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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(25)29  
(English only)**

**26 June 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**

**INDONESIA: Government postpones sugar tax to 2026**

Indonesia's government has postponed the implementation of the excise tax on sugary beverages to 2026, which was initially planned to become effective from July 2025, citing a need for regulatory preparation, according to the Jakarta Globe.

A spokesperson for the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DJBC), Nirwala Dwi Heryanto, said in a press briefing on June 23 that the tax is postponed to 2026. He said the government would look for alternative sources of revenue from other excise items, import duties or export duties, according to the news report.

**INDIA: UP government develops new cane variety to boost productivity**

The Uttar Pradesh state government has developed over 243 sugarcane varieties as part of an effort to support the state's agricultural economy and make sugarcane farming more profitable, according to the Times of India.

A total of 59 sugarcane varieties are being cultivated successfully in the state, including 28 early-maturing and 31 mid-to-late maturing, according to the news report. Sugarcane committees across the state are also being strengthened to provide farmers with technical support and guidance.

**US: ASR plans to close Yonkers refinery by the end of 2025**

American Sugar Refinery (ASR) will close its Yonkers Refinery in New York by the end of 2025 as part of an optimization plan for its US businesses, which includes investments in other facilities, the company said in a [statement](#) on June 20, reports Sugaronline.

ASR's US strategy includes complementing its large-scale refineries with more flexible production facilities that are strategically located "to best serve its customers and deliver a diverse portfolio of sweetener products when needed by customer."

"Throughout our history, we have made considerable investments and operational changes to meet our customers' sweetening needs," said senior vice president of Sales, Marketing and New Product Development, Rob Sproull.

"These recent changes are simply an extension of our continuous improvement journey to provide exceptional customer value and service. We will continue to operate large cane sugar refineries across the US with the capacity to meet our customers' cane sugar requirements. And,

now, we're further complementing the capabilities of our refineries with smaller, more flexible operations to effectively service our customers in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic US geographies."

ASR said it acquired the Rochester, NY-based sweetener company ingredientsPLUS (IP) last year, with production facilities in Lakeville, NY, and Landisville, PA, to service the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions.

The company is investing in the construction of a new bulk transfer and liquid melt station in the northeast with access to rail and major transportation routes, which is planned to begin operating next year.

ASR is also investing to double the size of its Buffalo plant.

In addition, the company has transitioned its Chalmette Refinery, in Louisiana, and its Baltimore Refinery, in Maryland, into continuous operations to increase operational efficiencies and improve sustainability.

### **PAKISTAN: EU suspends duty-free waivers on imports of Pakistan ethanol**

The European Commission has suspended Pakistan's GSP+ status for ethanol imports, halting the zero-tariff policy for imports of Pakistan's non-fuel ethanol following concerns raised by six EU member states, according to two separate reports by the Daily Times and Pakistan Today.

In May 2024, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Hungary, and Poland submitted a complaint arguing that Pakistan's industrial-grade ethanol exports surged to disruptive levels.

### **MOZAMBIQUE: Vision Sugar acquires Xinavane and Mafambisse sugar**

South Africa's Vision Sugar Holdings, which is taking over Tongaat Hulett's operations, is in the process of acquiring the Xinavane and Mafambiasse sugar companies, according to the AIM newswire.

Vision Sugar's chief executive officer (CEO), Gavin Dalgleish, made the announcement on June 21 in Mozambique.

Xinavane and Mafambiasse sugar are currently managed by Tongaat Hulett Açucar. Tongaat Hulett owns 85% of Mafambisse shares and 88% of Xinavane. The Mozambican government owns the remaining shares of the companies.

### **FIJI: SRIF CEO appointed as secretary for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry**

The current chief executive officer (CEO) of the Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (SRIF), Vinish Kumar, has been appointed as the incoming permanent secretary for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry, according to Fiji Times.

Kumar was the permanent secretary of Special Project in the Ministry of Sugar in 2023 before being appointed CEO for the SRIF later that year.

### **PHILIPPINES: Agriculture Dept. requests budget increase for sugar**

The Philippines' Department of Agriculture (DA) plans to seek a 10% increase in the 2026 budget to increase spending on the sugar, coconut, and onion sectors, according to Business World Online.

Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the DA needs PHP500 billion (US\$8.7 billion) a year to address the needs of the farming sector, including irrigation. For 2025, the DA received PHP237.4 billion (US\$4.15 billion), less than half of its initial request of PHP513 billion.

**INDIA: Ethanol production seen up 46% 2025, ethanol blend at 19.3% – USDA**

India's ethanol production is expected to increase 46% in the 2025 calendar year to 10.5 billion litres due to improved feedstock availability and favourable monsoon conditions, according to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) post in New Delhi.

"Despite the remarkable growth, Post forecasts the annual nationwide average blend rate for CY 2025 at 19.3%, slightly below the E20 target due to regional shortages in feedstocks and logistics constraints," the FAS New Delhi Post said in the [Biofuel Annual report](#) on June 20.

India's ethanol consumption should rise to 11.4 billion litres, with 9.7 billion allocated to fuel ethanol in 2025.

India's ethanol production capacity is currently around 16 billion liters as of March 2025, according to the USDA.

"To sustain the national E20 target, a capacity of 17 BL is required, assuming 80% plant efficiency. This would demand an additional 7 million hectares of cultivated feedstock area, which remains a key policy challenge. The ban on ethanol imports for fuel blending further constrains the availability of alternatives, reinforcing the urgency for accelerated capacity expansion."

