



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Press Release(23)54
(English only)

15 September 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.

Sugaronline Ebriefing

BRAZIL: CBIOS issuance reaches 22.18 million in 2023

Biofuel producers have issued 22.18 million decarbonization credits in 2023, as of Sept.8, according to sugarcane industry association UNICA, citing data from the Brazil exchange B3, reports Sugaronline.

Fuel distributors required to buy credits to meet their decarbonization goals had acquired 54.91 million CBIOS, considering carryover stocks from 2021 and CBIOS acquired in 2022 and 2023.

This timeline covers acquisitions to meet the 2022 and 2023 decarbonization targets determined within the RenovaBio program.

The deadline for meeting the 2022 target is Sept. 30, 2023. The number of CBIOS acquired and retired so far is equivalent to 94% of the 2022 annual target.

UNICA said in a statement on Sept. 13 that the stock of CBIOS held by the distributors indicates that there will be no problem in fully complying with the 2022 decarbonization target by the end of this month.

GERMANY: Südzucker starts succession process for supervisory board; Thomas Kölbl to retire

Südzucker said on Sept. 13 that it will start a succession process for the supervisory board after executive board member Thomas Kölbl informed it that he will not renew his contract, which expires on May 31, 2024, reports Sugaronline.

"After almost 34 years at Südzucker, including almost 20 years as a member of the executive board, we respect Mr. Kölbl's decision with great regret. We are grateful for his many years of dedicated and trustful service," said Stefan Streng, chairman of Südzucker AG's supervisory board, in a statement.

"With his excellent judgment and farsightedness, he has certainly led the company through very difficult phases. Südzucker owes a great deal of progress to him, whereby – in addition to the prospects for the people in the company – stability and risk-bearing capacity were always his top priorities."

After holding various positions at Südzucker AG, Kölbl has been a executive board member since June 2004. He is currently responsible for controlling, finance, investor relations, legal affairs, purchasing, real estate, insurance and taxes.

“I work for our Südzucker with great pleasure and commitment. Having reached the age of 61, I have come to the firm conclusion that it is a good time for our company in the current environment, as well as for me and my family, to pass the baton in the financial area into younger hands,” he said.

AUSTRIA: Agrana obtains validation from SBTi to its greenhouse gas reduction targets

Agrana announced on Sept. 13 that non-governmental organization Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) has concluded its audit of the company’s climate goals and officially confirmed that these are in line with the 1.5°C target defined by the Paris Climate Agreement, reports Sugaronline.

“We are delighted about the recognition of our climate targets and also regard this as an affirmation of our comprehensive climate strategy. This means that we are the first food producer in Austria to have validated emission-reduction targets,” said Norbert Harringer, board member responsible for raw materials, operations and sustainability at Agrana, via statement.

The company plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions along the entire value chain (Scope 1+2+3) by more than 30% and emissions associated with its production activities (Scope 1+2) by half by 2030/31, compared to 2019/20.

“In addition, we will also reduce our production-related emissions to net zero by 2040 and those along the entire value chain to net zero by 2050”, said Harringer.

Besides ongoing efforts to improve energy efficiency and a green electricity package at the company’s 55 sites worldwide, Agrana’s climate strategy includes exploiting the energy contained in protein-depleted residual materials instead of natural gas from 2026/27.

The company plans to invest around EUR470 million (US\$505.2 million) to reduce Scope 1+2 emissions by 2040.

Emissions associated with Agrana’s business operations amounted to around 5.1 million metric tonnes of CO2 equivalent in the base year 2019/20. Around 80% of Agrana’s greenhouse gas emissions originate from the upstream and downstream value chain, with around 80% of these again attributable to the cultivation of agricultural raw materials.

“In order to reduce these emissions, AGRANA will be focussing on land use for agricultural production and on the impacts of agricultural growing methods. The aim is to collaborate with AGRANA’s suppliers and agricultural partners to develop and implement specific climate-related reduction targets by 2030,” the company said.

SOUTH AFRICA: Agriculture official vows to assist in challenges faced by sugar industry

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Super Zuma told officials of the South African Sugar Association (SASA) on Sept. 13 that he would assist in the challenges faced by the sugar industry, according to IOL.

