


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
EUROPE: European Commission approves Bunge and Viterra merger

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed acquisition of Viterra Limited by Bunge Global, according [to a statement](#) on Aug. 1, reports Sugaronline.

The approval is conditional upon full compliance with the commitments offered by the parties. The Commission's investigation showed that the acquisition, as initially notified, would have reduced competition in the markets for oilseeds and related products. To address the Commission's competition concerns, the parties offered to divest the entirety of Viterra's oilseed businesses in Hungary and Poland and a number of logistical assets linked to these operations. "These commitments fully address the competition concerns identified by the Commission, by removing the horizontal overlaps and vertical links between the parties' oilseed businesses in the concerned territories," the EC said in a statement.

"Following the positive feedback received during the market test, the Commission concluded that the transaction, as modified by the commitments, would no longer raise competition concerns." Bunge and Viterra announced the merger [in June 2023](#).

FIJI: Ministry of Sugar says consultants will conduct study on the sugar industry

Fiji's Ministry of Sugar Industry has welcomed two Food and Agriculture consultants who will conduct a study on the sugar industry and provide a report to the government, according to Fiji Village.

The study will help develop a strategic plan, policy and institutional framework to address the industry's challenges.

Minister for Sugar Industry Charan Jeath Singh said the initiative would explore the feasibility of establishing a new sugar refinery and expanding energy generation capacity.

NIGERIA: Coca-Cola says its packaging is in line with national requirements

The Coca-Cola system in Nigeria has said it is committed to transparency and believes it "complied with all regulations," after the country's competition agency accused it of [misleading trading descriptions](#) and unfair marketing tactics, according to Arise and Brand Crunch.

"Coca-Cola Nigeria provides clear, accessible nutrition information on our packaging in line with national regulatory requirements and is committed to transparency for consumers," Coca-Cola Nigeria [said in a statement](#).

“We strongly believe that the Coca-Cola System in Nigeria has complied with all regulations and look forward to the opportunity to bring this topic to closure.”

TANZANIA: Government plans to double sugar output by 2030

Tanzania’s president Samia Suluhu Hassan said on Aug. 3 that the country plans to double its total sugar production to one million metric tonnes by 2030, according to The Citizen. Tanzania’s local sugar demand is 650,000 tonnes. The country plans to produce 550,000 tonnes of sugar this year, 750,000 tonnes by the 2025/26 fiscal year and one million tonnes in 2030. Hassan said Mtibwa Sugar invested to increase production from 15,000 tonnes in 2017 to 80,000 tonnes in the 2024/25 financial year.

FoodNavigator.com

Cutting sugar in drinks with ‘the most illicit plant in the world’



An ingredient developed from coca, considered amongst the most illicit and stigmatised plants on the planet, can cut sugar in beverages by up to 40%.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/07/30/power-leaves-sugar-reduction-with-coca>

Food as medicine, waste reduction efforts could face headwinds following presidential election – prompting calls for fast action in coming months



Some legislators worry general political discord and uncertainty about the presidential election could aggravate food insecurity in the US and threaten investments in food as medicine as well as other initiatives and pledges made at the historic White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health held nearly two years ago.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/07/26/food-as-medicine-waste-reduction-efforts-could-face-headwinds-following-presidential-election>

Mondelēz counters snacking softness in US with lower-priced packs, promos & increased distribution in value channels



Cookie and confection giant Mondelez International plans to implement new targeted promotions, introduce lower-priced pack sizes and increase distribution in value-oriented club and convenience stores to counter volume declines in North America that directly correlate with price hikes amid sticky inflation, executives announced yesterday.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/07/31/Mondelez-counters-snacking-softness-in-US-with-lower-priced-packs-promos-increased-distribution-in-value-channels>

Unilever aims to grow through volume, not price



Unilever’s half-year results showed a decline in pricing growth due to deflation in some markets. Instead, the company wants to grow through volume.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/07/31/unilever-aims-to-grow-through-volume-not-price>

Interest in weight-loss drugs ‘turbo-charged’ food as medicine, but is the industry ready?



The buzz around weight-loss drugs has “turbo-charged” the food as medicine movement creating opportunities and challenges for which one expert warns the food industry is unprepared to address, resulting in far more “losers” than “winners” – but he added strategies, such as collaboration, could help tip the scales for long term success.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/07/31/interest-in-weight-loss-drugs-turbo-charged-food-as-medicine-but-is-the-industry-ready>

The building backlash against ultra-processed food for children



As the high prevalence of UPFs in children’s food comes under scrutiny, both authorities and manufacturers face mounting pressure to act.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/08/02/The-building-backlash-against-ultra-processed-food-for-children>

Gluten-free is gaining popularity and sales are quickly rising



Food and beverage manufacturers are embracing the consumer trend towards going gluten-free. But just how powerful, and profitable, is it?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/07/23/Gluten-free-products-gaining-popularity>

ECRUU Sugar News Monitor

THAILAND - Producer sees good crop, new mill to start this season

Thailand's cane output should recover to 90-100 million mt in 2024/25, according to an official from Khon Kaen Sugar (KSL), who added that their own cane production would be up by 20% on year. Their new mill will start operating in December, he said. ([Info Quest](#) & [Head Topics](#))

