



# International Sugar Organization

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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(English only)

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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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#### Sugaronline Ebriefing

##### **PORTUGAL: Soft drinks smuggled in from Spain to avoid sugar tax**

Soft drinks are increasingly being illegally moved across the border from Spain to Portugal to avoid Portugal's soft drinks tax, according to Deutsche Welle.

In Portugal, soft drinks have been subject to a sugar tax since 2017, while in Spain they are only subject to value added tax. Portugal hopes to put a stop to increases in smuggling over the past years by setting up simultaneous search operations at all national borders.

Helder Fernandes, head of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Portuguese GNR National Police, which is responsible for customs investigations said: "Over the past two years, we've noticed that smuggling these drinks has not only increased but is now professionally organised."

##### **CROATIA: New US\$4.64m scheme to boost beet sector**

The Croatian Ministry of Agriculture has put a proposed HRK30 million (US\$4.64m) aid scheme for sugar beet producers out to public consultation, according to Total Croatia News.

The scheme will provide financial support to sugar beet farmers suffering the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. The ministry said that the pandemic had resulted in a strong decrease in areas sown with sugar beet.

The aid scheme should help farmers recover from losses, provide liquidity, restore the pre-pandemic level of primary production, maintain the present level of employment and prevent disruptions to the food supply chain, it said.

Only 10,200 hectares of land was sown with sugar beet in 2020 and 2021, down by 20.3% compared with the pre-pandemic average for 2018 and 2019 and by nearly 48% compared with 2017. The scheme would be funded by the state budget in accordance with the Temporary COVID-19 Framework, the ministry said.

##### **UK: 62% of drink products "very high" in sugar**

Some 62% of drink products in the UK contain "very high" levels of sugar, says a new report *Bite Back 2030*, released on Oct. 22, according to Dentistry.

Nearly two thirds of all drink products had 'dangerously' high sugar levels and less than 6% of products meet current guidance on free sugar, it said.

The research, from campaigners at Action on Sugar and Livity, analysed more than 500 different products that are marketed as healthy via nutrition and marketing claims.

Researchers also interviewed more than 1,000 young people to understand the impact of product packaging. For example, almost nine in 10 young people saw smoothies as healthy, despite 76% carrying a red traffic light label due to high sugar.

Similarly eight in 10 believe cereal bars are healthy, but 81% would be marked as high in sugar.

### **BRAZIL: Canápolis authorized to install pipeline for vinasse transportation**

Canápolis Açúcar e Álcool, a sugarcane mill controlled by Companhia Mineira de Açúcar e Álcool (CMAA), was authorized to install a 2-km underground pipeline to transport vinasse in a highway in the municipality of Monte Alegre de Minas, Minas Gerais state, according to Novacana.

The construction works will start once Canápolis and Ecovias do Cerrado, the company responsible for managing the highway where the pipeline will be installed, sign the contract. After signing the agreement, the mill will have 30 days to complete the pipeline.

Ecovias will receive an extraordinary revenue of BRL2,770 (US\$490.22).

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### **FoodNavigator.com**

#### **Why human rights must be at the heart of food industry climate action**

As the food industry works to cut its carbon impact, human rights need to be placed at the centre of mitigation strategies.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2021/10/25/why-human-rights-must-be-at-the-heart-of-food-industry-climate-action>

#### **'Crop diversity underpins food security': Scientists flag 'enormous' diversity loss**



An international team of scientists have completed what they claim is the 'largest review ever conducted' looking at agricultural crop diversity. The results are in: we are seeing 'enormous' diversity loss, with implications for future food security.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2021/10/26/crop-diversity-underpins-food-security-scientists-flag-enormous-diversity-loss>

## Rise of frozen snacking driven by consumers' desire for permissible indulgence



Consumers have evolved their definition of what qualifies as a snack and are increasingly seeking out permissibly indulgent options, which has given rise to a new type of snacking behavior in the frozen set, Mintel consumer insights research suggests.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2021/10/26/rise-of-frozen-snacking-driven-by-consumers-desire-for-permissible-indulgence>

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### Sugaronline – Ebriefing

#### US: COP26 lobby deal signed by Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association

US lobbyists Steptoe & Johnson LLP will work for the Brazilian sugar industry on the upcoming United Nations climate change conference, COP26, according to Reuters.

The firm's contract with the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association was publicly disclosed on Oct. 22, by the US Justice Department, under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Steptoe's contract said the firm would charge US\$50,000 for 30 days of work for the Association, which is the representative group for companies producing sugar, ethanol and bioelectricity in Brazil's center-south region, the sugar belt.

Steptoe said its work for the sugar association will include "identifying key stakeholders in the US and EU public and private sectors and their respective interests and priorities in relation to the upcoming UN climate change conference.

The firm said it would help the association develop "a strategy to effectively communicate" with key stakeholders prior to the gathering in Glasgow, Scotland, in November.