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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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

**30 April 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**

**TANZANIA: Sugar board's director says country on track to end sugar shortage**

The Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) director general, Kenneth Bengesi, has said that the country is on track to end its sugar shortage drive by new investments, according to two separate reports by The Guardian and the Daily News.

He made the remarks during a recent Sugar Stakeholders Forum organized by the Tanzania Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (TSSCT), in the Morogoro region.

He said the sugar industry had made significant progress, with many challenges in the sector resolved through collaboration between the government, private investors, and sugar technologists.

**THAILAND: Banks finance machinery purchases to help reduce air pollution in sugar industry**

The Bank of Thailand has launched a program to help finance the purchase of agricultural machinery by the sugarcane industry to help reduce the air pollution level of PM2.5 in the sector, according to Bangkok Post.

The bank is collaborating with the Office of the Cane and Sugar Board (OCSB), Krungthai Bank (KTB), and Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) in the program to reduce pollution, which offers loans with more favorable interest rates and extended repayment periods.

**BRAZIL: Minister vows to raise ethanol blend in gasoline to 30% in 2025**

Brazil's minister of Mines and Energy, Alexandre Silveira, said on April 25 that the government will implement the 30% ethanol blend in gasoline this year, according to Globo Rural.

The announcement was made during the 8th Opening of the Minas Gerais Sugar and Ethanol Season, an event promoted by sugarcane processor Companhia Mineira de Açúcar e Alcool (CMAA).

The 30% ethanol blend in gasoline still needs to be ratified by the National Energy Policy Council (CNPE), according to Silveira. There is no set date for the approval of the increase in the blend.

**BRAZIL: Geomit and CMAA sign MOU to develop biogas projects from cane residues**

Brazilian sugarcane processor Companhia Mineira de Açúcar e Alcool (CMAA) and Geomit, a joint venture between biogas company Geo biogas & carbon (Geo) and Mitsui Gás, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop commercial-scale biogas and biomethane projects from sugarcane residues, **reports Sugaronline.**

The first collaboration will be the Vale do Tijucu Project, located in the Triângulo Mineiro region of Minas Gerais state.

"The initiative aims to supply competitive, low-carbon natural gas to local industries and

transportation sectors, contributing to Brazil's broader energy transition," the two companies said in a [statement](#) released on April 23.

The collaboration will focus on transforming organic residues such as vinasse, filter cake, and bagasse into clean energy through anaerobic digestion. Biomethane produced by the companies is expected to help diversify the energy mix in Minas Gerais state, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support the sustainable growth of Brazil's agribusiness sector.

#### **INDIA: Zuari Industries and ICAR-ISRI to collaborate on cane excellence program**

Zuari Industries and the ICAR-ISRI (Indian Sugarcane Research Institute) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a collaborative framework for the implementation of a cane excellence program at Gobind Sugar Mills, in Uttar Pradesh, according to The Hindu's Business Line.

The program's goal is to contribute to enhancing sugarcane productivity, sustainability, farmer engagement, and research and development (R&D) integration for long-term strategic gains.

#### **EGYPT: Tax authority denies reports of new VAT on sugar**

The Egyptian Tax Authority on April 23 denied that a value-added tax (VAT) would be introduced on sugar in the 2025/26 fiscal year, adding that sugar remains exempt from paying the tax, according to Amwal Al Ghad.

The tax authority said in a statement that the new budget proposal under review by the Egyptian Parliament does not include any provisions to impose VAT on sugar.

According to current tax laws, sugar is listed among the goods and services exempt from VAT.

#### **INDIA: NFCSF signs MoU to promote cane-based bioenergy and sustainable practices**

The National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) on April 23 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE) to collaborate in promoting sugarcane-based bioenergy and sustainable practices in the country, **reports Sugaronline.**

"The collaboration aims to foster innovation, policy advocacy and the adoption of practical green energy solutions, leveraging the strengths of both organizations," NFCSF said in a statement on April 24.

"While NFCSF brings decades of experience and reach within the cooperative sugar sector, IFGE offers a strong platform for driving green energy initiatives across industries."

NFCSF will share its expertise related to the use and applications of sugarcane and its downstream by-products for green energy, facilitate access to research publications and reports, and collaborate in joint promotion and policy advocacy efforts.

IFGE will promote sugarcane-based green energy in India and globally, organise knowledge-sharing events such as workshops and seminars in partnership with NFCSF, and facilitate stakeholder engagement with policymakers and industry leaders.

The partnership will also enable joint representation before government bodies and provide a platform for coordinated efforts in green energy promotion.

Specific cooperative arrangements will be negotiated case-by-case to suit project requirements.

#### **TURKEY: Sugarbeet area to remain unchanged in 2025/26 – USDA**

Turkey's sugarbeet crop area and production should remain unchanged from 2025/26 to 2023/24, according to the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) post in Ankara, **reports Sugaronline.**

The sugarbeet harvested area is estimated at 330,000 hectares.

"Sugar remains popular among farmers because it generally has few market problems and yields better returns than alternative crops," the FAS Ankara post said in the [Sugar Annual](#) report.

Sugarbeet production in 2025/26 is projected to remain stagnant at 22 million tonnes, assuming sufficient springtime rainfall, favorable weather conditions, and sufficient volumes of irrigation water will contribute to stability in production.

Centrifugal sugar production remains the same year-on-year at 3.1 million tonnes, driven by favourable weather conditions.

#### **ESWATINI: Sugar output seen rising 3% in 2025/26**

Eswatini's sugar production may rise 3% in 2025/26 to 660,000 metric tonnes driven by improved

cane deliveries and milling efficiencies, according to the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) post in Pretoria, **reports Sugaronline**.

