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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(23)38**  
**(English only)**

**14 June 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**

**INDIA: Government plans to include data on sugar sector in digital platform**

India's Food and Public Distribution Department plans to include sugar and ethanol projects under the national single window system (NSWS), a digital platform that facilitates approvals and clearance for project, according to Mint.

By migrating the digital operations related to the sugar sector to the platform, the government also aims to curb market manipulation, since the manual data entry process put sensitive information at risk of being leaked.

The platform was developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) for approvals across 32 central departments and 32 states.

**UK: Head of Danone UK calls for higher taxes on sugar, salt and fat**

The president of Danone UK & Ireland, James Mayer, has called on ministers to align the VAT rates to the health credentials of products high in sugar, salt and fat, according to The Guardian.

He also suggested measures including restrictions on advertising of products.

In the UK, most groceries are VAT exempt. Danone, which claims that 90% of the company's UK portfolio are not high in saturated fat, sugar or salt (HFSS), suggests the tax could be applied to more such items.

**IRELAND: Government to evaluate impact of sugar tax**

The Department of Health has started an analysis on the impact of the tax on sugar-sweetened drinks, according to RTE, citing government sources.

The sugar tax introduced in 2018 has so far raised EUR32 million (US\$34.4 million), with a 20 cents increase per litre in the price of drinks with 5-8 grams and a 30 cent per litre for drinks with more than 8 grams of sugar per litre.

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said the sugar tax has had a positive impact, encouraged producers to cut sugar content in drinks, but this has to be fully evaluated.

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**UK: NHS chief defends sugar and salt tax**

The chief executive of the National Health Service (NHS), Matthew Taylor, has urged the government to introduce sugar and salt taxes, adding that they could save the NHS, according to The Telegraph.

He said the NHS could face “unsustainable” pressure if the government doesn’t implement measures to improve Britain’s lifestyles.

Taylor said the NHS was already in a “precarious state”, and expressed concern about the third strike of junior doctors scheduled to start this week.

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**FoodNavigator.com**

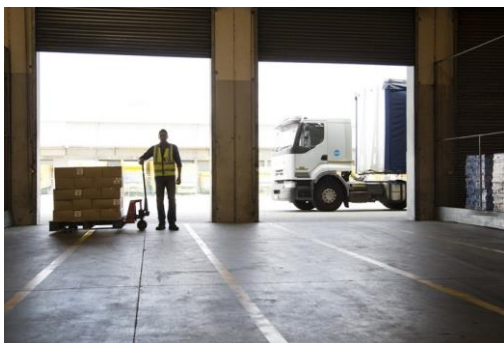
**'Zero sugar isn't a trend,' Swoon co-founder discusses beverage evolution, Barbie collaboration**



Better-for-you beverage brand Swoon is kicking off summer with two new flavors of its zero-sugar beverage - a Barbie Pink Lemonade and Lemon Iced Tea & Raspberry Iced Tea - as the demand for zero sugar products increases, brand co-founder Cristina Ros Blankfein told FoodNavigator-USA.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/06/12/zero-sugar-isn-t-a-trend-swoon-co-founder-discusses-beverage-evolution-barbie-collaboration>

**White House celebrates 'normalizing' supply chains, but industry warns of more work**



Critical supply chains are finally “normalizing” after the pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine disrupted transportation and slowed production, triggering bottlenecks and driving up inflation to 40-year highs, according to a White House report card assessing the resiliency of supply chains and the US economy published yesterday.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/06/09/white-house-celebrates-normalizing-supply-chains-but-industry-warns-of-more-work>

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## 'No alcohol, no problem!' Drizly tracks US growth of alcohol-free drinks



Non-alcoholic beer, wine and spirits are growing in popularity in the US, reports Drizly: drawing on both consumer surveys and its own data. "Consumers are more than just sober curious, they're going all in on the non-alcoholic category," says the US alcohol-e-commerce platform.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/06/08/drizly-sees-growth-of-non-alcoholic-beverages-in-the-us>

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## Sugaronline Ebriefing

### **Bunge and Viterra announce merger to create global agribusiness company**

Bunge and Viterra announced on June 13 a merger to create a global agribusiness company with increased diversification across geographies, seasonal cycles and crops, reports Sugaronline.

Under the terms of the agreement, which was unanimously approved by the Boards of Directors of Bunge and Viterra, Viterra shareholders would receive approximately 65.6 million shares of Bunge stock, with an aggregate value of about US\$6.2 billion, and about US\$2.0 billion in cash, representing a consideration mix of approximately 75% Bunge stock and 25% cash.

As part of the transaction, Bunge will assume US\$9.8 billion of Viterra debt, associated with approximately US\$9 billion of highly liquid Readily Marketable Inventories.

In addition, Bunge plans to repurchase US\$2 billion of Bunge's stock to enhance accretion to adjusted EPS. "Bunge intends to commence repurchases as soon as practically possible, subject to market conditions and SEC rules on trading restrictions and expects to complete the Repurchase Plan no later than 18 months post transaction close," the company's said in a statement.

Viterra shareholders would own 30% of the combined company on a fully diluted basis upon the close of the transaction and approximately 33% after the completion of the Repurchase Plan.

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