

**International Sugar Organization**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(25)58
(English only)**

12 December 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.

Sugaronline Ebriefing**THAILAND: Mitr Phol Group promotes fresh cane cutting**

Mitr Phol Group has launched a campaign to encourage sugarcane growers to harvest fresh-cut sugarcane and avoid burning it in the harvesting process, according to The Nation.

The company is also continuing its program to purchase sugarcane leaves for renewable energy generation and has said it prepared an efficient harvesting plan to ensure smooth operations throughout this crushing season.

Mitr Phol's chairman, Buntoeng Vongkusolkrit, has said a sustainable start to this crushing season can only be achieved through collaboration across all sectors to support fresh cane harvesting and drive progress toward shared goals.

Sucro announces sugar refinery JV in Guyana

Sucro Limited announced on Dec. 10 that it will expand its sugar refining capacity in the Caribbean through a joint venture to develop and operate a cane sugar refinery in Guyana, where Sucro will hold a minority ownership interest, reports Sugaronline.

Sucro's subsidiary, Sucro Caribbean Investment, and GAICO Construction & General Services have entered a joint venture agreement to form Demerara Sugar Refinery, to develop, construct, finance and operate a white sugar refinery at Wales, West Bank Demerara, Guyana.

The company estimates that USD200 million will be invested in building the new refinery, in which Sucro will hold an indirect 15% interest.

Under the agreement, DSR will procure, install and commission a used refinery plant sourced from Hamilton, Canada, and will utilize GAICO's wharf/infrastructure under commercial terms, according to a [press statement](#) released by Sucro.

Sucro will provide engineering, equipment supply, process design, raw sugar supply, and marketing of all refined output under a tolling arrangement, with profits/losses shared in accordance with the parties' joint venture interests.

"Guyana provides an ideal second cane sugar refining platform for Sucro within the Caricom region, that will enable Sucro, through its local affiliates and partnerships, to deliver reliable, value-added refined sugar supplies and further reduce the need for imports, creating much-needed jobs and security to local communities across the Caribbean," said Jonathan Taylor,

founder and CEO of Sucro.

"By relocating our proven Hamilton refinery assets into Wales and combining it with Sucro's engineering and GAICO's exceptional local logistics capabilities, we expect a rapid and capital-efficient start-up."

Sucro will sell its current operating refinery assets located in Hamilton, Ontario to DSR once the company's new Hamilton refinery is operational. The company said that the asset transfer will support the procurement/installation scope described in the JV agreement and is expected to streamline commissioning timelines and capital intensity for the Guyana plant.

Sucro has also announced a new business unit, Sucro Engineering Services (SES), which formalises the company's decade of refinery design/build/operate experience into a turn-key offering spanning feasibility, process design, equipment procurement, construction oversight, operational support, and raw sugar sourcing.

The business will deploy Sucro's proprietary, patent-pending sugar process technology, SucroZone, along with related control strategies, including PLC-driven real-time color control.

SES will be led by Kamran Siddiqi, VP Engineering, a long time Sucro employee who has directly supervised four cane sugar refinery construction projects in just the past 7 years.

SPAIN: Azucarera reports record yields as beet campaign advances

Azucarera had processed more than 34% of the total sugarbeet-planted area for the current season as of early December, with record yields, according to recent news reports from AgroDigital and Tribuna León.

Sugarbeet yields reached peaks of 147 tonnes per hectare in the Toro area and 132 in the León area. These figures are being observed primarily in plots where early planting took place, according to Agricultural director Salomé Santos.

Forecasts indicate that the harvest will conclude in two months, conditions permitting, driven by good crop management by sugarbeet growers and by the company's efficient harvesting and transportation services.

ESWATINI: Ubombo Sugar signs contracts to develop power plant

Ubombo Sugar Limited signed this week a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Eswatini Electricity Company (ECC) and a Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract with India-based ISGEC Heavy Engineering Limited to support the development of a power generation project, according to Eswatini Positive News.

The company will invest SZL1.5 billion (USD87.2 million) in the power project.

According to the Times of Eswatini, the project will boost Ubombo Sugar's power export capacity to the national grid from 17 megawatts (MW) to 40 MW, with commissioning targeted for April 2027.

AUSTRALIA: Sugar mills face challenging season, decline in cane crush

The Australian Sugar Manufacturers (ASM) association estimates sugar mills in Queensland will crush less sugarcane than initially expected for the current season, which is coming to a close in the region, reports Sugaronline.

