



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

UK: NFU Sugar chairman expects better scenario for sugar beet in 2023

The chairman of the NFU Sugar Board, Michael Sly, has delivered a positive outlook about the 2023 sugar beet crop during the NFU Council meeting on April 15, according to Farmers Weekly.

He said that 97,000 hectares of beets were either due to be planted or already drilled at GBP40/t (US\$49.87), the price agreed with processor British Sugar.

NFU estimates that about 75% of beet is already in the ground and 90% could be drilled before the weekend.

BRAZIL: 2023/24 sugar output seen at 38.77 million T – Conab

Brazil is expected to produce 38.77 million metric tonnes of sugar in 2023/24, the second highest volume ever recorded, only lower than the 41.25 million tonnes produced in 2020/21, according to the national supply company Conab, reports Sugaronline.

Sugarcane production is estimated at 637.1 million tonnes in 2023/24, up 4.4% year on year, due to higher crop yields and production area. The total planted area with sugarcane is estimated at 8.4 million hectares, with an average yield of 75.7 t/h.

Ethanol output should increase by 5.9% to 33.17 billion litres (14.26 billion of anhydrous and 18.91 billion litres of hydrous). Of this total, 5.64 billion litres will be corn ethanol, 42% more than in 2022/23.

In the centre-south, Brazil's largest sugarcane production region, mills are expected to crush 577.33 million tonnes of cane in 2023/24, up 4.9% year on year. Sugar production is expected at 35.15 million tonnes, 4.8% more than in 2022/23. Sugarcane ethanol output should rise by 0.6% to 25.16 billion litres.

MEXICO: 2023/24 sugar production expected to rise to 6.25 million T

Sugar production in Mexico is forecast to increased to 6.25 million metric tonnes, raw value, in 2023/24, from 6.05 million tonnes estimated for 2022/23, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's post in Mexico City, reports Sugaronline.

In 2022/23, production declined due to unfavourable weather conditions and the high cost of fertiliser, partly offset by a 5% increase in harvested area.

Mexico is expected to export 1.37 million metric tonnes of sugar in 2023/24, amid continued demand in the United States but moderate growth in exports to other world markets.

The 6.05 million metric tonnes of sugar expected to be produced in 2022/23 provides sufficient availability to supply the total quota to the US without reducing the cycle's final inventories from its level of 2.5 months of national consumption, according to the USDA post in Mexico City.

PERU: Cane sugar production is forecast at 1.3 million T in 2024, up 2%

Peru should produce 1.3 million metric tonnes of cane sugar in the 2024 marketing year, from May 2023 to April 2024, a 2% rise from the previous year, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's post in Lima, reports Sugaronline.

Domestic consumption should increase slightly to 1.4 million tonnes in 2024, according to the USDA post report released this week.

Sugarcane production in 2024 (January-December 2023) is forecast at 9.9 million tonnes, increasing nearly 3% from the 2023 estimate. Total harvested area in the marketing year 2024 is forecast at 95,000 hectares.

Total exports are forecast at 100,000 tonnes.

The United States was the lead export market for Peruvian sugar in 2022, accounting for 43% of total exports.

ESWATINI: Sugar production expected to rise 4% to 652,057 tonnes

Eswatini's sugar production is expected to increase by 4% to 652,057 metric tonnes in 2023/24, based on an expected rebound in the volume of sugarcane deliveries to mills and improvement in the recovery rate, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's post in Pretoria, reports Sugaronline.

Sugarcane output is forecast to increase by 1.5% to 5.6 million tonnes, considering water available for irrigation due to substantial rainfall in 2022/23, expanded planted area and a return to trend yields.

"2023/24 is forecast to be a recovery period for Eswatini sugar cane production," the USDA post in Pretoria said in a report on April 26.

JAMAICA: Sugar production expected to fall by 8% in 2023/24

Jamaica's sugar production is expected to fall by 8% in 2023/24 to 36,000 metric tonnes, in line with the consistent rate of decline over the last five years. according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's post in Kingston, reports Sugaronline.

"Industry sources have indicated that both raw sugar and sugarcane production have consistently underperformed over the last several years. Between 2017 and 2022, raw sugar production dropped from 82,000 in 2017/18 to 39,000 tonnes in 2021/22. Harvested sugarcane fell by an average of 33% over the same period," the USDA post in Kingston said a report.

The Jamaican sugar industry has experienced challenges constraining production, such as labor shortages, low-quality sugarcane, and high costs of production, key factors that have contributed to the closure of all but two sugar mills across the island over the years.

