


International Sugar Organization

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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
MEXICO: Sugar production at 4.17 million T by April 27

Sugar production in Mexico so far this season has reached 4.17 million metric tonnes, as of April 27, around 691,092 tonnes less than in the same period in the previous season, per data from the national confederation of rural producers CNPR, according to El Sol de Córdoba.

A total of 41.08 million tonnes of sugarcane were crushed, a decline of 3.26 million tonnes from one year earlier.

In Veracruz state, 800,567 tonnes of sugarcane were crushed and 83,567 tonnes of sugar were produced.

ITALY: Sugar tax on soft drinks to be imposed from July

A sugar tax on soft drinks in Italy is set to be imposed from July, with reduced rates for the first two years, according to L'Unione Sarda.

The president of Italy's beverage producers' association Assobibe, Giangiacomo Pierini, said the industry had asked the government to identify solutions for postponing the measure that he said would increase inflation, penalise citizens and undermine businesses, according to the news report.

He said the tax could result in a 16% decline in sales, reduce investment by EUR46 million (US\$49.5 million), and put 5,000 jobs at risk.

URUGUAY: ALUR starts 2024 cane crushing season

Uruguayan agro-industrial company Alcoholes del Uruguay (ALUR) has started operations for the new sugarcane crushing season, expecting to harvest 527,000 metric tonnes of sugarcane, according to El Observador.

In 2023, the company crushed 540,000 tonnes of sugarcane harvested from 7,200 hectares. In 2022, the company crushed 524,000 tonnes of sugarcane produced in 6,900 hectares, according to the news report.

ZIMBABWE: Local sugarcane production is enough to supply demand – expert

Zimbabwe Sugar Association Experiment Station senior agriculture and industrial research chemist Washington Mutatu said there was enough sugarcane ready to be harvested in the country and supply local consumption, addressing concerns over shortages, according to The Herald.

He said exports would not strip supply to the local market since Zimbabwe's sugar production cost is high, making the sugar produced in the country uncompetitive.

US: WASDE estimates higher US sugar production, imports from Mexico in 2024/25

Sugar production in the United States is estimated to increase to 9.23 million short tonnes, raw value (STRV) in 2024/25, compared to 9.13 million in 2023/24, according to the latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE), reports Sugaronline.

Beet sugar production for 2024/25 is projected at 5.11 million STRV, compared to 5.09 million in 2023/24.

"National sugarbeet yield is projected at a robust 31.52 tonnes/acre due to a high proportion of sugarbeets planted as of May 5," said the [WASDE report](#) released May 11.

Total cane sugar production is seen at 4.12 million STRV in 2024/25, based on recent yield trends under the assumption of normal weather and some area expansion in Louisiana. For 2023/24, cane sugar production is expected to be 4.03 million STRV.

The US is expected to import a total 3.03 million STRV of sugar in 2024/25, lower than the 3.44 million STRV projected for 2023/24. "Imports for 2023/24 are increased 22,597 STRV on a decrease in TRQ shortfall due to more sugar expected to enter from the Philippines," according to the report.

TRQ imports for 2024/25 are projected at 1.41 million STRV, compared to 1.79 million in 2023/24.

Imports from Mexico should rise to 1.197 million STRV in 2024/25, from 497,000 STRV in 2023/24.

Mexico is expected to increase sugar production to 5.19 million metric tonnes in 2024/25, from 4.65 million in 2023/24. "Yield and recovery are expected to be closer to historical trend and area harvested will be more than in 2023/24 but likely far below the 800,000-hectare level initially forecast for recent years."

US ending stocks in 2024/25 are estimated at 1.46 million STRV.

AUSTRIA: Agrana reports 24% rise in revenue in Sugar segment due to higher prices

Agrana said on May 14 that revenue in its Sugar segment increased 24.3% in the 2023/24 financial year to EUR1.07 billion (US\$1.2 billion) due to higher sales prices in both the reseller business (wholesalers and retailers) and in the industrial sector, reports Sugaronline.

"The Sugar segment significantly improved its capacity utilisation and increased its sugar production volume from the year before. In spite of a decline in sugar sales volume due to increased imports from Ukraine, the sugar business was satisfactory," said Agrana chief executive officer (CEO) Stephan Büttner in a statement.

The company said increased competition from Ukraine affected especially the Romanian, Hungarian and Bulgarian sugar markets. "To offset significantly lower sales volumes in the home markets, export activities were intensified," the company said.

Operating profit (EBIT) in the Sugar segment decreased 13.3% to EUR40.4 million (US\$43.7 million) due to "significant lost sales" and a smaller profit contribution by the Agrana-Studen joint venture than one year earlier.

Agrana's consolidated revenue, considering all business segments, grew by 4.1% in the 2023/24 financial year to EUR3.8 billion. Operating profit was EUR151 million (US\$163.3 million), 71% above the prior year.

Agrana said it has been facing an increasingly challenging business environment since the fourth quarter of 2023/24 and is forecasting significantly lower EBIT for the 2024/25 financial year. "This earnings decline will already become evident in the first quarter of 2024/25. Group revenue is projected to show a slight reduction for the full year."

SOUTH AFRICA: Experts say downward trend in cane production requires action

South Africa's sugar production has shown a downward trend in recent years, which requires improved cultivation practices and research efforts, according to Food for Mzansi.

Plant breeder at the South African Sugarcane Research Institute (SASRI), Tumo Makhetha, said the institute's research and development efforts focus on creating new cane varieties, introducing specific disease resistances.

Soil scientist at Green Cape, Sixolise Mcinga, said choosing the most suitable sugarcane variety is crucial for maximising yield and minimising losses.

UK: HSE issues emergency authorisation for non-cruiser treated beet crops

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) granted on May 9 an emergency authorisation for an additional aphid spray for non-cruiser SB treated beet crops, reports Sugaronline.

The emergency authorisation allows a second foliar spray of 'InSyst' on sugar beet crops to aid control of the peach-potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*) and prevent virus yellows infection.

The authorisation is valid only for non-Cruiser SB treated crops.

Growers must record and submit information about the application to British Sugar by Aug. 30, including the date and location of any second application and the number of hectares treated in accordance with the emergency authorisation.

They should also present information on aphid counts and crop growth stages at the time of the decision, and the basis of the decision making on whether to apply foliar spray during the susceptible growth stage period, including any third foliar application.

FoodNavigator.com

'Healthy longevity' trend: The food and drink potential



As ageing population numbers rise in Europe, an opportunity is opening in food and beverage. How can industry best tap into the 'healthy longevity' trend?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/05/13/longevity-and-healthy-ageing-the-food-and-drink-potential>

ECRUU Sugar News Monitor

RUSSIA - Consumption recovering

Sugar consumption in Russia dropped at the end of 2023, but is recovering and is currently around 5.85 million mt/year, according to Sugar.ru. The country should have a comfortable 740,000mt in ending stocks, the agency added.

(Sugar.ru)

PHILIPPINES - Govt worried about artificial sweetener

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) noted that sodium cyclamate was increasingly used as an alternative to sugar. However, the agency warned that the product was often smuggled, while it is unclear which agency should regulate it.

([Manila Bulletin](#))
