



# International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square  
Canary Wharf  
London E14 5AA

## 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.

#### Sugaronline E-Briefing

##### **ESWATINI: Investment in sugar industry**

Eswatini Sugar Association has invested SZL110 (US\$7.2) million in state-of-the-art sugar bagging and warehousing infrastructure at Ubombo Sugar Mill, according to the Times of Swaziland.

ESA's Chief Executive Officer Dr Phil Mnisi said that the investment was part of the industry's initiative to drive more value for its sugar. The facility, completed in July 2021, was enabling ESA to bag sugar that was previously sold in bulk form. "The bulk sugar was sold to markets overseas for refining, which was generally of lower value and thus paid at lower prices," he said.

Bagged sugar is sold to the domestic and regional markets, which generally realise better returns than export markets.

"This is supportive of the ESA strategy to penetrate more regional markets and create more value for the stakeholders," Mnisi said.

The facility has allowed the sugar association to increase in its product offering, in terms of pack sizes and to increase the production of Nucane (low GI brown sugar).

Another milestone in ESA's history is completing the first-ever sugar testing laboratory in the country. The association collaborated with the University of Eswatini on this.

##### **US: American Sugarbeet Growers Association sees biotech opportunities**

The American Sugarbeet Growers Association says that it has gained sustainability benefits from the use of biotechnology, with exciting prospects on the horizon, according to Aginfo.

ASGA vice president and general counsel Scott Herndon said: "The sugar beet industry has been leaders in biotech adoption, and we are very proud of that and we've been able to gain a lot of sustainability benefits from the use of biotechnology."

Bayer KWS was working to develop a multiple herbicide tolerant trait that will have glyphosate, glufosinate and dicamba tolerances that it hopes to be ready by mid-decade, he said, an exciting prospect.

"The FDA [Food and Drug Administration] will be helpful in deregulating that. It has to go through the coordinated framework, which is USDA [United States Department of Agriculture], FDA and EPA [Environmental Protection Agency]. But we're excited about that, and we're also excited about the future of biotech in the concept of gene editing because we think that has a lot of potential benefits as well."

**FRANCE: New CEO for Cristal Union**

French sugar and ethanol maker Cristal Union has promoted Xavier Astolfi as its new chief executive officer, succeeding Alain Commissaire, according to Reuters. Commissaire had been at the helm of the group since its creation in 2000 and Astolfi, 51, had been deputy CEO of Cristal Union since 2012.

Astolfi will be replaced as deputy by Stanislas Bouchard, the head of Cristal Union's commercial branch Cristalco, a post which Bouchard will also keep, Cristal Union said in a statement on Jan. 13.

Vanina Paolaggi, a former lawyer specialised in mergers and acquisitions, was appointed secretary general to replace Jean-François Javoy.

**US: Research suggests gut can tell natural sugar and artificial sweetener apart**

Cells in your intestines distinguish between natural sugar and artificial sweetener, rather than tastebuds, new research suggests, according to Medical Xpress.

The cells are located at the upper end of the gut just after the stomach, according to research led by Diego Bohórquez, an associate professor of medicine and neurobiology at the Duke University School of Medicine in North Carolina.

In a paper appearing Jan. 13 in Nature Neuroscience, he argues, that cells in the intestines talk directly to the brain, changing eating behaviour.

"Many people struggle with sugar cravings, and now we have a better understanding of how the gut senses sugars (and why artificial sweeteners don't curb those cravings)," said co-first author Kelly Buchanan.

Originally termed enteroendocrine cells because of their ability to secrete hormones, specialised neuropod cells can communicate with neurons via rapid synaptic connections and are distributed throughout the lining of the upper gut. In addition to producing relatively slow-acting hormone signals, the Bohórquez research team has shown that these cells also produce fast-acting neurotransmitter signals that reach the vagus nerve and then the brain within milliseconds.

