



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.

Sugaronline Ebriefing

NIGERIA: Dangote Sugar targets production of 170,000 T of sugar next season

Dangote Sugar Refinery has announced during its 17th annual general meeting that it was targeting production of over 170,000 metric tonnes of sugar next season, according to Punch. The company announced the payment of NGN18.22 billion (US\$39.6 million) in dividends to shareholders for the year ended on Dec. 31, 2022.

The company's chairman Aliko Dangote said shareholders were also reinvesting the profit into the Backward Integration Programme for the sugar industry.

EUROPE: European Commission rejects Poland and Hungary import bans

The European Commission has rejected the bans announced by Poland and Hungary on food imports from Ukraine, adding that it was not up to individual member states to make trade policy, according to BBC.

The EC didn't specify what measures it would take against Poland and Hungary, but said that unilateral moves will not be tolerated.

The countries said the import bans were necessary to protect local farmers, who had been complaining they were undercut by cheaper Ukrainian grains.

According to BBC, the bans apply to grains, dairy products, sugar, fruit, vegetables and meats and will be in force until the end of June.

For more information on this situation please see the latest [Sugaronline EU/UK Report](#).

MALAYSIA: Ministry of Health announces plan to reduce sugar consumption

Malaysia's Health minister Zaliha Mustafa announced on April 11 a plan to reduce sugar consumption in the country, according to Malay Mail.

The Strategic Plan for Reducing Sugar Among Malaysians (2023-2025), which will involve multi-sectoral actions, was presented during the 16th National Food and Nutrition Safety Council (MKMPK) meeting, which she chaired.

She said the meeting would be used as the platform for discussion and coordination of activities to deal with the latest issues of food safety and nutrition, to improve the well-being of Malaysian.

BRAZIL: CBIOS issuance at 8.04 million in 1Q of 2023

Biofuel producers in Brazil issued 8.04 million decarbonization credits (CBIOs) in the first quarter of 2022, according to sugarcane industry association UNICA citing data by stock exchange B3, reports Sugaronline.

As of March 31, fuel distributors had acquired 41.26 million CBIOs, considering stocks from 2021 and credits acquired in 2022 and 2023.

This timeframe covers acquisitions of credits used to meet the decarbonization targets for 2022, which deadline has been extended, and 2023.

Fuel distributors have until Sept. 30, 2030, to meet their decarbonization goal for 2022. As of April 11, fuel distributors had already retired credits equivalent to 71% of the 2022 decarbonization goal established at 35.98 million CBIOs (25.48 million). The remaining 10.50 million CBIOs are expected to be retired by September.

UK: British Sugar optimistic about 2023 beet season

British Sugar’s management is optimistic about the 2023 beet season, amid larger crop areas, better weather and factory improvement, according to the Eastern Daily Press. Agriculture director Dan Green said the crop area has increased by about 13% this year and should be close to 100,000 hectares.

Despite a difficult campaign last year, some Norfolk farmers have decided to switch from crops highly dependent on irrigation to sugar beet, also influenced by a 48% price increase agreed upon with beet growers.

UK: British Sugar announces premium for early harvest supply

British sugar will pay farmers a premium to harvest some beets early for next season amid worries that supply will remain tight later in 2023, according to Bloomberg.

The deal was agreed upon in March as an initiative to avoid shortages after last year’s drought and a winter frost that harmed the volume and quality of crops in Europe.

In early March, Farmers Weekly had already reported that British Sugar was offering sugar beet growers at its Bury St Edmunds factory a one-off contract to deliver beet in early September with a GBP3,000/ha (US\$3,610) guarantee.

PAKISTAN: Industry urges government to address high cost in confectionery sector

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on April 13 urged the government to address the impacts of high costs on the beverage and confectionery sector, according to Dunya News.

This comes after a delegation of beverage and confectioners called on LCCI president Kashif Anwar on the challenges faced by the industry. The members of the delegations said that sugar prices have increased drastically in the last two weeks, raising their costs.

They added that increasing prices of beverage and confectionary products would reduce the buying power of consumers, and demanded the government to control sugar prices immediately.

NORWAY: Institute of Public Health finds increase in sugar intake among young people

A survey conducted by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) has found an increase in the proportion of young people with excessive intake of added sugar in the country, according to Science Norway.

The average proportion of young people with high estimated sugar intake increased from 34% in March 2020 to 40% in the spring of 2022.

Norwegian adolescents aged 13 have a too-high intake of added sugar and a too-low intake of vegetables, fruit, and berries, according to the survey. The survey considers high added sugar intake when it is above 10% of the total energy intake.

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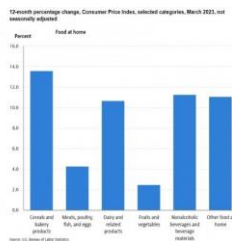
PepsiCo shares sustainability lessons from pep+ Partners for Tomorrow platform



PepsiCo is sharing lessons learned from two and half years of its PepsiCo Positive (pep+) initiative with its retail and foodservice partners through a new platform to boost sustainability across the value chain, Marianne Ross, senior director of commercial sustainability for PepsiCo Beverages North America, told FoodNavigator-USA.

https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2023/04/13/pepsico-shares-sustainability-lessons-from-pep-partners-for-tomorrow-platform?utm_source=newsletter_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13-Apr-2023&cid=DM1069410&bid=89270740#

Grocery prices drop for the first time in 2.5 years, but shoppers remain hesitant



Grocery prices may finally be falling after stubbornly going up for more than two and a half years even as annual inflation across other categories and overall have dropped in recent months, according to the most recent data from the Labor Department.

https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2023/04/13/grocery-prices-drop-for-the-first-time-in-2.5-years-but-shoppers-remain-hesitant?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright

Addressing sugar addiction - What the industry can do



Sugar addiction is a major health concern. It can lead to health conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, mental health conditions such as depression, and some experts have suggested that it could be as addictive as cocaine. But it is often not perceived as an addiction. What can people, and the food industry specifically, do to address this?