**UK: British Sugar announces partnership to launch pollinator monitoring project**

British Sugar has [announced](#) a partnership with agri-tech company AgriSound to install 27 acoustic sensors at a large farming estate in North Norfolk, which will record real-time biodiversity for two years and provide insights into the health of vital pollinator populations.

"The information gathered will enable accurate and value-added insight into pollinator activity where sugarbeet is part of the crop rotation. Alongside, demonstrating whether wildflower borders, hedgerows and nearby water sources have any impact on pollinators over a longer period of time," British Sugar said in a statement on June 24.

The information collected is expected to unveil opportunities for sustainable land and pest management activities across the beet growing area across the East of England, the East Midlands and Yorkshire.

"This project presents a significant leap forward in our long-term ambition to enhance biodiversity across our agricultural operations. We have been looking to adapt our practices to become more sustainable and supportive of biodiversity in the UK and partnering with AgriSound seemed like a natural choice for us," said Charlie Curtis, Agricultural Sustainability manager at British Sugar, in a statement.

"By better understanding pollinator activity, we can make more informed decisions about land use, pesticide management, and where to create nature-friendly habitats. This will help us to maintain our eco-friendly practices well into the future."

**Brazil and Nigeria seek to diversify bilateral trade**

Brazil and Nigeria announced on June 24 their desire to diversify their bilateral trade and increase investments between their economies, according to Brazil's state-owned news agency Agência Brasil.

The announcement was made in Abuja, Nigeria, by Brazil's vice president Geraldo Alckmin, and by Nigeria's president, Bola Tinubu.

The trade flow between Brazil and Nigeria in 2024 totaled US\$ 2 billion, one-fifth of the value recorded in 2014. Brazil exports mainly sugar and molasses to Nigeria and imports fertilisers.

### **EGYPT: PM discusses opportunities and challenges for sugar industry**

Egypt's Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouly held a meeting on June 24 to discuss opportunities and challenges in Egypt's sugar industry, according to a [note](#) released by the State Information Service (SIS) on June 24.

During the meeting, the PM reaffirmed the sugar industry's strategic importance to national food security and directed ministers to coordinate with manufacturers on an action plan aligning with the state's production and demand strategy.

"The meeting also addressed support for related industries, environmental compliance, and sustainability upgrades at sugar factories," according to the government's information service.

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### **Food Navigator.com**

#### **New sugar reduction tech hits Europe - and it's not a sweetener**



Better yet, products using it won't be considered 'novel foods'.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/06/23/sugar-reduction-by-bluetree-comes-to-europe/>

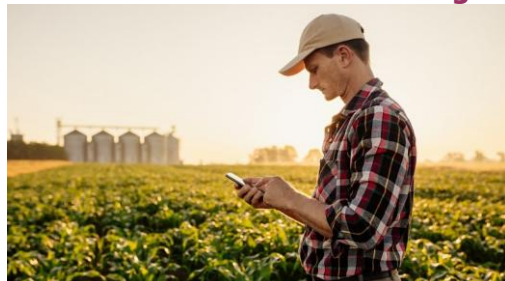
#### **Rebranding ramps up across food and beverage**



Discover what's driving the desire to rebrand, the biggest design trends, and why not everyone should follow suit.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/06/23/rebranding-trends-risks-and-benefits/>

#### **US farmers embrace trade toughness as optimism grows**



Fewer producers think free trade would do them good as they remain upbeat about the prospects of US agriculture exports and the domestic investment climate

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/06/24/us-farmers-appear-to-warm-to-protectionism/>

## 6 sweet launches hitting the confectionery aisle



What's fresh in confectionery? We round up the latest on-shelf

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/06/24/mcvities-baileys-new-confectionery-launches/>

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## ED & F Man Daily

**São Martinho expects a 3.7% increase in sugarcane crushing** – Novacana - São Martinho announced that sugarcane processing in the 2025/26 harvest should grow 3.7% over the previous season, to 22.6M MT. The Brazilian company also expects an average total recoverable sugar (ATR) content of 139.9 kilos per MT, a drop of 1.9% YoY. The total volume of ATR produced is estimated at 3.16M MT, an increase of 1.8% over the previous harvest. "The expectation of greater sugarcane processing refers to the positive effects of the investments, made after the fires, in the recovery of the sugarcane fields for the 2025/26 harvest", it said. The company also cited other factors that include the use of genetic varieties with better productivity that contrast with "adverse weather conditions, with less rainfall between January and May 2025, which affected the productivity estimates".

**Pakistan Sugar Advisory Board (SAB) okays 0.5M MT import of sugar** – AgriInsite - The Sugar Advisory Board (SAB) on Monday okayed the import of 0.5M MT of sugar after the government exported the commodity in a large quantity in the current financial year, which led to a sharp increase in domestic sugar prices. The meeting approved the import of 0.5 million of sugar to control rising prices and ensure a consistent supply of the commodity in the market. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the country exported 765,734 MT of sugar between July and May this fiscal year, earning PKR 114 billion. However, as expected following this export domestic sugar prices rose sharply and hit a record PKR 190 per kg. During the meeting, the minister said that the decision to import sugar had become unavoidable due to a nationwide shortfall in supply and sharp price hikes. He attributed the recent surge in sugar prices largely to unjustified price increases by sugar mill owners. The minister emphasised that all formalities regarding the import will be completed within the next few days, and the imported sugar will be brought into the market at the earliest to provide relief to consumers.

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