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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(23)47**  
**(English only)**

**11 August 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**

**US: Food companies face pressure to reduce sugar content in products**

US food companies are facing pressures from the government and consumers to reformulate their products to reduce the sugar content, according to The Fence Post, citing experts at a sugar conference.

The president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Sugar Association, Courtney Gainie, said during the American Sugar Alliance's International Sweetener Symposium that sugar consumption in the US declined from 18.1% of calories from added sugars in 1999/2000 to 12.9% currently, but that international organizations and the US government aim is to reduce it to 10% of calories.

**BRAZIL: Ethanol exports rise 73% in July**

Brazil exported 308.3 million litres of ethanol in July, up 73.3% from the same month last year and four times higher than the volume shipped in June 2023, according to Novacana.

The average price of ethanol exported last month was US\$641.38 per cubic metres, up 14.8% year on year and 5.2% from June 2023, according to the Department of Foreign Service of the Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services (MDIC).

Export revenues rose by 47.7% year on year to US\$197.74 million, up 300% from June 2023.

Most of the ethanol was exported to South Korea (144.03 million litres), United States (74.86 million litres) and the Netherlands (70.05 million litres).

**ETHIOPIA: Government extends deadline for privatization of sugar factories**

The deadline for the privatization of eight sugar factories in Ethiopia has been extended to Oct. 5, from the original deadline of Aug. 3, according to The Reporter Ethiopia.

The submission of requests for proposals (RFP) and site visits for the eight projects are postponed based on the recommendation of potential bidders, the Ministry of Finance said on July 31.

The Ministry and the Ethiopian Investment Holding (EIH) issued the Expression of Interest (EoI) for the privatization of the factories in August 2022, when they disclosed that 20 local and international investors had expressed interest.

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**ARGENTINA: Government wants to expand ethanol production for mixing with gasoline**

Argentina's Ministry of Energy has opened a process to expand ethanol production for mixing with gasoline in the domestic market by 250,000 cubic metres per year, to reduce fuel imports, according to Econojournal.

A resolution determining the measure, published in the country's Official Gazette on July 27, directs the Undersecretariat of Hydrocarbons to establish the process to install new corn and sugarcane ethanol production plants or expand existing ones.

According to the report, sources in the industry now expect the government to announce tenders to cover the quota of 1.124 million m3 per year.

**ZIMBABWE: Sugar association to develop seed varieties locally**

The Zimbabwe Sugar Association Experiment Station (ZSAES) has announced that it will start developing seed varieties locally to cut the import bill, according to Zimbabwe Independent.

The experiment station owned by the Zimbabwe Sugar Association plans to release ten varieties that are drought tolerant and immune to diseases this year.

Zimbabwe has two sugar mills – Hippo Valley and Triangle – and 1,200 small-scale sugarcane farmers in the Lowveld.

**THAILAND: Vietnam imposes anti-dumping duty on Thai sugar**

Vietnam has imposed anti-dumping duties on sugar products imported from Thailand, with penalties between 25.73% and 32.75%, for three years, according to Reuters.

The penalties will be imposed from Aug. 18, 2023, to June 15, 2026.

Vietnam's Trade Ministry said on Aug. 8 that the decision was made after a "careful and fair investigation" of allegations of anti-competitive behaviour.

Vietnam will impose a duty of 32.75% to products from Thailand's sugar producer Mitr Phol Sugar, and four associated companies. An anti-dumping tax of 25.73% and an anti-subsidy tax of 4.65% will be applied to products from Thai Roong Ruang Industry.

**UK: NFU Sugar encourages workers to apply for Sugar Industry Program**

British beet growers are encouraged by NFU Sugar to participate in the Sugar Industry Program (SIP), which will include visits covering the entire UK sugar supply chain, according to Farming UK.

The program, funded by NFU Sugar and British Sugar, allows growers to learn more about the industry and build connections while developing their professional skills, according to the companies.

The program includes training and development sessions, and media training.

**KENYA: Cabinet decides to abandon plan to privatize state-owned sugar companies**

Kenya's Cabinet has decided to abandon plans to privatize six state-owned sugar companies in the country, and adopt a leasing system to revive the firms, according to Nation.

