



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

BRAZIL: Sugarcane industry in São Paulo cuts water consumption by more than 50%

The sugarcane industry in São Paulo state reduced water consumption by more than 50% in over a decade by reusing water and banning the practice of sugarcane burning in the harvesting process, according to the Environmental, Infrastructure and Logistics department (Semil) of the São Paulo state government, reports Sugaronline.

Sugarcane mills in the state have also helped restore the riparian forest by planting seedlings over the years, protecting 8,172 water springs and 139,000 hectares of riparian forest, according to a statement released by Semil on Aug. 28.

The average water consumption by São Paulo's sugarcane industry in 2022/23 was 0.74 cubic metres per tonne of raw processed sugarcane, compared to 1.52 cubic metre/tonne in 2010/11, according to a survey with 127 mills and associations in the state participating in the Greener Ethanol protocol (Etanol Mais Verde).

The program was established in 2007 to promote the sector's sustainable development and help it face challenges related to the mechanisation of sugarcane harvesting.

Participating mills provide documents annually to demonstrate compliance with sustainability standards, which include eliminating sugarcane burning, compliance with the Brazilian Forest Code, protection and restoration of riparian areas, soil preservation and water reuse.

"The program encouraged the productive sector to commit even more to the environment, starting to see sustainability as an advantageous investment," said Rafael Frigério, responsible for Semil's Inspection and Biodiversity Coordination.

INDIA: ISMA urges ministry to cut GST on flex-fuel vehicles

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has urged the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) to cut the goods and services tax (GST) on flex-fuel vehicles from the current 28% to 5%, in line with the taxation applied on electric cars, according to Financial Express.

ISMA said that it is important to recognize the importance of flex-fuel vehicles and promote adoption by bringing in parity of taxation, while India is on track to achieve the 20% ethanol blending target on gasoline by 2025/26.

AUSTRALIA: Finasucre considering sale of Bundaberg Sugar – report

Belgian-based sugar firm Finasucre is considering selling Bundaberg Sugar, and has hired investment bankers to find a buyer, according to Australian Financial Review.

According to the report, the decision to sell Bundaberg Sugar, valued at around \$600 million, comes after Finasucre received interest from investors eyeing Bundaberg as a source of green energy.

The two investment banks hired to find a buyer, Lazard Australia and Kidder Williams, reportedly want the deal to be significantly processed this calendar year, according to the report which didn't name its sources.

INDIA: Datagro cuts sugar output forecast for 2023/24 by 500,000 T

Brazilian consultancy Datagro reduced its estimate for India's sugar production in the 2023/24 season by 500,000 metric tonnes due to the "erratic behavior of monsoon rains in 2023", the consultancy said in a note on its website on Aug. 29.

"September will be, therefore, a crucial phase for the definition of the 2023/24 crop in India," according to the consultancy.

Rainfall in Maharashtra state, one of India's main sugarcane producers, was 29.5% below expectations in the week ending on Aug. 24.

Average rainfall in the country between June 1 and Aug. 24 was 39.3% below average, according to the consultancy.

PAKISTAN: ECC says ban on sugar exports is already in place

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet said on Aug. 28 that a ban on sugar exports was already in place post-Aug. 10, 2023, according to The Express Tribune.

The ECC revised its prior decision concerning an export quota after the Ministry of Food requested it on Aug. 28 to rescind the sugar export quota and impose a ban on sugar exports.

As of Aug. 15, domestic sugar stocks were at 2.27 million tonnes, which is expected to barely meet domestic consumption before the next crushing season.

Monthly sugar consumption in the country is estimated at 641,584 metric tonnes.

FoodNavigator.Com

Pass the Twinkie: Ownership of Hostess may be on the move again



Hostess Brands Inc is purportedly exploring a sale after fielding takeover interest from major snack producers, including PepsiCo, Mondelez, General Mills and Hershey.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/08/29/pass-the-twinkie-ownership-of-hostess-may-be-on-the-move-again>

USDA modernizes oversight of child nutrition programs, including school meals



USDA is taking a less is more approach when it comes to ensuring school meals are properly administered and managed by backing off the frequency of reviews and streamlining monitoring requirements, according to a final rule on program integrity published last week.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/08/29/usda-modernizes-oversight-of-child-nutrition-programs-including-school-meals>

Precision nutrition report concludes "We know next to nothing"



The hype around precision nutrition far outweighs our scientific evidence and knowledge, according to a new report by experts in the field.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/08/29/precision-nutrition-report-concludes-we-know-next-to-nothing>

From a sugar substitute to a prebiotic sparkling drink: Meet the next 'healthier' challenger brands



Seven new 'healthier' food and drink start-ups have been selected into the Good Food Programme in the UK.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/08/30/healthier-challenger-brands-announced-by-the-good-food-programme>

Can we trust regenerative agriculture to save the day? Join Mondelēz, FOLU and more to find out



Regenerative agriculture is thought to improve soil health, support healthy water use, and encourage greater biodiversity. But without an official definition at EU level, is there a greenwashing risk? How can trust be sown into regenerative agriculture? Join Mondelez International, FOLU, RegenFarmCo and more at Climate Smart Food to find out.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/08/30/can-we-trust-regenerative-agriculture-to-save-the-day-join-mondelez-folu-and-more-to-find-out>

ED & F MAN Daily Research

Citi sees sugar prices staying high for longer - Reuters News - Analysts at Citi believe raw sugar prices at ICE exchange SBc1 are going to stay elevated for a longer period, possibly testing fresh highs, mainly due to expected production difficulties in Asia and the possible ban on exports from India. On sugar, Citi upgraded its price target by 1 cent for the last quarter to 25.50 cents per pound, while also increasing targets for next year. The bank said it expects money managers to increase positioning in raw sugar futures on ICE in coming weeks testing 27-30 cents in the last quarter. "While a sizable 2023/24 global deficit is already priced in with sugar trading at close to decade highs, price risks still look skewed towards the upside as El Nino has already led to erratic weather patterns across key sugar producing regions in Asia," it said in the report. "Both India and Thailand have experienced lower-than-normal rainfall recently, which could translate into further crop downgrades for the upcoming 2023/24 crop year".

Kazakhstan producers halt sugar production – Kursiv - The Kazakh sugar producers' union said they were forced to stop operations as warehouses are full because of the competition from Russian imports. Local sugar costs KZT 440/kg (USD 1/kg), while Russian sugar is just KZT 350/kg (USD 0.8/kg). In response, an official said the country needed to import, as it can only make 50% of its needs.

Cuban sugar users run out of supplies - Cubita Now - Cuba produced 350,000mt of sugar this season, falling short of needs of 400,000-600,000mt, according to Azcuba. An ice cream producer in Sancti Spiritus said he had to cut production due to insufficient sugar and water supplies.

Indian Ethanol plans could displace 13 million mt sugar by 2030 – Business Standard - India will need 30 billion L of ethanol to meet a 50% blend goal by 2030, out of which 15-16 billion L could be supplied by the cane industry, which would divert some 13 million mt of sugar equivalent, according to a blueprint presented by ISMA. A separate analysis argued that the ethanol price from grain will need to be increased to encourage investments, however.

France's Tereos sells sugar factory site to Agristo - Reuters - Sugar group Tereos has agreed to sell a factory in northern France to French fries maker Agristo following its announcement in March that it would end sugar production there, France's industry ministry said. on Monday. Belgian company Agristo plans to invest around 350 million euros (\$378.4 million) to develop a new plant for potato products to replace the existing sugar processing facility, a ministry official told reporters ahead of a signing ceremony attended by the Minister of Industry, Roland Lescure.
