



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

US: Study finds that erythritol may raise cardiovascular risk

Consuming foods with erythritol, a popular artificial sweetener, may increase the risk of cardiovascular events such as heart attack and stroke, according to new research by the Cleveland Clinic.

In an intervention study in healthy volunteers, researchers found that erythritol made platelets more active, which can raise the risk of blood clots. Sugar (glucose) did not have this effect. The study, published in [Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology](#), “adds to increasing evidence that erythritol may not be as safe as currently classified by food regulatory agencies and should be reevaluated as an ingredient,” according to [a statement released](#) by the Cleveland Clinic.

The research study was conducted by a team of Cleveland Clinic researchers as part of a series of investigations on the physiological effects of common sugar substitutes.

“Many professional societies and clinicians routinely recommend that people at high cardiovascular risk – those with obesity, diabetes or metabolic syndrome – consume foods that contain sugar substitutes rather than sugar,” said senior and corresponding author Stanley Hazen, M.D., Ph.D., chair of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Sciences in Cleveland Clinic’s Lerner Research Institute and co-section head of Preventive Cardiology.

“These findings underscore the importance of further long-term clinical studies to assess the cardiovascular safety of erythritol and other sugar substitutes.”

ZIMBABWE: Sugar industry says country will have enough sugar for domestic market

The Zimbabwe Sugar Association chairman Willard Zireva has said that the industry will produce enough sugar to supply the domestic market, despite drought due to El Niño, according to The Chronicle.

He said sugar currently on sale in the domestic market was produced from last season’s cane crops, which ended in December.

Major dams supplying water to irrigate sugarcane crops in Lowveld also have enough water for at least the next two seasons, he added.

PHILIPPINES: SRA expects slow start for new cane-crushing season

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) administrator Pablo Azcona expects a slow start for the new crushing season set to start on Sept. 15, according to Digicast Negros.

Some sugar mills said sugarcane is not going to be ready for harvest due to impacts of the drought caused by El Niño and requested for a start of the season on Oct. 1.

Azcona said production in the new season may be in line with the previous crop's level but delayed by up to two months because of the impacts of El Niño.

BRAZIL: CTC posts 8% rise in net profit in 1Q 2024/25

Brazilian sugarcane biotechnology company Centro de Tecnologia Canavieira (CTC) had a net profit of BRL35.8 million (US\$6.45 million) in the first quarter of the 2024/25 season, up 8.3% from the same period last year, amid an improvement in the product mix and sales of higher value-added cane varieties, reports Sugaronline.

Net revenue increased 8.9% to BRL95.1 million (US\$17.1 million), according to the company's earnings report released Aug. 8. EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) reached BRL50 million (US\$9 million), up 17.3% from one year earlier.

Total investment in research and development (R&D) increased by 9.9% to BRL46.6 million (US\$8.4 million).

"Our team remains committed to our strategic goal of doubling sugarcane productivity by 2040. With the end of the 2023/24 harvest, the first quarter saw significant progress in key research areas, such as the pre-launch of five new clones and advances in 11 second-generation biotechnology projects. We are also optimistic about the results obtained by our artificial sugarcane seed project," said chief executive officer (CEO) Cesar Barros in a statement.

He said the company gained two percentage points in market share in the Brazilian sugarcane crop, with the new CTC sugarcane varieties accounting for more than 70% of the total planted area.

ROMANIA: Sugar producer will invest to increase production capacity

Zahar Premium, the Romanian sugar producer that took over sugar factory Ludus from Tereos in 2023, plans to invest RON129 million (US\$28.3 million) to increase production capacity in three years, according to Romania Insider, citing local website Economica.

The company has received a state grant to cover 48% of the total investment.

Zahar Premium's co-owner Mihaela Neagu said the company will be able to contract more beets from farmers in the region, estimating 11,000-12,000 hectares in total, compared to 8,700 hectares currently.

INDIA: Government considering plan to blend 5% ethanol in diesel – news report

India's government is considering a plan to blend 5% ethanol in diesel, according to Times of India, citing unnamed sources.

The proposal aims to reduce crude oil import costs and enhance environmental benefits.

According to the news report, 500-hour tests of ethanol-blended diesel on buses conducted by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) in 2018/19 reported no major failures and found that fuel consumption was slightly lower than that of regular diesel.

INDIA: Minister urges mills to explore alternative sources for ethanol output

India's Cooperation minister Amit Shah on Aug. 10 urged sugar mills to explore alternative sources for ethanol output, and said that India would reach its 20% ethanol blending goal by 2025/26, ahead of the original date target of 2030, according to Press Trust of India.

He said cooperative sugar mills should consider alternative feedstocks such as maize and bamboo for ethanol production. He also highlighted the need for sugar mills to modernise and adopt new technologies, mentioning potential export opportunities with the future establishment of the Global Biofuels Alliance.

FoodNavigator.com

Are kids' food sales declining?



Is the demand for foods, formulated specifically for children, now in decline? And if so, why?
<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/08/13/are-kids-food-sales-declining>

Is the 'shrinkflation' law working in France?



It's hard to be effective when so few retailers are taking heed.
<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/07/11/Is-the-shrinkflation-law-working-in-France>

Soda taxes & school bans: Researchers call for stronger regulations as kids' sugary drink intake increases 23%



Children's sugary drink intake rose 23% between 1990 and 2018, according to a new study published in the BMJ - nearly twice the increase seen among adults. Sounding the alarm, researchers say that interventions such as school soda sales bans have become critical.
<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/08/08/reducing-children-s-soda-consumption-are-sugar-taxes-the-answer>

ED & F Man Daily

Sugar

Thai crop benefits from good rainfall – ECRUU - The Office of the Cane and Sugar Board (OCSB) pegged cane output in 2024/25 at around 92 million mt with an upside, noting that rains were better and that farmers have renewed fields thanks to the high cane price, which should lead to higher yields. Similarly, an analyst noted that the country had received average rainfall in 2024 so far in most cane areas, which was conducive to a cane development. Meanwhile, the industry ministry said that reducing cane burning and using cane waste to generate electricity would help lower emissions.

India Boosts Planting of Rice, Pulses After Better Monsoon Rains – Bloomberg - Sowing of rice and pulses crops has increased in India as monsoon rains have been higher than normal so far in the season. Rice has been planted on about 33.18 million hectares (82 million acres) of land, up 4.3% from a year earlier, the farm ministry said in a statement late on Monday. India is the world's biggest exporter of the food grain. The area allocated to pulses rose to 11.74 million hectares, a rise of 6.7% from a year earlier. Plantings for corn, sugar cane and oilseeds have also increased. Rains have been 6% above normal so far in the monsoon period that runs from June to September, according to the India Meteorological Department. Sowing normally begins in late May and peaks in July, with harvesting typically starting in late September.
