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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(23)43**  
**(English only)**

**17 July 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: Pakka plans to set up a bagasse-based packaging paper plant in Guatemala**

Pakka, an Indian regenerative packaging solutions firm, will set up a bagasse-based packaging paper plant in Guatemala, according to Press Trust of India.

The company will invest US\$250 million in the plant which will have the capacity to produce 400 tonnes a day. Managing director, Jagdeep Hira, said on July 10 that Pakka was looking for around 90 acres of land to build the plant.

**GERMANY: Südzucker confirms forecast for 2023/24 earnings**

Südzucker confirmed on July 12 its forecast for earnings in the second quarter and for the entire 2023/24 financial year, with improvement primarily driven by the sugar segment, reports Sugaronline.

The company expects EBITDA and group operating results in the second quarter to be "significantly higher than the previous year's level, when EBITDA reached EUR230 million and the operating result was EUR153 million.

Südzucker expects group revenues of EUR10.4-10.9 billion (US\$11.6-12.1 billion), compared to EUR9.5 billion (US\$10.6 billion) in 2022/23. Group EBITDA is expected to be between EUR1.2 billion-1.4 billion (US\$1.3-1.6 billion), up from EUR1.1 billion last year. Group operating result is seen between EUR850 million (US\$845.8 million) and EUR950 million (US\$1.06 billion), compared to EUR704 million (US\$783.3 million) one year ago.

**US: Blue Biofuels receives grant to scale its patented cellulose-to-sugar production process**

Blue Biofuels has received a US\$206,500 grant from the US Department of Energy (DOE) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) that will enable it to continue working towards scaling and optimizing its patented cellulose-to-sugar (CTS) process, reports Sugaronline.

"This funding will support the company's team of scientists and engineers as they continue to refine cutting-edge fuel technology aimed at reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change," the company said in a statement on July 11.

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Blue Biofuels Cellulose-to-Sugar (CTS) technology has a near-zero carbon footprint that can convert any plant material, including sugarcane bagasse, into sugars and lignin. Sugars are subsequently processed into biofuels, such as ethanol and sustainable aviation fuel, and lignin may be further processed into a variety of products. The CTS process is a patented and proprietary technology wholly owned by Blue Biofuel.

"We are honored to be awarded the DOE SBIR grant, which recognizes our commitment to developing clean and sustainable fuels. This grant not only validates our ongoing efforts but also provides us with the resources needed to accelerate our research and move closer to commercialization" said chief executive officer (CEO) Benjamin Slager.

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## **FoodNavigator.com**

### **PepsiCo raises full-year guidance on portfolio performance, braces for challenges in sports and energy categories**



PepsiCo beat second quarter expectations with its Frito-Lays and PepsiCo Beverages North America divisions posting double-digit organic revenue growth, but the company faces several challenges across its business, especially in the energy and sport drink category, in the second half of the year.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/07/13/pepsico-raises-full-year-guidance-braces-for-challenges-in-sports-and-energy-categories>

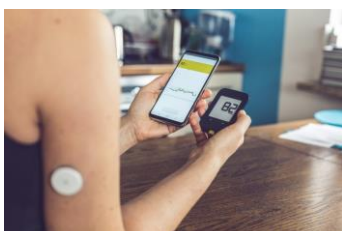
### **Volatile grocery prices force consumers to cut back, create tension at retail level**



Even though overall prices for food consumed at home held steady in June after inching up slightly in May, the impact was not even across all categories – causing consumers to continue to trade down and make tough decisions in the grocery aisles to balance their budgets, according to industry insiders.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/07/13/volatile-grocery-prices-force-consumers-to-cut-back-create-tension-at-retail-level>

### **Personalised nutrition: Exciting opportunity or costly distraction?**



We are yet to see clear evidence that personalised diets based on omics provide better outcomes than generic healthy diets, and these cutting-edge and expensive services could be distracting us from dealing with the "nutrition elephant in the room".

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/07/13/personalised-nutrition-exciting-opportunity-or-costly-distraction>

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### **ED & F MAN Sugar Research**

**Chinese sugar substitutes to grow 7% in 2023** – Yunnan Sugar Network and Msweet - China should produce 295,000mt of sugar substitutes in 2023, up 7% on year, including 112,000mt of artificial substitutes and 183,000mt of natural substitutes, according to Shangpu Consulting. A local analyst added that June mill sugar sales were disappointing, in part because alternative sweeteners are gaining market share.

