



# International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square  
Canary Wharf  
London E14 5AA

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(21)28  
(English only)**

**18 June 2021**

## **Reply from the Director of the Natural History Museum to the International Sugar Organization**

Further to Press Release(21)22 of 12 May 2021, the Executive Director is circulating the response received from the Director of the Natural History Museum. Dr Douglas Gurr.

The Executive Director would like to inform you that after the conclusion of this week's Colombia meetings he will prepare a reply to the Director with information clarifying sugar's use of water, its position vis-à-vis the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the UN and its use of organic fertilizers & compost.

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21 May 2021

Mr José Orive  
Executive Director  
International Sugar Organization  
1 Canada Square  
Canary Wharf  
London E14 5AA

Dear Mr Orive,

Many thanks for your letter of feedback and for taking the time to send me additional information regarding this matter.

This article was written as part of a programme of content called *Our Broken Planet*, which aims to explore how humanity's relationship with the natural world needs to change. It was written with the aim of getting our audience thinking about how their own lives are intertwined with the health of the natural world.

You make some interesting point about sugarcane's consumption of water supplies. When it comes to the crop's needs for rainwater, our writers took their facts from sources including [WWF](#), the [FAO](#) and various scientific reports, which all identify sugar as a thirsty crop. Our writers were interested in asking our readers: should we be using so much of Earth's water resources on a crop with limited nutritional value?

Our team of journalists diligently fact-check everything before it gets published and seek feedback from a range of reputed sources. Of course, when and where we report something factually inaccurate we make amendments. If you do see facts and figures that are incorrect in this article, we would welcome that feedback.

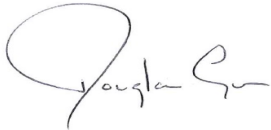
On sugarcane ethanol, we would love to think about this more and would welcome your team sending us some research on the topic so we can explore the detail surrounding it further. I hope that you were heartened to see that we did indeed discuss sugar as a biofuel, although I am sure you will agree that in the coming decades it will be important to balance biofuel production with protecting ecosystems around the world.

Our Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cambridge

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I am grateful also for your report on sugar and climate change and have passed this information on to our digital team, who will review the information for inclusion in forthcoming editorial, if appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Gurr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D'.

**Dr Douglas Gurr**  
Director