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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(23)19**  
**(English only)**

**22 March 2023**

**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**

**FIJI: Sugarcane harvest estimated to reach 1.8 million T in coming season**

Fiji's government expects the country's sugarcane harvest to reach 1.8 million metric tonnes of sugarcane in the coming season and 2 million tonnes next year, according to Fiji Times.

Sugar minister Charan Jeath Singh has said the government has the plan to increase sugar and cane production in the country in the next four years.

He also said the sugar industry should diversify and work on establishing an ethanol plant and a sugar refinery to supply white sugar to local businesses currently importing the sweetener.

**BRAZIL: Ministry of Labor rescues 212 cane workers found in slavery-like conditions**

An operation coordinated by Brazil's Ministry of Labor and Employment on March 17 rescued 212 workers in the sugarcane sector in Goiás and Minas Gerais states found in slavery-like conditions, reports Sugaronline.

The workers provided services to ethanol mills and sugarcane producers in the municipalities of Araporã, in Minas Gerais state, and Itumbiara, Edeia and Cachoeira Dourada, in Goiás. They had been hired by a company providing outsourced services to sugarcane mills, according to a statement release by the Ministry of Labor on March 17.

The workers were charged for the rent of the shacks used as accommodation and for work tools provided to them by the employer, among the irregularities found during the inspection, according to a statement released by the ministry on March 17. They

"Most of these shacks were extremely precarious and did not have the minimum conditions to be used as housing. Some of them were very old, with dirty and moldy walls, leaking roofs and lack of adequate ventilation, and some rooms did not even have windows," labor inspector, Roberto Mendes, who coordinated the operation, said in a statement.

"The bath was taken with cold water, which came out directly from a pipe, even on the coldest and rainiest days."

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The inspection also found a lack of sanitary facilities at work areas. Workers weren't supplied with food and adequate protective equipment, and pesticides were applied in areas where they were working.

The companies notified about the case agreed to pay severance pay worth BRL2.57 million (US\$490,402) plus 50% of that amount paid as individual moral damages, totaling BRL3.85 million (US\$734,648).

The Public Labour Prosecutors' Office also said companies should pay BRL5 million (US\$954,089) in collective moral damages to workers but hasn't achieved an agreement with the companies on that.

In addition, the Ministry of Labor and Employment granted all 212 rescued workers the right to receive three installments of unemployment insurance.

BP Bunge Bioenergia said in a separate statement that it became aware of an irregular situation with workers recently hired by a service provider in Edéia, Goiás, and acted quickly on behalf of workers "to ensure social and human priorities and promptly paid compensation payments."

"We are collaborating with the authorities and rigorously investigating the facts and the appropriate responsibilities to take the necessary measures," the company said.

**FoodNavigator.com**

**FMI: Inflation, higher prices didn't dent produce sales totals in 2022, but impacted volume sold**



Grocery shoppers continued purchasing fresh produce in 2022 as inflation pushed up prices but bought less of it on a volume basis, shifting to more affordable fresh fruit and vegetable options as well as frozen and canned items.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/03/21/fmi-higher-prices-didn-t-dent-produce-sales-totals-in-2022-but-impacted-volume-sold>

**Zevia CEO talks rebrand, the "rising tide" for sugar-free sodas**



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Natural soda brand Zevia is sweetening its branding with a new look as it aims to boost its household penetration and eliminate plastic from its supply chain, company CEO Amy Taylor told FoodNavigator-USA.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/03/21/zevia-ceo-talks-rebrand-the-rising-tide-for-sugar-free-sodas>

### **'A new standard in corporate transparency': Nestlé discloses nutritional value of global portfolio**



Benchmarking its products against the Health Star Rating system, Nestlé has become the first food major to report on the nutritional value of its entire global portfolio. FoodNavigator asks Nestlé executives Bernard Meunier and Marie-Chantal Messier about the findings.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/03/21/nestle-discloses-nutritional-value-of-global-portfolio>

### **ED & F Man Daily Research**

**EU sugar output forecast cut by S&P Global for 2023/24** – Chinimandi – The forecast for 2022/23 sugar output in the European Union plus the United Kingdom has been cut by 570,000 tonnes to 16.8 million by the S&P Global Commodity citing the reason for the ban on pesticides, reports Reuters. It still expects growth of 1 million tonnes versus the 2022/23 sugar crop. The European Court of Justice earlier this year banned the use of pesticides that are harmful to bees. This has deterred farmers from cultivating sugar beet as they fear crop damage. In an industry note released by S&P Global which has been seen by Reuters, it has stated that the area under sugar beet cultivation in France, the EU's major producer, is likely to shrink by 7% in 2023/24. The area under beet plantation in the EU plus UK is likely to rise by 1%, it said.

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