



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

CANADA: Government seeks to restrict advertising of foods high in sugars to children
Health Canada, the Canadian government department responsible for health policies, opened in late April a public consultation on its proposal to restrict advertising of foods high in sugars, sodium and saturated fat to children, reports Sugaronline.

Health Canada's new policy update proposes an approach to restricting the advertising of food and beverages to children, starting with advertising on television and digital media. This approach prioritizes media where children spend much of their time and where they are highly exposed to food advertising, including ads that air during a children's program or on a children's website.

The new policy update proposes restricting the advertising of food and beverages to children, starting with advertising on television and digital media, where children spend much of their time and where they are highly exposed to food advertising, according to Health Canada.

The agency said it had been monitoring the nature and extent of advertising of food and beverages to children in Canada, and collected data has shown that television continues to be a large source of exposure to food advertising.

"Overall, it found that the average child and teen viewed more than 1,700 food and beverage ads on television in 2019, which translates to an average of nearly five ads per day. Furthermore, with the growth of digital media and the use of mobile devices, children are also significantly exposed to online ads," Health Canada said in a statement on April 25.

Interested parties should send comments the policy proposal by June 12.

SOUTH AFRICA: Sugarcane production expected to rise 3% in 2023/24

South Africa's sugarcane production is expected to rise by 3% to 18.5 million metric tonnes in 2023/24, assuming a return to normal weather conditions, improved yields and industry efforts to increase production, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's post in Pretoria, reports Sugaronline.

Sugar production is forecast at 2.2 million tonnes, up by 9%, due to a higher volume of sugarcane delivered to mills and a higher sugar recovery rate.

Sugarcane yields are expected to rebound to 74 tonnes/hectare in 2023/24, up from 72 t/ha in 2022/23, due to an expected return to normal weather conditions and improved performance of new cane varieties.

Post forecasts total sugar exports will increase by 2% to 650,000 tonnes in 2023/24.

ARGENTINA: USDA sees sugar production up by 1% in 2023/24

Sugar production in Argentina is expected to rise by 1% to 1.69 million metric tonnes in 2023/24, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's post in Buenos Aires, reports Sugaronline.

Total sugarcane production is forecast to drop to 18.9 million tonnes, down from 20 million tonnes in the previous season, due to dry weather and high heat during the summer.

This cane volume should be enough to cover the domestic sugar demand, ethanol output to meet the biofuels mandate, and a relatively small surplus for export.

"This is the third consecutive year of poor growing conditions due to a La Niña weather pattern. The shortfall in sugarcane production will primarily result in lower production of bioethanol, which is currently unprofitable due to low official prices," the USDA post in Buenos Aires said in a report.

US: American Sugar Alliance urges members of Congress to support farmers

The American Sugar Alliance has urged members of the US Congress to ensure a sugar policy in the new farm bill that provides an adequate economic safety net for American sugarcane and sugarbeet farmers, reports Sugaronline.

Sugarcane grower Patrick Frischhertz, from Plaquemine, Louisiana, testified before the House Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Risk Management and Credit last week on behalf of the American Sugar Alliance.

He said that without a sugar policy, "we would effectively outsource our sugar supply to heavily-subsidized and unreliable foreign sugar suppliers whose environmental and labor standards simply do not measure up to our own."

"That would be the opposite of strengthening supply chains and contrary to providing a safety net to American producers. Under that scenario, farmers, consumers, and taxpayers would all lose," said Frischhertz, according to a statement released by the American Sugar Alliance.

He said sugar producers play a vital role in the domestic food supply by ensuring American consumers have "a safe, high-quality, reliable, sustainably produced and affordable supply of an essential ingredient."

Frischhertz also spoke on the challenges sugar producers face, including high input costs, tight margins, and crop and weather disruptions. He urged Congress members to examine how the farm safety net could be updated in the next farm bill for all Title I commodities to better match actual operating costs for producers.

"We are certainly receptive to new efforts to provide standing disaster coverage in ways that do not undermine crop insurance and possibly even encourage greater participation and coverage levels," he added.

BRAZIL: StoneX raises 2023/24 cane crush and sugar production estimates

Consultancy StoneX expects sugar mills in Brazil's centre-south region to crush 595.5 million metric tonnes of sugarcane in the 2023/24 season, compared to a previous estimate of 592.1 million tonnes in March and up 8.7% from 2022/23, according to Notícias Agrícolas.

The estimate was increased due to favorable weather conditions and a 3.6% expansion in the harvested area to 7.75 million hectares.

Sugar production in the centre-south is now estimated to total 37.2 million tonnes, compared to 36.8 million expected in March.

StoneX estimates global sugar surplus of 1.1 million T in 2022/23

StoneX reduced its estimate for the 2022/23 global sugar surplus to 1.1 million metric tonnes, from a 2.5 million tonnes surplus forecast in March, according to Reuters.

In the 2023/24 season, StoneX expects a global supply surplus of 1.3 million tonnes.

The projection for India's sugar production in 2022/23 was cut to 32.8 million tonnes in the current season that ends in September from 34.1 million tonnes expected in March. For 2023/24, StoneX expects India's sugar output at 32.5 million tonnes.

EUROPE: Countries decide to extend import tariff suspension for Ukraine

European Union member states agreed on April 28 to extend a suspension on import quotas for Ukraine by a year, according to Reuters.

Tariffs for products imported from Ukraine were initially lifted in June 2022 for 12 months.

The extension of the tariff suspension is aimed at helping the Ukrainian economy during the war with Russia, but has led to complaints from farming groups of other countries which resulted in Poland and Hungary banning grain imports from Ukraine in April.

MEXICO: Conadesuca revises sugar production output down by 10%

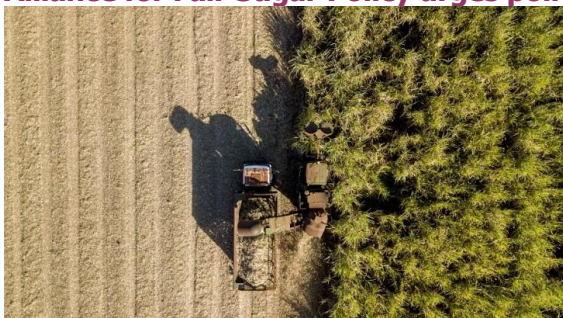
Mexico's national sugar committee Conadesuca expects sugar production in Mexico in 2022/23 to reach 5.46 million metric tonnes, down 10% from its initial forecast of 6.026 million tonnes, according to Reuters.

The lower production is due to drought and lack of fertilization of sugarcane crops. In 2021/22, sugar production in the country reached 6.185 million tonnes.

The leader of the country's largest sugarcane farmers group, Carlos Blackaller, said that almost the entire country had been dry since October 2022.

FoodNavigator.com

Alliance for Fair Sugar Policy urges policymakers to modernize sugar program



The Alliance for Fair Sugar Policy (AFSP) urges Congress to make "reasonable targeted changes to the US sugar program" to help lower food prices, reinforce supply chains and make American businesses and farmers more competitive on the global playing field.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/05/04/alliance-for-fair-sugar-policy-urges-policymakers-to-modernize-sugar-program>
