



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.

Sugaronline Ebriefing

AUSTRALIA: Growers forge market path for sustainable sugar

Australian sugarcane growers association Canegrowers is working to open more markets for Queensland sugar by achieving advanced alignment between its program Smartcane BMP and a global sustainability program, reports Sugaronline.

Following benchmarking and alignment exercises, the VIVE Sustainable Supply Programme will recognize sugarcane produced by growers accredited through the Queensland industry's Smartcane BMP program as equivalent to its Farm Module level.

"Sugar buyers, commodity marketers and food manufacturers are under increasing pressure from consumers to source products that meet verified sustainability criteria," said the CEO of Canegrowers, Dan Galligan, in a statement.

"This collaboration with VIVE is part of Canegrowers' focus on building the industry's reputation for environmental stewardship and demonstrating the sustainability of Queensland sugar to domestic and export supply chains."

VIVE consists of five modules that cover all the operations and activities of sugar production and supply from the farm to the end-user. Smartcane BMP is a farm-focused continuous improvement program developed by the Queensland sugarcane industry. It has so far accredited almost 40% of the sugarcane area in Queensland.

"This alignment has been a few years in the making and is very significant for the Queensland sugarcane industry," Galligan said. "It creates an opportunity for Canegrowers to explore more ways in which the sustainable farming practices of growers in Queensland can be recognized."

Benjamin French, a Senior Trader at Czarnikow and Head of VIVE development in the Asia-Pacific Region, says one of VIVE's core objectives was to collaborate with other well-established programs and build on their success.

"In this instance, Smartcane BMP has done fantastic work in progressing sustainable sugarcane farming in Australia. To build on Smartcane BMP's achievements, we want to develop sustainable verification from when their accredited product is delivered to the mill all the way through to the end-users in the export markets," he said.

"We now look forward to inviting Australian mills and exporters onto the VIVE Programme, enabling us to develop fully verified sustainable supply chains from sugarcane farms to the participating VIVE refineries in Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia."

INDIA: Sugar mills signed deals to export 8.5 M tonnes of sugar as of May 15

Indian sugar mills have signed contracts to export 8.5 million metric tonnes of sugar in the current 2021/22 season, according to the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) on May 19, reports Sugaronline.

Out of this total, 7.1 million tonnes had been physically exported out of the country until the end of April, compared to 4.3 million tonnes at the same time last year. Another 8-10 million tonnes of sugar was in the pipeline to be physically exported in May 2022.

ISMA reaffirmed that it expects over 9 million tonnes of sugar to be exported by the country in the current season, against 7.2 million tonnes last season.

SOUTH AFRICA: Canegrowers pressure government to consider Sugar Masterplan in budget

The South African Canegrowers Association has called on the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Ebrahim Patel, to consider the Sugarcane Masterplan when he delivers his annual budget on May 20, reports Sugaronline.

The association expects him to deliver an update on the government's action to implement the Sugarcane Value Chain Masterplan, developed to address challenges facing the industry and ensure its long-term sustainability and profitability.

The first three-year phase of the Masterplan was signed by the government and sugar industry stakeholders on Nov. 17, 2020. The signatories committed to taking action to increase demand for locally grown and manufactured sugar, improve import protection, and strengthen small-scale growers, among other actions.

SA Canegrowers is also asking the government to review the socio-economic impact of the Health Promotion Levy (sugar tax).

"While no evidence has been produced to date that the tax has had a positive impact on obesity levels in the country, it has had a devastating impact on growers and the livelihoods they support. This has resulted in 16,621 jobs and ZAR2.04 billion (US\$128.7 million) in revenue being lost during the first year of its implementation alone," the association said in a statement.

SA Canegrowers added that the diversification of the sugarcane value chain was also crucial to the industry's long-term sustainability. In May 2021, SA Canegrowers and the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials announced the findings of a joint study on the viability of using South African sugarcane to manufacture sustainable aviation fuel. The study was presented to the Value Chain Diversification Task Team established under the Masterplan.

"SA Canegrowers, therefore, hopes to hear Minister Patel make a meaningful announcement about the progress of work underway to establish an enabling framework for this promising industry."

MEXICO: Investment in irrigation and crop renewal needed to improve sugar yields

Sugarcane yields in Mexico have been declining steadily for several years, and investment in irrigation and crop recovery is necessary to reverse this trend, according to Czarnikow, reports Sugaronline.

"Until more support is given to the farmers to invest in irrigation and younger cane, there are unlikely to be any significant changes in the yield profile. Even worse, with rising costs for all products, small-scale farmers are less likely to spend more on fertilizers and seeds, meaning

yields will probably decline further over the next few years,” analyst Vincent O’Rourke wrote in a report on May 18.

He said that if the necessary investment is made and the cane fields are renovated, Mexico could become a much more efficient cane producer and grow production by 30%.

Most of Mexico’s sugarcane production comes from smallholders around the Veracruz region, and about 60% of the cane is not irrigated. There are 170,000 cane farmers in Mexico and the average farm area is 4.3 ha.

FoodNavigator.com

FDA denies request to exempt tagatose from added sugar labeling in decision slammed as ‘contradictory and illogical’



The FDA has denied a request to exempt rare sugar tagatose from the total and added sugars declaration on the Nutrition Facts panel, three years after granting the same request for rare sugar allulose, a decision petitioner Bonumose has slammed as “contradictory and illogical,” but the agency says reflects the fact that tagatose has more calories per gram.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2022/05/20/fda-denies-request-to-exempt-tagatose-from-added-sugar-labeling-in-decision-slammed-by-bonumose-as-contradictory-and-illogical>

How does ‘sustainability’ differ for a brand, distributor, and retailer?



If sustainability means different things to different people, what does it mean for businesses working in distinct links of the supply chain? FoodNavigator hears from a brand, a distributor, and a retailer.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2022/05/17/what-does-sustainability-mean-to-tesco-scrumbles-and-cotswold-fayre>

Nestlé-backed initiative supports regional regenerative farming investments



Farmers in East Anglia, UK, have received funding from a collaboration backed by Nestlé to implement regenerative practices and landscape improvements.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2022/05/17/nestle-backed-initiative-supports-regional-regenerative-farming-investments>