Zuma said he would be setting up a team to engage with SASA, especially on the challenge of transporting more sugar at a loss, and also in issues involving policies in the sugar sector.

SASA has said that the sugar tax was among the other challenges highlighted during Zuma's visit.

The association estimates the sugar industry in the country has lost ZAR1.2 billion (US\$63.8 million) a year since the levy's implementation.

INDIA: Maharashtra sugar output set to fall to lowest level in 4 years

Sugar production in India's Maharashtra state is expected to fall to its lowest level in four years in 2023/24, according to Reuters, citing industry and government officials.

Sugar production in India's largest sugar-producing state is expected to decline by 14% in 2023/24 due to lower cane yields, impacted by dry weather.

The president of the West Indian Sugar Mills Association, B.B. Thombare, said Maharashtra could produce 9 million metric tonnes of sugar in 2023/24.

TANZANIA: TEMDO designs mini sugar mill technology

Tanzania Engineering and Manufacturing Design Organisation (TEMDO) has developed a mini sugar processing plant that can crush 200 metric tonnes of sugarcane a day and produce 20 tonnes of sugar, according to Daily News.

The company has closed an agreement with the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) to promote the technology and help address the country's sugar deficit.

TEMDO has the capacity to produce four mini sugar processing plants per year, which are suitable for small sugar producers, especially farmers, according to director general Frederick Kahimba.

The company is manufacturing the first mini sugar plant, which is expected to start sugar production at the end of the year.

BRAZIL: Raízen crushed 57 million T of sugarcane in 2023/24

Raízen has crushed 57 million metric tonnes of sugarcane so far in the current 2023/24 season, out of a minimum of 80 million tonnes expected to be processed this cycle, according to Reuters.

The company's chief executive officer (CEO), Ricardo Mussa, said that if weather conditions are favorable for sugarcane processing in the coming months, Raízen will be able to crush more than 80 million tonnes this season.

Raízen estimated in mid-August a volume of 80-83 million tonnes of sugarcane to be crushed in the 2023/24 season.

GUYANA: President says government will cover amount owed by GuySuCo with BoG

President Irfaan Ali announced Sept. 9 that the government will pay the outstanding GYD420 million (US\$2 million) owed by the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) to the Bank of Guyana, according to Stabroek News.

The value is related to the Sugar Trading Enterprise Pension Scheme (STEPS).

The president said he would seek information on the matter with the Ministry of Finance and GuySuCo.

HUNGARY: Magyar Cukor to process 900,000 T of sugarbeets in 2023

Sugar producer Magyar Cukor, owned by Austria’s Agrana, plans to process around 900,000 metric tonnes of sugar beet this year, according to the Budapest Business Journal, citing state news wire MTI.

The sales and marketing director of Magyar Cukor, Gergely Kovács, said on Sept. 8 that yields are expected to be over 60 tonnes per hectare. The total planted area this year is 60% larger than last year’s, at 13,651 hectares.

CANADA: Alberta Sugar Beet Growers expects higher yields in 2023

The executive director of Alberta Sugar Beet Growers (ASBG), Jennifer Crowson, expects sugarbeet yields this year to surpass last year’s despite fewer acres planted and low precipitation, according to The Western Producer.

There are 26,000 planted acres this year compared to the usual 28,000 acres. Some growers decided to plant other crops due to a late contract between beet farmers and the Taber-based Lantic sugar refinery.

Sugarbeet grower and board vice-president of ASBG, Cory VandenElzen, said above-average yields are expected as the crop heads into the mid-September to October harvesting season.

FoodNavigator.com

California bill banning popular food additives moves to governor’s desk, excludes TiO2



California legislators this week passed a closely-watched and controversial bill that if signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom would ban in the state the sale of foods and beverages including four popular food additives but not – notably – the colorant titanium dioxide.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/09/13/california-bill-banning-popular-food-additives-moves-to-governor-s-desk-excludes-tio2>

Is the EU stepping away from commitments to sustainable food systems and animal welfare?



In her 2023 State of the Union address this week, EC President von der Leyen made no reference to the Sustainable Food System law nor animal welfare. With some stakeholders fearing they’ve been dropped, we asked the Commission to weigh in.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/09/14/is-the-eu-stepping-away-from-commitments-to-sustainable-food-systems-and-animal-welfare>