**GERMANY: Südzucker expects sugar production up 20% for 2021 season**

Sugar producer Südzucker said its sugar production was expected to be up 20% in the 2021 processing campaign as it gave an update on its results for the third quarter on Jan. 13, reports Sugaronline.

Overall, Südzucker Group expects to produce 4.2 million tonnes of sugar from 27.7 million tonnes of sugar beets this season, up 20% on last season. In the previous year it produced 3.5 million tonnes of sugar from 24.1 million tonnes of sugar beets. Growing conditions in the spring and summer of 2021, especially sufficient water supply throughout the whole growing period, are reflected in yield expectations, it said.

Significantly above-average beet yields are expected for Germany, France, the Czech Republic and Moldova. In Poland, Austria, Slovakia and Romania, beet yields forecasts are average to slightly above average. Below-average beet yields are anticipated only in Belgium and Hungary.

At 121 days, up from the previous year's 108, the average duration of the processing campaign is expected to be significantly longer than in the previous year. Given the wide regional variations in beet yields, the campaign was already completed in December 2021 at some locations, while in other growing regions it will not be finished until February 2022.

**SOUTH AFRICA: Tongaat Hulett directors' trials set for 2023**

Sugar producer Tongaat Hulett is seeking a total of ZAR450 (US\$28.89) million in civil claims against past directors and executives in court proceedings set to be scheduled for early 2023, reports Sugaronline.

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It is acting on the findings of PwC investigations which identified that certain senior executives initiated or participated in undesirable accounting practices which resulted in the company's profits being overstated over a number of years.

In Sept. 2020 the company instituted civil proceedings in Pietermaritzburg High Court against former Chief Executive Officer, Peter Staude, former Chief Financial Officer, Murray Munro and former Finance Executive, Sean Slabbert, who was also a director of Tongaat Hulett Sugar South Africa. Tongaat Hulett is also seeking an order declaring them as delinquent directors.

In separate proceedings, Tongaat Hulett Developments, a subsidiary of the group, instituted a civil case in the same Court in Feb. 2020 against the former Managing Director, Michael Deighton.

Tongaat Hulett Company Secretary, Johann van Rooyen said: "While the process has been significantly delayed through the filing of a number of interlocutory objections on highly technical arguments by the defendants, Tongaat Hulett is determined to pursue this matter."

"Tongaat Hulett is withholding Staude and Deighton's pensions until the finalisation of the litigation initiated against them. Munro and Slabbert had unfortunately already left the business and withdrawn their pensions by the time the action was instituted."

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## FoodNavigator.com

### The 'craving-crushing' botanically charged chewing gum that curbs sugar urges for two hours



An Israeli start-up has unveiled a chewing gum designed to stop sugary treat cravings in their tracks.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2022/01/19/the-craving-crushing-botanically-charged-chewing-gum-that-curbs-sugar-urges-for-two-hours>

## DouxMatok and Blommer announce breakthrough in reduced-sugar chocolate



Confectionery sugar reduction specialists DouxMatok and Blommer Chocolate Company have announced a strategic commercial partnership to produce and sell a 'game-changing' portfolio of chocolate products with significantly less sugar.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2022/01/19/douxmatok-and-blommer-announce-breakthrough-in-reduced-sugar-chocolate>

## Dispose with purpose? Unilever has 'lost the plot' by fixating on sustainability, claims influential UK fund manager



The consumer goods giant's focus on purpose over profit is curbing its stock market performance, complains a major investor in Unilever.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2022/01/12/dispose-with-purpose-unilever-has-lost-the-plot-by-fixating-on-sustainability-claims-influential-uk-fund-manager>

## Better Juice seals first commercial deal to bring sugar-reduced fruit juice products to market by Spring 2022



Better Juice said products made using its enzymatic sugar reduction technology are due to hit shelves in less than six months, following the completion of its first commercial deal with a US West Coast-based juice manufacturer.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2022/01/10/better-juice-seals-first-commercial-deal-to-bring-sugar-reduced-fruit-juice-to-market-by-spring-2022>