"It has been a tough year for the sugar industry, forecasts for the crush have been continually revised down, and we are looking at a crush of 29 million tonnes," said ASM CEO, Ash Salardini, in a [statement](#) released Dec. 8.

The final crush forecast is well below recent highs of 34 metric million tonnes, according to the association.

Sugarcane prices have declined to five-year lows this year, with many mills operating at a loss. The campaign started with floods that posed additional challenges to farmers and workers in the sugar sector.

ASM said the long-term viability of Queensland's sugar industry is at risk, unless the government implements a "forward-looking agenda" that leverages sugar's potential to underpin a biofuels and bioenergy industry in Queensland.

The association has urged the federal government to approve a "coinvestment package" to further secure the future of biofuels and bioenergy through sugar.

This package would include \$90 million in capital grants for technology, adaptation and energy transition projects; \$9 million for feasibility studies to develop shovel-ready biofuels projects; a \$60 million cane rail fund to maintain and upgrade critical transport infrastructure; and \$24 million for advanced sugar manufacturing R&D to drive innovation and diversification.

ASM said the sugar industry has the feedstock and infrastructure to deliver up to 30% of Australia's aviation fuel demand through biofuels, provide baseload renewable electricity for nearly 500,000 Queensland homes, and create new revenue streams through biogas and biomanufacturing.

BRAZIL: New shiploader expected to increase efficiency in sugar loading at Port of Recife

The sugarcane industry association of Brazil's Pernambuco state (Sindaçúcar-PE) has unveiled a new shiploader at the Port of Recife, in Brazil's northeast region, designed to increase efficiency in sugar shipments, according to the Folha de Pernambuco.

A total of BRL13 million was invested in the shiploader, which was designed in China and manufactured in Jaboatão dos Guararapes by Brazilian company Máquinas Piratininga.

Sindaçúcar-PE's president, Renato Cunha, who is also the president of sugarcane industry association Novabio, said the investment in the Recife port terminal will promote greater efficiency and better interconnection between the land-based cranes and the ship.

FAO Sugar Price Index falls 6% in November

The FAO Sugar Price Index fell 5.9% in November from [October](#), its third consecutive monthly decline and its lowest level since December 2020, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), reports Sugaronline.

The index was also 29.9% lower than the level recorded in November 2024.

"Expectations of ample global sugar supplies in the current season continued to exert downward pressure on prices. In Brazil's key southern growing regions, sugar production remained strong despite the seasonal slowdown in sugarcane crushing and lower use of sugarcane for sugar production," FAO said in a [press statement](#) on Dec. 5.

The good early-season start to India's 2025/26 harvest and favourable crop prospects in Thailand further reinforced the positive global sugar supply outlook and added downward pressure on prices.

INDIA: E20 saves foreign exchange, benefits to farmers – minister

India's minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, said on Dec. 11 that the adoption of the E20 ethanol-blended petrol in the country has resulted in over INR1.4 trillion in savings in foreign exchange while also benefiting local farmers, according to news reports from the Press

Trust of India (PTI) and NDTV.

He also told members of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament, that farmers have received around INR400 billion for supplying raw materials, including sugarcane and corn, for ethanol production.

The minister added that extensive testing has shown that E20 has no adverse impact on cars.

BRAZIL: São Martinho concludes 2025/26 cane crush

(Correction: The unit for the volume of ethanol produced was corrected in the sixth paragraph.)

São Martinho has concluded its 2025/26 cane crush, with a total production of 1.42 million metric tonnes of sugar, matching its latest estimate for the season, reports Sugaronline.

Sugar output in this campaign was also higher than the [1.33 million tonnes](#) of sugar the company produced by the end of the [2024/25 crushing season](#).

São Martinho crushed 21.67 million tonnes of sugarcane in 2025/26, down 1.5% from its own projection. This was also lower than the 21.79 million tonnes processed in 2024/25.

The sugar mix reached 49% compared to 44% in 2024/25.

"The production mix reflects market conditions – with 51% of total recoverable sugars (ATR) allocated to ethanol production," the company said in a [statement](#) on Dec. 10.

Ethanol output totalled 908.7 million litres, down 0.6% from its estimate for the current season and lower than the 1.01 billion litres produced last season.

The average Total Recoverable Sugars (TRS) was 139.4 kg/tonne in 2025/26, above the 137.6 kg/t projected but below the 142.6 kg/t last year.

