price Index rose 6.6% in February from [January](#) after three consecutive monthly declines, driven by concerns over tighter global supplies in the 2024/25 season, reports Sugaronline.

"Declining production prospects in India and concerns over the impact of recent dry weather on the upcoming crop in Brazil, which exacerbated the seasonal effect, underpinned the increase in prices," FAO said in [a statement](#) on March 7.

"Additionally, the strengthening of the Brazilian real against the United States dollar, which tends to affect exports from Brazil, further contributed to the overall increase in global sugar prices." The FAO Sugar Price Index averaged 118.5 points in February this year, still 15.8% lower than the level in February 2024.

Sugar was one of the commodities contributing to the 1.6% increase in the FAO Food Price Index in February from January. "While the meat price index remained stable, all other price indices rose, with the most significant increases recorded for sugar, dairy and vegetable oils," according to FAO.

The FAO Food Price Index averaged 127.1 points in February 2025, 8.2% higher than its corresponding level one year ago.