HONDURAS: Sugar production seen at 548,000 T in 2024

Sugar production in Honduras is expected to reach 548,000 metric tonnes in the 2024 marketing year, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's post in Tegucigalpa, reports Sugaronline.

This estimate is up 3.4% from the forecast for 2023, of 530,000 tonnes, and 4.75% higher than the 2022 level (523,148 tonnes).

Sugarcane production in 2024 is forecast at 5.28 million tonnes, and sugar exports are expected to reach 183,000 tonnes.

The USDA Post in Tegucigalpa said in the report on April 26 that the forecasts signal a rebound to pre-hurricane estimates.

INDIA: ISMA director general resigns

The director general of the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), Sonjoy Mohanty, has resigned from his post on April 24 citing personal reasons, according to ChiniMandi.

ISMA had yet to make an official announcement on who would replace Mohanty, but its Reforms & Policy group had already accepted the resignation, according to the report.

Mohanty had been serving ISMA in the position since mid-September 2022.

ED& F Man Daily Research

Japan Toray successfully makes cellulosic sugar - CEM - Toray Industries, in collaboration with Mitsui DM Sugar, successfully produced sugar from inedible biomass like bagasse and cassava pulp. The sugar could then be used as a polymer feedstock. The companies are also working with Thai sugar and cassava plants.

FoodNavigator.com

Mondelez raises guidance after 'best quarter ever,' successful price hikes



Biscuit and chocolate giant Mondelez International nearly doubled its outlook for fiscal 2023 after delivering its "best quarter ever" with organic revenue growth up 19.4% to \$1.5bn over the same period last year and "significantly ahead of [an] already strong 12% in full-year 2022," CEO and Chairman Dirk Van de Put touted yesterday during the company's after hours first quarter earnings call.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/04/28/mondelez-raises-guidance-after-best-quarter-ever-successful-price-hikes>

Hershey's net sales grow as it expands commercial capabilities amidst rising commodity and logistics costs



Hershey's net sales increased 12.1% to \$2.98bn thanks to price and volume gains across both confectionery and salty snack segments, driven heavily by consumer demand and media investments.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/04/28/hershey-s-net-sales-grow-as-it-expands-commercial-capabilities-amidst-rising-commodity-and-logistics-costs>

AUSTRIA: Agrana proposes higher dividend for 2022/23

Agrana's management board proposed on April 28 a dividend payout of EUR0.90 (US\$0.99) per share for the 2022/23 financial year, compared to EUR0.75 per share in 2021/22, reports Sugaronline.

"The distributions are based not only on the group's profit but also on its cash flow and its debt situation, taking into consideration the need to maintain a sound balance sheet structure," the company said in a statement.

Agrana generated operating profit (EBIT) in its 2022/23 financial year of EUR88.3 million (US\$98.38 million), compared to EUR24.7 million (US\$27.23 million) in the previous year.

Consolidated revenue reached EUR3.64 billion (US\$4 billion), compared to EUR2.9 billion (US\$3.2 billion) in the previous year. Agrana has also confirmed its guidance for a more than 50% rise in EBIT for the 2023/24 financial year.

PHILIPPINES: Government appoints new administrator for SRA

The Office of president Ferdinand Marcos Jr. confirmed on April 27 the appointment of Pablo Luis Azcona as the new administrator to preside over the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) board in an acting capacity, according to PhilStar.

David Thaddeus Alba, the previous administrator, has resigned from his post citing worsening health.

PHILIPPINES: New SRA administrator says sugar imports underwent proper procedures

The new administrator of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), Pablo Luis Azcona, said on April 28 that the imports of 440,000 metric tonnes of sugar earlier this year occurred according to the proper procedures, according to GMA Network.

Senator Risa Hontiveros has been questioning the legality of the imports since the sugar was imported before the SRA issued an order allowing the shipments.

Azcona said that the questioned importation had gone through a process as "we get stakeholders' inquiries.", adding that all the rules were followed.

EUROPE: Sugar prices rise 61% over one year

Sugar prices in the European Union rose by 61% over one year, according to the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), reports Sugaronline.

Sugar has been one of the food products with the highest price hike in the EU this year.

“Monthly data indicates a continuous increase in the annual rates of change starting August 2021, reaching 61% in February and March 2023, meaning that sugar prices in the EU in those two months were, on average, 61% higher than in the same months of 2022,” Eurostat said in a statement on April 28.

In March, the highest increases in annual inflation for sugar were recorded in Czechia (98%), Estonia (97%), Poland (82%), Germany (72%), and Latvia (70%). Smaller but still considerable increases were registered in Hungary (17%), followed by Luxembourg (19%), Belgium (35%), Bulgaria (36%) and Ireland (37%).
