



# International Sugar Organization

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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### 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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#### FoodNavigator.com

##### **Sugar reduction game changer? Hershey, ASR Group invest in startup paving way for 'mass market adoption' of allulose, tagatose**

Bonumose – a Virginia-based startup with patented technology it claims could enable the “mass market adoption” of rare sugars – has raised a Series B\* round led by Hershey and sugar refining giant ASR Group, to support commercial production of allulose and tagatose in early 2022.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2021/02/18/sugar-reduction-game-changer-hershey-asr-group-invest-in-startup-paving-way-for-mass-market-adoption-of-allulose-tagatose>

#### Sugaronline – Ebriefing

##### **US: Hershey to launch zero-sugar chocolate products, announces partnership with ASR**

US confections company Hershey has said that it will launch new zero-sugar products and announced a partnership with ASR Group to produce and commercialize lower-cost, plant-based alternative sweeteners tagatose and allulose, **reports Sugaronline.**

“We’re extending our brands into Zero Sugar offerings that will start to flow through on shelves this month and into spring with new packaging designs and pack types,” the company said in a blog post.

The initiative is part of Hershey’s better-for-you confection strategy, which includes sugar reduction products and options for consumers seeking from portion-control to plant-based ingredients.

“Hershey will expand its future portfolio to deliver more reduced sugar, organic and plant-based alternatives while also continuing to build its classic array of beloved products”, the company said in a separate statement.

In partnership with ASR Group, Hershey will also co-lead an equity investment in Bonumose, a start-up focused on innovations in plant-based food ingredients, including rare and natural sugars.

“This investment enables a research and development partnership to advance the tastes of not only zero- and reduced-sugar chocolate, but also Hershey’s broader BFY snack offerings going forward.”

American Sugar Refining, a member of ASR Group, said that the investment in Bonumose is part of its strategy to provide a variety of products to meet the wide range of consumer needs.

Bonumose developed and patented a production process for high-purity rare sugars, including tagatose and allulose, from low-cost, abundant, plant-based starches. “These products have fewer calories than traditional sugars and a negligible glycemic index impact,” it said.

According to ASR, tagatose and allulose taste closer to sugar than any other alternative, offering a texture and mouthfeel similar to the functional properties of sugar, without the need to add fillers such as maltodextrin or dextrose.

### **BRAZIL: Raízen CEO says biomass was key factor in Biosev deal**

The chief executive officer (CEO) of Raízen, Ricardo Mussa, has said that the major benefit in the acquisition of Biosev is the expansion of biomass availability, according to Exame.

He said that market analysts hadn’t realized the importance of biomass in the deal.

Raízen announced the purchase of Biosev last week for BRL3.6 billion (US\$670.3 million). The acquisition will increase the volume of sugarcane crushed by the company by 40% to 90 million tonnes and consolidate Raízen’s leadership in the sector.

Raízen is focused on expanding the production of alternative fuels, especially biogas and second-generation ethanol. But in order to achieve these goals, it needed to expand the supply of biomass since more than 70% of the raw material in its mills was directed to comply with contracts already signed.

In Biosev, only 30% of the sugarcane available is committed to fulfilling contracts.

### **COLOMBIA: Asocaña says boost in sugar imports harming local sector**

Colombia’s sugarcane industry association Asocaña has said that an increase in sugar imports has been impacting the local sector negatively, according to Semana.

Colombia imported 250,000 metric tonnes of sugar without tariffs last year, 63% from the Andean Community (CAN), mostly from Ecuador and Bolivia, but it can’t export similar volumes to these countries due to safeguarding restrictions.

Colombian sugar mills lost 6 percentage points of market share locally last year, when domestic consumption fell 3% and sugar imports increased 3%.

Claudia Calero, president of Asocaña, has urged the government to take action to compensate for this trade asymmetry.

### **NETHERLANDS: First industrial sugar beet paper launched**

Netherlands-based papermaker Crown Van Gelder has started selling sugar beet paper, after two years of development, according to Printweek.

The new product line, called Crown Native, makes it the first company in the world to produce sugar beet paper at an industrial level. The sugar beet paper was developed with Cosun Beet Company.

The paper is said to reduce environmental impact by 16% as it uses less wood fibres compared to traditional paper.

CVG said the product is also FDA-compliant, approved by the BfR<sup>36</sup>, and suitable for food packaging, unlike most types of recycled papers that contain print ink residue.

The colour is described as "off white" with visible specks from the sugar beet 'shell'.

### **BELIZE: Santander to upgrade its facilities and step up exports**

Santander Sugar is planning upgrades to its facility as part of plans to step up exports, according to Amandala.

Santander wants to increase its sugar cane harvest to 750,000 metric tonnes in 2021, up 16% on 2020, with 75,000 metric tonnes of sugar produced, up 30%, and around 30,000 metric tonnes of molasses. It also expects to dispatch 37.5 million kilowatt hours to the national grid.

Santander's chief financial officer, David Rodriguez, said increased production rates will require upgrades to, or replacement of, current machinery.

A molasses tank is to be expanded and a second one installed. The sugar warehouse will be expanded later in the year.

Santander is hopeful that a deepening of the local Big Creek Port by its owners will allow Santander to step up exports using larger vessels.

Rodriguez said: "Last year was a mess when we were loading. Our loading capacity is approximately 4,500 metric tonnes per day. We are very excited to increase our capacity."

### **SOUTH AFRICA: SA Canegrowers calls for sugar tax cut in Budget**

The South African Cane Growers Association has called for a cut in the health promotion levy (sugar tax) to safeguard the local sugar industry, ahead of the Budget announcement on February 24, according to Politics Web.

It called on government to help save the 65,000 direct jobs that the local sugar industry supports. "Many of these jobs are on the farms of our 21,581 small-scale growers, in deep rural areas where economic opportunities are increasingly scarce," it said.

SA Canegrowers has repeatedly called for a comprehensive review of the sugar tax, which was implemented on sugar drinks in 2018. A socio-economic impact assessment of the levy has been commissioned but is not yet finalised.