CANADA - Most drinkers ignores sugar tax

A survey conducted by the Canadian Beverage Association found that 70% of shoppers did not change their buying habits after the introduction of a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages in 2022. ([VOCM](#))

WORLD - Low sugar drinks sales to keep rising

The sale of low-calorie and no-calorie drinks will gain 9.15 billion L by 2028, while the products already accounted for 14.4% of global drinks sales in 2023, according to GlobalData. The agency said the trend was due to regulations, consumer preference and industry reformulation. ([ESM Magazine](#))

Sugaronline Ebriefing

UK: Competition authority provisionally clears T&L Sugars purchase of Tereos UK & Ireland's retail sugar business

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) announced on Aug. 6 that it has decided to provisionally clear the deal announced by T&L Sugars Limited (TLS) in November 2023 to buy Tereos UK & Ireland's retail sugar business, reports Sugaronline.

The CMA decided to provisionally approve the deal after an independent inquiry group found that, without the deal going ahead, the most likely outcome is that Tereos' UK retail business would close.

"Since closure would also result in a loss of competition absent the merger, the panel has provisionally decided to clear the deal," the CMA said [in a statement](#).

The CMA welcomes responses from interested parties to its provisional findings by Aug. 27 before making a final decision about the deal. A final report is scheduled to be released by Sept. 5.

The inquiry group found that Tereos' UK retail business has been loss-making for a sustained period despite a wide range of efforts by Tereos to improve its financial performance.

Tereos began a sales process for the business in late 2022, and the evidence showed that there was no other alternative and less anti-competitive purchaser for the business besides TLS.

"We have carefully considered a broad range of evidence, including detailed examination of the financial performance of Tereos' UK retail business, and the steps taken by Tereos to improve its performance," said the chair of the independent inquiry group carrying the investigation, Richard Feasey.

"Based on this evidence, we have provisionally found that the most likely outcome is that Tereos' UK retail business would have closed, absent the deal with TLS and on this basis we have provisionally decided to approve the merger."

TLS is a sugar producer which refines and distributes sugar and related products, including under the Tate and Lyle brand, to supermarkets and other businesses such as grocery wholesalers, hotels and cafes in the UK.

Tereos' UK retail business (known as its 'business to consumer' business) sources sugar from its parent company, Tereos, and uses a facility in Normanton (West Yorkshire) as a packing and distribution site to sell packed sugar in the UK, including under the Whitworths brand.

AUSTRALIA: SRA working on project to improve cane and sugar productivity

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (HCPSL) are working to roll out a project aimed at helping boost cane and sugar productivity in the Herbert Region over the next 24 months, according [to a statement](#) released by SRA.

"The emphasis of the project is on one-on-one extension with the grower, taking place on farm," said SRA District manager Northern Phil-Anthony Patane, in a statement released by SRA on July 29.

"Growers must be able to commit to being involved in the project for the next two years and pay an initial upfront fee of \$500, which will be redeemable for customised soil, leaf and disease assays and EM soil surveys."

Farmers will also be required to provide a range of farm records during the project.

Participating growers will receive one-on-one expert agronomic advice and support, a comprehensive farm visit from a project team member, a customised farm action plan to address key productivity constraints, and a tailored whole-of-farm Nutrient Management Plan, including opportunities to refine nutrient inputs for specific circumstances.

Growers will also have access to a range of soil, crop and disease diagnostic services, an ElectroMagnetic (EM) soil survey to support soil constraints identification and to inform soil sampling strategies, and participation in training programs.

A similar project got underway in June in the southern sugarcane regions of Maryborough and Isis.

BRAZIL: Competition authority approves BP'S acquisition of bioenergy JV

Brazil's competition authority Cade has approved BP's acquisition of Bunge's stake in the bioenergy joint venture BP Bunge Bioenergia, according to a decision published in the [official gazette](#) on Aug. 5, reports Sugaronline.

Bunge said [on June 20](#) that it had entered into definitive agreements to sell its 50% share in BP Bunge Bioenergia to its joint venture partner BP.

BP Bunge Bioenergia, a joint venture formed in 2019, combined both companies' Brazilian

bioenergy and sugarcane ethanol businesses with 11 mills located across Brazil's southeast, north, and midwest regions.

ED & F Man Daily

- **India's monsoon seen bringing above-average rain in August, September -** Reuters - India is set to receive monsoon rainfall that is above the average as a La Nina weather pattern forms in August and September, a top weather official said on Thursday, promising to boost farm output and growth in Asia's third-biggest economy. The lifeblood of a nearly \$3.5-trillion economy, the annual monsoon brings almost 70% of the rain India needs to water farms and replenish reservoirs and aquifers. Without irrigation, nearly half the farmland in the world's second-biggest producer of rice, wheat and sugar depends on the rains that usually run from June to September. A La Nina weather pattern is likely to develop by the end of August or early September, bringing higher rainfall, said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director-general of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
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