



**International Sugar Organization**

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(24)19  
(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.

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**New Civil Engineer**

**Researchers transform sugarcane by-product into slabs and bricks**

A new low carbon construction material made from sugarcane by-product is emerging as a promising sustainable alternative to concrete and bricks.

Sugarcane is the world’s largest crop by production and bagasse is what is left when sugar juice is extracted from it.

According to international science journal *Industrial Crops and Products*, 513M.t of this dry fibrous material is created globally every year.

In countries such as India, bagasse is being converted into biofuel for low-carbon electricity, but its potential to contribute to global decarbonisation could soon extend to the construction sector. Academics at the University of East London (UEL) are involved in an extremely promising project to create slabs and bricks made from bagasse combined with mineral binders. The product is called Sugarcrete and early test results have already led to pilot projects in sugarcane producing countries including India, Costa Rica and Tanzania.

Following the juice extraction from the sugarcane, the bagasse fibres are a tangled mass and binders are poured onto them to hold them together before they are compressed and moulded to form blocks. Read more: <https://www.newcivilengineer.com/innovative-thinking/researchers-transform-sugarcane-by-product-into-slabs-and-bricks-22-03-2024/>

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**FoodNavigator.com**

**Food security: How can we create resilient food systems for the future?**



The rise of extreme weather events across the globe is posing a major threat to food security. So how can we create more resilient supply chains to ensure food supplies in the future?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/04/08/food-security-how-can-we-create-resilient-food-systems-for-the-future>

**FDA budget request seeks increased oversight of food ingredients, including GRAS compliance, dietary supplement information, warnings of shortages**



FDA is seeking additional authorities and funding in its fiscal 2025 budget request to enhance its oversight – and by extension safety enforcement – of new food ingredients, additives and contact materials as well as dietary supplements.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/04/08/fda-budget-request-seeks-increased-oversight-of-food-ingredients-including-gras-compliance-dietary-supplement-information-warnings-of-shortages>

**Organic alternative to chemical pesticides discovered**



Scientists believe they've found an organic solution to chemical pesticides.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/04/09/organic-alternative-to-chemical-pesticides-discovered>

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**Sugaronline Ebriefing**

**UZBEKISTAN: Ministry says country should not be impacted by Russia's temporary export ban**

Uzbekistan's Ministry of Agriculture has said the country should not be impacted by Russia's temporary ban on sugar exports, according to UZ Daily.

The Ministry said raw materials for its sugar production come mainly from Brazil and India, which accounts for 98% of the total volume.

He said that Uzbekistan has sufficient domestic capacity for sugar production. Local sugar producers Angren Shakar and Khorazm Shakar produce more than 900,000 metric tonnes of sugar per year, more than the local demand of 650,000–700,000 tonnes.

**BELARUS: Sugarbeet harvest seen at 5.2 million T this year**

Belarus' Agriculture and Food minister Sergei Bartosh has told the Belarus 1 TV channel that the country plans to harvest 5.1 million-5.2 million metric tonnes of sugarbeets this year, according to BelTa.

He said this volume of sugarbeets is needed to keep processing units in the country "busy."

Bartosh also said the country plans to harvest at least 9.1 million tonnes of grain.

**FRANCE: Government allows farmers to use more pesticides on sugarbeets**

France's deputy agriculture minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher has said farmers in the country would be allowed to use more pesticides in their sugarbeet crops this year due to a higher risk of aphids, which transmit yellows disease, according to France Bleu Nord radio.

Beet growers will be allowed to use the Movento pesticide up to five times a year compared to two currently. Three applications will be allowed from the start, and two additional applications if needed in case aphids are still present.

**US: Czarnikow says closure of Texas sugar mill could lead to sugar TRQ increase**

The closure of the last operating sugar mill in Texas, owned by the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers (RGVSG), could lead to an increase in the volume of sugar imported under the lower tariff-rate quota (TRQ), according to Czarnikow, reports Sugaronline.