São Martinho said it concluded its sugarcane crushing operations for the season, but corn-ethanol and electricity operations remain active for the season.

GUYANA: Minister says two planned sugar factories should meet Caricom's refined sugar demand

Guyana's Finance minister, Ashni Singh, has said that two sugar refineries planned by Sucro and partners to be built in Belize and Guyana are expected to meet the region's demand for refined sugar once completed, according to Demerara Waves.

The two factories are expected to meet the region's annual refined sugar requirement of around 200,000 metric tonnes.

Sucro announced this week a [joint venture](#) to build a new sugar refinery in Wales, West Bank Demerara, in Guyana. In [September](#), Sucro had already announced a JV with Belize's Santander Sugar to invest in new sugar refining capacity to supply the Caricom market.

ED & F Man Daily Research

Brazil's sugar mills in the Northeast are already reporting losses - Novacana - The sugarcane and energy sector in Northeast Brazil is facing several setbacks in the 2025/26 harvest, including low sugar prices on the international market, rising costs, the effects of US tariffs which are still impacting regional exports of the commodity, and weather that could reduce production. Furthermore, the Northeast region is missing out on the advantage of trading with the United States, since sugar was not exempt from the tariff increase. In general, Americans pay almost twice the international price for sugar from the Northeast, as the country has a deficit in the product and grants a quota to Brazil, used by the Northeast, exempt from the sectoral tariff. The

ethanol market isn't helping either. Regional prices are even slightly above levels recorded a year ago, but local production is currently unprofitable, according to consulting firm Pecege, from Piracicaba. If only cash costs are considered (without considering depreciation), ethanol production in most of the Northeast region already incurs losses of 8.2% on average for hydrated ethanol and 14.9% for anhydrous ethanol.

FoodNavigator.com

GLP-1: Threat or opportunity for food manufacturers?



At this early stage in the market, not all manufacturers know how to respond
<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/12/10/glp-1-threat-or-opportunity-for-manufacturers/>

GLP-1 has changed the snack game: Here's how to win it back



GLP-1 users are rewriting the rules of appetite, texture and indulgence. Tate & Lyle's latest research shows exactly where producers are missing the moment
<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/12/10/how-glp-1-is-reshaping-the-future-of-snacks-and-bakery/>

Coca-Cola names new CEO



Executive vice president and chief operating officer Henrique Braun will take over as CEO of The Coca-Cola Company: succeeding James Quincey, who has led the drinks giant for nine years.
<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/12/11/coca-cola-new-ceo-to-lead-innovation-at-soda-giant/>

Trump orders sweeping probe into food price-fixing as grocery costs threaten GOP



Facing voter frustration and political risk, the White House directs DOJ and FTC to investigate potential price-fixing across the food chain as Republicans brace for midterm pressure

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/12/09/trump-orders-probe-into-rising-food-prices/>

NASA

Sugars, 'Gum,' Stardust Found in NASA's Asteroid Bennu Samples

The asteroid Bennu continues to provide new clues to scientists' biggest questions about the formation of the early solar system and the origins of life. As part of the ongoing study of pristine samples delivered to Earth by NASA's OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security-Regolith Explorer) spacecraft, three new papers published Tuesday by the journals Nature Geosciences and Nature Astronomy present remarkable discoveries: sugars essential for biology, a gum-like substance not seen before in astromaterials, and an unexpectedly high abundance of dust produced by supernova explosions.

Sugars essential to life

Scientists led by Yoshihiro Furukawa of Tohoku University in Japan found sugars essential for biology on Earth in the Bennu samples, detailing their findings in the journal [Nature Geoscience](#). The five-carbon sugar ribose and, for the first time in an extraterrestrial sample, six-carbon glucose were found. Although these sugars are not evidence of life, their detection, along with [previous detections](#) of amino acids, nucleobases, and carboxylic acids in Bennu samples, show building blocks of biological molecules were widespread throughout the solar system.

For life on Earth, the sugars deoxyribose and ribose are key building blocks of DNA and RNA, respectively. DNA is the primary carrier of genetic information in cells. RNA performs numerous functions, and life as we know it could not exist without it. Ribose in RNA is used in the molecule's sugar-phosphate "backbone" that connects a string of information-carrying nucleobases.

<https://www.nasa.gov/missions/osiris-rex/sugars-gum-stardust-found-in-nasas-asteroid-bennu-samples/>