The companies considered for the leasing scheme are Nzoia Sugar, Chemelil Sugar, South Nyanza Sugar, Miwani Sugar, Muhoroni Sugar and Mumias Sugar.

The proposal now needs parliamentary approval, according to Standard Media.

The Cabinet has also sanctioned the extension of a framework for duty-free imports of milled sugar to address a supply deficit.

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**US: Sucro Sourcing receives approval from USDA for sugar refiner’s license**

Sucro Sourcing announced on Aug. 8 that it had recently received its Sugar Refinery License approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), reports Sugaronline.

“Sucro has been approved by the USDA to become one of the country’s very few sugar refinery license holders,” said the chief executive officer (CEO) of Sucro Sourcing, Jonathan Taylor.

“This major milestone allows Sucro to openly and fairly compete with other cane sugar refiners, by fully participating in the USDA Re-export program.”

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**FoodNavigator.com**

**Kraft Heinz to cut 20% of virgin plastic by 2030 with three-pronged approach to sustainable packaging**



Kraft Heinz is doubling down on its ESG-related packaging goals by aiming to reduce its virgin plastic use by 20% by 2030, which is estimated to be more than 100m pounds of plastic, Linda Roman, the company’s head of packaging growth and technology, told FoodNavigator-USA.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/08/02/kraft-heinz-to-cut-20-of-virgin-plastic-by-2030-with-three-pronged-approach-to-sustainable-packaging>

**Tetra Pak Exclusive Part II: The importance of empowering consumers via healthier, more sustainable product innovation**



Tetra Pak believes that food and beverage brands today need to meet consumers’ increasing emotional needs in terms of feeling ‘empowered’ when making purchasing choices, such as offering them innovative product options that are healthier or more sustainable.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/08/02/tetra-pak-exclusive-part-ii-the-importance-of-empowering-consumers-via-healthier-more-sustainable-product-innovation>

**Deforestation: Lukewarm welcome for deal to protect Amazon**



Eight South American countries have agreed for the first time to form an alliance aimed at reducing deforestation in the Amazon.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/08/10/deforestation-lukewarm-welcome-for-deal-to-protect-amazon>

**Large font sizes for low calorie counts can influence healthy eating choices, study shows**



There are many reasons why people choose to order healthy food at restaurants, and a new study shows that the font size of calorie counts on menus is one of them. People can be influenced to order healthy options, the study suggests, by the calorie count being written in a larger font.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/08/10/large-font-sizes-for-low-calorie-counts-can-influence-healthy-eating-choices-study-shows>

**Reducing methane with feed and crop tech: The latest science that could help move the needle**



Efforts to reduce methane emissions are urgently needed if we are to meet global climate change goals. Could innovation, informed by study findings, help move the needle? We look at the latest research promising emission reductions from agri-food production.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/08/09/methane-reduction-the-latest-research-that-could-help-move-the-needle>

**IFT First: How can nutrition and food science inform each other? Big data may help**



<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/08/09/ift-first-how-can-nutrition-and-food-science-inform-each-other-big-data-may-help>

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**ED & F Man Research**

**India to miss E20 target because of limited feedstock** - The Print & Rediff - India will probably only be able to make 7.5-9.6 billion L of ethanol by 2025/26, less than the 10.16 billion L required to reach the E20 mandate, because of limited feedstock supply, experts estimated. Corn supply is unlikely to expand enough to be a reliable feedstock, and rice exports would have to shift to local ethanol production, they explained. Otherwise, the decision by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to stop the sale of rice for ethanol could force up to 100 distilleries to close, according to the All India Distillers Association. As a result, the supply 5-6 million L of grain based ethanol contracted for 2022/23 but not yet delivered could be jeopardised.

**Brazilian E30 mandate could lower hydrous demand** - Revista Globo Rural - Hiking the ethanol mandate from E27 to E30 would lower the price of gasoline and make it more competitive, thus lowering the demand for hydrous ethanol, some producers suggested. However, this would only happen if Petrobras followed international rates when fixing gasoline prices, which is currently not the case, Datagro noted. The agency said the shift would increase anhydrous consumption by 1.3 billion L, while StoneX said the shift would expand anhydrous demand by 1.5% by 2029/30.

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