



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

WHO's cancer research agency set to declare aspartame a possible carcinogen

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization (WHO) is expected to declare aspartame a possible carcinogen on July 14, according to Reuters, citing two sources with knowledge of the process.

The IARC ruling considers published evidence to assess whether something is a potential hazard or not.

The Joint WHO and Food and Agriculture Organization's Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), which gives advice on how much of a product a person can safely consume, is also reviewing aspartame use and is expected to announce its findings on the same day that the IARC releases its decision.

PHILIPPINES: Joint Foreign Chambers against taxes on sugary items

The Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines (JFC) on June 29 urged the government to reconsider proposals to tax junk foods and increase the existing tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, according Business Mirror.

The JFC said the government's proposal would be "inflationary" for Filipino consumers and "discriminatory" to certain businesses.

The group is a coalition of the American, Australian-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese, and Korean chambers of the Philippines, as well as the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters (PAMURI).

SRI LANKA: Government approves area for new sugar project

Sri Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers has approved the allocation of 200 hectares of land in the Vavuniua district to a new sugar plant to be built by Thailand's Sutech Sugar Industries, according to Daily Mirror.

Sutech is investing in a project valued at US\$400 million to produce 120,000 metric tonnes of sugar and supply about 20% of Sri Lanka's domestic sugar demand.

Sutech also plans to cultivate sugarcane in a net area of 30,000 hectares.

UGANDA: Private sector against increased taxes for white sugar

Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) has warned that a government’s move to increase taxation on white sugar would likely result in higher prices for industrial sugar buyers, including producers of beverage, confectionary and soft drinks, according to Monitor.

The president of PSFU, Stephen Assimwe, said that a proposal to increase the duty tax rate on industrial sugar from 10% to 25% would eventually result in low consumption and less production.

PSFU has said industrial sugar buyers, who made significant investments in the country over the years, could face disruptions and massive losses if the rate increases.

FoodNavigator.com

“Toxicology is not a political science,” Ex-FDA official weighs-in on WHO aspartame news



Industry experts and trade groups are decrying the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer’s pending addition of aspartame to a list of possible carcinogens for humans as unscientific and politically motivated.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/06/30/toxicology-is-not-a-political-science-ex-fda-official-weighs-in-on-who-aspartame-news>

Balancing taste and nutrition in clean label sweeteners: Could sugar make a comeback?



As demand for natural sweeteners grow, could consumers revert to arguably the most traditional natural sweetener of all: sugar?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/06/21/clean-label-sweeteners-could-sugar-make-a-comeback>

'We need to have the right products, because the consumers are demanding it': How politics can drive recycling in plastic packaging



The UK throws away around 100 billion pieces of plastic each year, much of which goes into landfill. Tetra Pak North Europe managing director Alex Henriksen told FoodNavigator about how inexorably politics and food packaging are tied together.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/06/26/how-politics-can-drive-recycling-in-plastic-packaging>

Understanding the consumers driving growth in alcohol-free



The alcohol alternatives category is growing – so who are the consumers driving the revolution? If brands want to succeed in the marketplace, they need to understand the complex variety of reasons consumers turn to the category.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/06/29/understanding-the-consumers-driving-growth-in-alcohol-free>

ESWATINI: Sugar exports increase 51.4% in May

Eswatini's revenue from exports of sugar and sugar products reached SZL589.6 million (US\$31.6 million) in May, up 51.4% from April and more than double the value recorded in the same month last year, according to Times of Swaziland.

South Africa was Eswatini's leading trading partner for total imports and exports in May, according to information released by the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) last week. Around 71.8% of Eswatini's total exports in May went to South Africa, followed by Kenya (5.2%), Nigeria (3.7%), Mozambique (3.4%) and Angola (2.8%).

ARGENTINA: All 14 sugar mills in Tucumán have started operations

Sugarcane mill Nunorco started operations for the 2023 crushing season on June 23, two days later than planned due to weather conditions, adding up to 14 operational mills in Argentina's Tucumán region this season, according to Tucumán's Institute for the Promotion of Sugar and Alcohol (IPATT), reports Sugaronline.

Nunorco was the last mill to start operations for the 2023 season in Tucumán. Some mills in the province started operations earlier and others later this season.

IPATT said in a statement that the progress of the current campaign, which started about 50 days ago, was still not ideal due to the impacts of weather conditions, including drought that delayed the ripening of sugarcane crops and rains.

The total volume of sugarcane crushed so far this season is 2.19 million metric tonnes. Sugar production totaled 102,830 tonnes. The seven mills producing ethanol in the province have combined output of 28.3 million litres of alcohol.

INDONESIA: Pertamina to make bioethanol from sugarcane

The chief executive officer (CEO) of Indonesia's state energy company PT Pertamina, Nicke Widyawati, said on June 28 that the company plans to start producing bioethanol from sugarcane and cassava this year, according to Reuters.

He also announced the company has begun producing green hydrogen using geothermal energy. Widyawati said Indonesia has around 27 gigawatts (GW) of geothermal energy potential, but less than 10% is used to produce electricity currently.

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China's Splurge on Summer Treats May Prompt More Sugar Imports - Bloomberg - It's blistering hot across China and people will be trying to beat the heat by indulging in iced teas and cold desserts, a trend that may spur one of the world's biggest sugar importers to step up buying. A heat wave is baking the country's northern regions, with temperatures in Beijing and Tianjin smashing records. Hot weather tends to drive higher consumption of cold drinks and desserts, bolstering sugar demand in China, which usually peaks in summer.

India raises sugarcane floor price to woo farmers, boost planting - Reuters - India's cabinet on Wednesday approved an increase in the floor price that sugar mills must pay for cane in the season beginning October 1 to 315 Indian rupees (\$3.84) per 100 kg, from 305 rupees a year earlier, the country's information minister said. "By raising the Fair And Remunerative Price to 315 rupees, the government has ensured that farmers get good returns for their produce," Anurag Thakur told a media conference. The federal government raises the floor price for cane, also known as the Fair And Remunerative Price, almost every year. Higher prices could encourage farmers to boost cane planting and help India, the world's second biggest sugar exporter, allow overseas shipments.