**India's ethanol program will cap future sugar exports** - Reuters - India, the world's second-largest sugar producer and a major exporter in recent years, will likely have a smaller role in the sugar export market going forward as its government-led ethanol program continues to expand, a report said on Monday. According to the report Asia Biofuel Outlook, produced by research firm BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, India's pursuit of increased ethanol blending in gasoline, as a way to cut the oil products' import bill and reduce carbon emissions, will continue to support global sugar prices.

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### **FoodNavigator.com**

#### **'How sweet is sweet?' AI-powered algorithm digitises taste for food and beverage makers**



Israeli start-up MAMAY Technologies has developed an AI-powered algorithm capable of determining the 'objective' sweetness of a food or beverage product.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/07/11/mamay-ai-powered-algorithm-digitises-taste-for-food-and-beverage-makers>

### **Sugaronline Ebriefing**

#### **AUSTRIA: Agrana defines sustainable growth strategy for coming years**

Austrian food company and sugar producer Agrana announced on July 7 that its management board presented the company's new Sustainable Value Growth strategy during its Annual General Meeting, reports Sugaronline.

The company defined the strategy considering the backdrop of climate change and disruption along the entire value chain of the food production sector, from agriculture to the end customer, according to a statement.

In the coming years, Agrana said it would focus on consolidating its core business with innovation, strong customer orientation and new sales channels. It will also develop new growth markets and solutions based on natural, renewable raw materials.

Agrana said it plans further develop the organization and corporate culture and pursue net zero emissions in scopes 1, 2, and 3 by no later than 2050.

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**AUSTRALIA: First raw sugar shipment under free trade agreement headed to the UK**

Australia’s first raw sugar shipment to the United Kingdom under the new Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (A-UKFTA) was loaded in Townsville on July 10, opening an important new market for the Queensland sugar industry, according to the association representing sugarcane growers, reports Sugaronline.

Under the new agreement, which came into place on May 31, tariff-free raw sugar exports to the UK have resumed for the first time in 50 years, gradually increasing from an initial allocation of 80,000 metric tonnes this year until tariffs are completely eliminated on Jan. 1, 2031.

The first Australian raw sugar sale under the new agreement was made by industry-owned sugar marketer Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL), who will send a shipment of raw sugar produced in the Burdekin to Tate and Lyle Sugars’ refinery on the Thames in London.

QSL Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Greg Beashel said the sale was underpinned by a united industry approach, with other Australian quota holders to the UK making their new UK quota allocation available to QSL for the milestone shipment.

“Up until that point nearly a third of Australia’s sugar exports had gone to Britain, but this came to an end when the European Union (EU) restricted our market access through relatively high tariffs, and we pivoted towards alternative markets in Asia and North America,” he said in a statement released by Canegrowers.

Data by Australia’s Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) estimates that the first full tariff-free quota year in 2024 could see the value of Australian raw sugar exports to the UK reach \$74 million.

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**Young consumers ‘partial’ to gene-edited crops as EU seeks revised GMO rules**



As the European Commission proposes allowing the use of new genomic techniques to grow climate-resistant crops with better nutritional value, young Europeans would be support genetically modified (GM) food if it gave them a health boost, new research reveals.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/07/05/young-consumers-partial-to-gene-edited-crops-as-eu-seeks-revised-gmo-rules>

**EU sets out legally binding food waste targets from processing to household**



According to the proposal, Member States are to reduce food waste by 10% in processing and manufacturing, and 30% jointly at retail and consumption levels, by 2030.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/07/10/eu-sets-out-legally-binding-food-waste-targets-from-processing-to-household>

### **Tetra Pak on the decarbonisation of the packaging system**



Plastic packaging does an enormous amount of harm to the environment, taking up land in landfill sites and maiming wildlife on both land and sea. However, it also contributes to climate change, emitting high levels of greenhouses gasses into the atmosphere. FoodNavigator spoke to Tetra Pak North Europe managing director Alex Henriksen about how to fix this problem.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/06/28/tetra-pak-on-the-decarbonisation-of-the-packaging-system>

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