The mill, which is closing due to intense droughts that have slashed yields in the region, produced around 44,000 metric tonnes of sugar per year.

"It would be little surprise if the US announces another TRQ increase in late 2024 or early 2025 to compensate for the lost production of around 40,000 tonnes," analyst Adrian Torrebiarte said in a report published April 9.

**US: Michigan Sugar plans to start operations of new desugarization facility in May**

Michigan Sugar Company plans to start operations of its new molasses desugarization facility in May, the company said in a post on its Facebook page on March 26, reports Sugaronline.

"When the 22,000-square-foot facility is up and running beginning in May, Michigan Sugar Company will have the capacity to process 100% of the molasses produced as a byproduct of the sugar extraction process," the company said.

The desugarization of all of the molasses will allow Michigan Sugar to produce additional 80 million pounds of pure, all-natural sugar annually without planting another acre of sugarbeets.

Michigan Sugar Company has the capacity to extract additional sugar from 60% of its molasses. Once the new facility is completed, Michigan Sugar expects to process as much as 650 tonnes of molasses daily, compared to 325 tonnes per day currently.

The company said that 99% of the mechanical work in the new facility has been completed and electrical and insulation were closely following the schedule.

The desugarization plant was first announced in 2021, with a total investment of more than US\$65 million.

**EU Parliament and Council agree on deal to extend trade agreement with Ukraine**

The European Parliament and Council presidency on April 8 approved a provisional agreement to extend the suspension of import duties and quotas on Ukrainian agricultural exports to the European Union for another year, establishing safeguards to imports of some sensitive products, reports Sugaronline.

EU member states' representatives (Coreper) also confirmed the provisional deal later in the day.

The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade is invited to confirm the outcome of the interinstitutional negotiations on April 9, according to a statement released by the European Council.

The Parliament's position at first reading is then expected to be adopted at the second plenary session in April.

The approved provisional agreement sets safeguard measures to protect EU farmers, with an emergency brake that can be triggered for sensitive agricultural products, namely poultry, eggs, sugar, oats, groats, maize, and honey.

Negotiators agreed to extend the reference period used as a base for triggering this automatic safeguard. Therefore, if imports of these products surpass the average of import volumes recorded in the second half of 2021, and all of 2022 and 2023, tariffs would be re-imposed.

The Commission also commits to step up its monitoring of imports of grain, in particular wheat.

The co-legislators also endorsed a commitment by the Commission to discuss permanent tariff liberalisation with Ukraine under the review process of the Association Agreement as soon as the legislative procedure on the temporary liberalisation is completed, and to keep the Parliament closely involved in the process.

**INDIA: Sugar industry clears 87% of 2023/24 cane payments to farmers**

India's sugar industry has cleared 87% of the total sugarcane payment to farmers in the 2023/24 season, as of March 31, according to Press Trust of India (PTI).

Sugar mills in the country have paid INR780 billion (US\$9.4 billion) to sugarcane farmers in the first six months of the current marketing year, according to the report citing a food ministry official.

**PAKISTAN: USDA forecasts 2024/25 sugar production to rise 3% to 6.8 million T**

Pakistan's sugar production in 2024/25 is expected to increase 3% from 2023/24 to 6.8 million metric tonnes, due to a slight expansion in cane area and production, according to the US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) post in Islamabad, reports Sugaronline.

Sugarcane production should reach 83.5 million tonnes, 3% above the 2023/24 estimate.

"During the last two years, the government sharply increased sugarcane support prices, providing a strong incentive for growers to increase sugarcane planting," the FAS post said in a recent report.

Pakistan's government is expected to increase the minimum support price (MSP) in 2024/25 again to keep pace with production costs, underpinning the forecast for output expansion.

Local sugar consumption is forecast to increase slightly to 6.6 million tonnes in 2024/25 due to population growth and demand from the food processing sector.