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2023/04/14/Addressing-sugar-addiction-What-the-industry-can-do?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright

Experts recommend 6-teaspoon limit to added sugar following BMJ review, industry weighs in



Recently published research in The BMJ is providing fresh concerns about sugar consumption levels, as some industry stakeholders disagree with the conclusion and CPG brand look to innovate in the low- and no-sugar space.

https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2023/04/18/experts-recommend-6-teaspoon-limit-to-added-sugar-following-bmj-review-industry-weighs-in?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright

Sugaronline Ebriefing

Slovakia becomes 3rd country to ban Ukrainian food imports

Slovakia announced on April 17 a ban on Ukrainian food imports, the third European Union country to make that decision amid complaints from local farmers, according to the Associated Press.

Poland and Hungary had already announced on April 15 a ban on Ukrainian grains and other food items through June 30.

The European Commission objects to the countries taking unilateral or uncoordinated measures.

EU countries neighbouring Ukraine have urged the EU to treat the matter of Ukrainian food with urgency, adding that their own farmers were facing losses due to the disruption caused by Ukrainian agriculture products.

GERMANY: Südzucker proposes a dividend of EUR0.70 per share, raises forecast for 2023/24

Südzucker's executive board on April 18 decided to propose to the annual general meeting a dividend of EUR0.70 (US\$0.77) per share for the 2022/23 financial year, and raised its forecast for company's results for the 2023/24 financial year, reports Sugaronline.

The dividend proposal is subject to a corresponding resolution by the supervisory board, which is scheduled to meet on May 24. The annual general meeting will be held on July 13, Südzucker said in a statement.

"Based on the course of the first quarter to date, Südzucker expects a good start to the new 2023/24 financial year and therefore expects group EBITDA and group operating result in the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year (March 1 to May 31, 2023) to be significantly above the previous year's level," the company said.

Südzucker increased its estimate for EBITDA in the 2023/24 financial year to between EUR1.1 billion (US\$1.21 billion) and EUR1.3 billion (US\$1.42 billion), compared to a previous forecast of EUR1 billion (US\$1.1 billion) to EUR1.2 billion (US\$1.32 billion).

The group operating result is estimated between EUR725 million (US\$798.7 million) and EUR875 million (US\$959.1 million), compared to a previous forecast of EUR650 million (US\$712.5 million) and EUR850 million (US\$931.7 million).

“This forecast continues to be fundamentally based on the assumptions that the energy supply situation will stabilize and that Südzucker will continue to benefit from the early hedging of energy prices, even before the start of the Ukraine war, which will have a significant impact on the group’s results development in 2023/24 and beyond,” Südzucker said in a statement.

Südzucker also expects the sugar segment to continue the turnaround after several years of high losses and make “a significant contribution” to improving group results in the financial year 2023/24.

According to preliminary figures, Südzucker’s consolidated revenues reached EUR9.5 billion (US\$10.4 billion) in the 2022/23 financial year. EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) increased to EUR1.07 billion (US\$1.17 billion) from EUR692 million (US\$758.5 million) in the previous year. Group operating result also increased to about EUR704 million (US\$772.7 million) from EUR332 million (US\$363.9 million) in the previous year.

The full report for fiscal 2022/23 will be published on May 25.

CANADA: Greenlane announces partnership to produce biogas in Brazil

Canada’s Greenlane Renewables announced on April 17 that it has entered into an agreement with Brazil’s ZEG Biogás e Energia, a company 50% owned by Vibra Energia, to locally produce, market and sell one of its biogas upgrading products in Brazil, reports Sugaronline.

Greenlane and ZEG Biogás will collaborate to establish, locally in Brazil, volume production of Greenlane’s Totara+ Water Wash Biogas Upgrading Product, which can process up to 2,500 Nm³/h of inlet biogas.

ZEG Biogás has been granted exclusive rights to localize the supply chain and manufacture the product in Brazil under the Greenlane brand and to market and sell the product to biomethane-producing projects in which ZEG Biogás has an equity stake or a biomethane off-take agreement.

Greenlane retains responsibility for the product design, the supply of components unavailable locally in Brazil, and the local commissioning and servicing of the products. The initial target markets are those of landfills and sugar mills.

ZEG Biogás’ goal is to produce 75 Totara+ systems in the next 5 years. Production capacity will be phased in over time, with a minimum volume commitment in the first two years.

“We have worked with ZEG Biogás for many years and have been impressed by the progress achieved and the partnerships formed, turning into reality the large landfill and even larger sugar mill waste biomethane opportunities that exist in Brazil,” said Brad Douville, CEO of Greenlane, in a statement.

“With VIBRA’s 50% ownership of ZEG Biogás and its significant commitment of capital, the result is the most important deal we have done to date at Greenlane. We believe it opens up an excellent opportunity to accelerate the production of biomethane in Brazil, at an industrial scale and to solidify Greenlane’s market-leading position, together with a very capable and ambitious local partner.”

Greenlane said that the Brazilian sugarcane sector is a promising new and immense market opportunity for biomethane production, which has the potential to exceed the total current natural gas consumption in Brazil.