The sugar recovery rate is expected to increase slightly to 12% in 2025/26, based on an expectation of timely cane deliveries to mills in the coming season.

Sugarcane production is forecast to increase by 3% in 2025/26, based on normal weather conditions and water availability for irrigation.

"Cane production in Eswatini is irrigated and there has been sufficient rainfall from November 2024 through March 2025. FAS/Pretoria contacts confirmed there is adequate water in dams to support the MY 2025/26 crop," according to the recent [Sugar Annual](#) report.

Additional production growth is likely to be limited by delayed cane replanting in some growing regions due to a prolonged rainy season.

FAS Pretoria forecasts sugar exports will increase by 17% in 2025/26 due to expected increases in sugar production and the sugar industry's campaign to improve access to regional markets.

### **NICARAGUA: Sugar production and exports estimated to rise in 2025/26 – USDA**

Nicaragua's sugar production could rise 10% in 2025/26 to 840,000 metric tonnes, driven by a more balanced rainy season and an increase in sugarcane plantations, according to the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) post in Managua, **reports Sugaronline**.

Sugarcane production is estimated to rise 4% to 7.6 million tonnes.

"This projected growth is attributed to a two percent expansion in planted areas and the expectation of having better agronomic and industrial yields due to a neutral rainy season with precipitation levels aligning with the historical average," according to the Sugar Annual report released April 21.

Sugarcane harvested area in Nicaragua is projected to reach 75,000 hectares in 2025/26, up 4% from 2024/25, as two sugar mills plan to expand planted areas by 2,000 ha.

The FAS Managua post projects total sugar export volumes at 565,000 tonnes in 2025/26, up 15% from 2024/25, due to the anticipated increase in planted areas and the recovery of industrial yields.

### **UK: Government suggests ending sugar tax exemption on dairy-based drinks**

UK's sugar tax on fizzy drinks could be extended to milkshakes and other milk-based beverages and non-dairy substitutes under government proposals put out for consultation on April 28, according to BBC.

The proposals suggest ending the exemption from the sugar tax for dairy-based drinks and non-dairy substitutes including oats or rice beverages.

The Treasury also confirmed on April 28 proposals to reduce the maximum amount of sugar allowed in drinks before they become subject to the levy from 5g to 4g per 100ml.

### **TANZANIA: Government invests at National Sugar Institute**

Tanzania's government is investing more than \$6 billion to improve infrastructure and machinery at the National Sugar Institute in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region, according to The Guardian.

The National Sugar Institute director, Casmir Casmir, said the government's goal was to elevate the institute to an international level, creating an environment that attracts students from Tanzania and abroad.

**Is food and beverage industry failing women?**

Women are underrepresented at all levels of food and beverage production. What is industry doing to change this?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/04/23/gender-equality-what-is-food-and-beverage-doing-to-support-women/>

**Rebounding retail sales may not be good news for grocery stores and national food brands**

A recent rebound in retail sales did not extend to grocery items but rather concentrated on high ticket categories likely to be disproportionately impacted by tariffs, which suggests the better-than-expected uptick reported by the US Census Department of Commerce may be rooted in consumer uncertainty rather than confidence about the economy, suggest experts

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/04/23/grocery-stores-do-not-share-windfall-of-rebounding-retail-sales/>

**UPF regulation unlikely despite mounting consumer pressure**

Think-tank says growing calls for stricter regulations on ultra processed foods won't succeed

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/04/25/case-for-ultra-processed-foods-regulation-is-weak/>

**Europe's Nutri-score war rumbles on as retailers back the scheme**

Despite the European Commission's recent move to distance itself from a mandatory rollout of Nutri-score, supermarkets continue to press ahead

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/04/15/food-manufacturers-and-retailers-at-nutri-score-loggerheads/>

**Ukraine 2025 sugar beet area and exports to fall sharply in 2025, sugar union head says** - Chinimandi - Ukraine will cut its sugar beet sowing area by 17% this year, leading to a significant reduction in production and even sharper slide in exports, especially to the European Union, the head of the country's sugar union said. Yana Kavushevska told delegates at the S&P Global sugar conference in Geneva that Ukraine farmers would sow 210,000 hectares with sugar beet in 2025. In February, her estimate stood at 230,000, while in March Ukraine's first deputy farm minister Taras Vysotskiy said 250,000 hectares would be sown with sugar beet. "The main reason is weather conditions. We had a very dry winter, that's why farmers prefer to switch to less risky crops (like) sunflowers and corn," she said. Ukraine will produce just 1.5 million tons of sugar this year versus 1.8 million last year, and export 180,511 tons to world markets versus 746,000 last year, Kavushevska said.

**Croatia to boost support for sugar beet growers** - bne IntelliNews - Croatia will increase subsidies for sugar beet producers as part of a broader strategy to revive and strengthen the country's sugar industry, Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister David Vlačić said on April 25, according to a government statement. Speaking at a ceremony to award the country's top sugar beet producers with the 'Golden Beet' prize, Vlačić described sugar beet production as being of 'strategic interest' for Croatia and pledged a series of new support measures. The government will pay the remaining 80% of this year's subsidies, worth €3.7mn, to farmers on April 29, he said, with the rest to be disbursed by June 15. This comes in addition to the existing five-year support programme valued at €1.3mn annually. Vlačić noted that last year's €9mn emergency aid package, issued following a severe drought, had kept the sector afloat. 'The five-year aid programme for sugar beet producers is of enormous help,' he said.

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