



International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(24)13
(English only)**

6 March 2024

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

MALAWI: Illovo Malawi launches solar-powered irrigation

Illovo Sugar Malawi, in collaboration with USAID's Feed the Future Agricultural Diversification Activity program, has launched solar-powered irrigation schemes aimed at increasing crop diversification for 321 farmers in Chikwawa, according to BNN.

The partnership will provide water for irrigation, agronomic advice and technical support to farmers. They will also have the opportunity to cultivate crops including sugar beans and cotton, alongside maize.

ZAMBIA: Zambia Sugar to supply electricity to ZESCO to boost power generation

Electricity company ZESCO has signed a power supply agreement with Zambia Sugar to boost the country's power generation in the coming years, according to BNN.

Zambia Sugar, which will contribute to the country's power grid, has plans to increase power generation capacity from 40 to 100 megawatts within the next three years. Excess power will be sold to ZESCO to boost supply to the national electricity grid.

EUROPE: Sugar users request "balanced approach" on EU-Ukraine sugar trade

CIUS, the association representing European sugar-using food and beverage industries, has called for a "balanced approach" regarding the EU-Ukraine sugar trade, adding that European cultivation of sugar beets has for years been insufficient to supply European consumers and industry, reports Sugaronline.

The association said the European Parliament's AGRI Committee's recommendations for the adjustment to the reference years for triggering the "emergency safeguard measure" to cap sugar imports would mean slashing sugar imports from Ukraine to 40,000 tonnes per year.

CIUS said the EU annual sugar import need is between 2 million and 3.5 million tonnes of sugar each year, while imports from Ukraine in the marketing year 2022/2023 totaled 400,000 tonnes. The European Commission's proposal would cut them to 140,000 tonnes.

"CIUS understands the farmer's fears of a crash in prices as a result of increased imports. However the facts are that for sugar the opposite has been the case over the last two years when both imports and prices have gone up," the association said in a statement on March 5.

"We have at no point been able to see any harm resulting from white sugar imports from Ukraine. On the contrary, these imports have provided much needed revenue to the Ukrainian economy and supply of sugar to European food producers," said Yury Sharanov, President of CIUS.

The association said that EU sugar prices have more or less doubled over the last couple years, and that slashing imports from Ukraine will pose challenges to food production, employment, and the broader economy in both the EU and Ukraine.

“To introduce an earlier reference period would cut imports even more than under the Commission’s proposal, with no credible justification. The EU has a chronic sugar deficit, so imports from Ukraine are needed and provide a vital contribution to the European food industry and economy.” it said.

“We ask members of the INTA Committee, to consider the position of European sugar users when voting on March 7th.”

SOUTH AFRICA: RCL Foods reports 52.6% rise in earnings amid high sugar prices

RCL Foods reported on March 4 a 52.6% rise in its headline earnings in the six month period ended in December 2023, to ZAR723 million (US\$37.9 million), amid a strong performance of its sugar and Rainbow chicken businesses, reports Sugaronline.

“Despite lower crop yields, the Sugar business unit had a strong performance largely due to higher local and export prices and savings generated by Best-in-Class initiatives,” the company said in its earnings report.

The higher price of local sugar and strong export pricing more than offset the impact of lower local sales, reduced raw sugar exports and lower production throughput.

RCL Foods’ revenue rose 8.4% in the six months to December 2023, to ZAR20.1 billion (US\$1.05 billion).

ED & F Man Daily

United States relying on high tier imports, exporting to Mexico - ECRUU - The US will have to rely on high tier sugar imports to keep the stocks to use ratio in the targeted range of 13.5-14.5% this year, because of the poor Mexican crop, an official at the USDA said. The ratio would be 8.6% without high tier imports, an expert estimated. Otherwise, the US should export 160,000 short tons, raw value, (145,150mt) of sugar in 2024, the highest in 6 years, the USDA said. About 88% of exports will go to Mexico, it added.

Food Navigator.com

Incredo Sugar G2 provides versatility across categories



Foodtech company Incredo expands its sugar reduction solutions with the launch of Incredo Sugar G2, a concentrated version of its clean label, protein-sucrose blend Incredo Sugar made from cane and/or beet sugar and a dairy- or plant-based protein to enhance perceived sweetness in baked goods, chocolates, spreads and gummies, Kelly Thompson, company co-CEO and commercial head, told FoodNavigator-USA.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/03/05/incredo-sugar-g2-provides-versatility-across-categories>

Ultra-processed food linked to 32 poor health outcomes in largest study to date



We ask lead author Melissa M Lane where she stands on the ultra-processed food debate.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/03/05/ultra-processed-food-linked-to-mortality-in-largest-upf-study-to-date>

Irish Country Magazine



Global Sugar production and the sad history of Irish sugar is a complex subject, often producing more questions than answers. See full article here: [irish country living feb24.pdf](#)

Evening Standard

Six cans of artificially sweetened drinks a week could raise risk of heart condition



[Drinks](#) containing artificial [sweeteners](#) could increase the risk of developing a [heart](#) condition by a fifth, according to a study.

An analysis of data from more than 200,000 UK adults found that people who drank more than two litres of artificially sweetened drinks – the equivalent of six standard 330ml cans – in a week were 20 per cent more likely to develop an irregular heart rhythm known as atrial fibrillation.

The drinks contained sweeteners such as sucralose, aspartame, saccharin or acesulfame which are commonly used as a [sugar](#) substitute in drinks such as Diet Coke and Fanta Zero.

Atrial fibrillation is a condition in which the heart beats irregularly, increasing the risk of stroke by five-fold. More than 12 million people worldwide are expected to have the condition by 2030.

The Government recommends that adults should consume no more than 30g of sugar a day – the equivalent of seven sugar cubes.

The study also found that beverages with added sugar – such as white sugar, sucrose or syrup – increased the risk of atrial fibrillation by 10 per cent.

But those who consumed a litre of pure juice a week – such as 100 per cent orange juice – had an 8 per cent lower risk of developing the condition, according to the study by the American Heart Association.

Lead study author Dr Ningjian Wang, a researcher at the Shanghai Ninth People’s Hospital, said: “Our study’s findings cannot definitively conclude that one beverage poses more health risk than another due to the complexity of our diets and because some people may drink more than one type of beverage.

“However, based on these findings, we recommend that people reduce or even avoid artificially sweetened and sugar-sweetened beverages whenever possible.”

Commenting on the research, Victoria Taylor, senior dietician at the British Heart Foundation, said that more studies are needed to have a definitive answer on the link between atrial fibrillation and sweetened drinks.

She added: “We already know that diets high in sugar are linked to high calorie diets which can cause weight gain and obesity.

“In turn, this increases the chances of developing type 2 diabetes and heart and circulatory diseases.”