



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(24)57
(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.

FoodNavigator.com

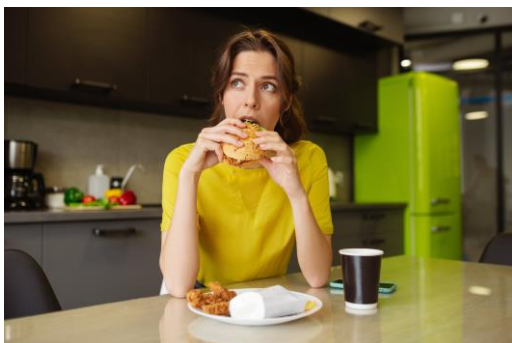
High-fructose corn syrup linked to cancer growth



HFCS is fundamental to current food and beverage production, but could new research linking it to cancer growth change that.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/12/12/high-fructose-corn-syrup-linked-to-cancer-growth/>

UPF lawsuit threat: how likely is one in the EU?



A lawsuit in the US has targeted several large food manufacturers, alleging the products they make are designed to be addictive. Could such a lawsuit occur in Europe?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/12/16/could-a-upf-lawsuit-happen-in-europe/>

Sugaronline Ebriefing

ZIMBABWE: Sugar tax generated US\$30.8 million

Zimbabwe's government has collected US\$30.8 million from the special surtax on sugary beverages since it was implemented on Feb. 9 through November this year, according to Bulawayo 24.

The Finance, Economic Development, and Investment Promotion Ministry confirmed the revenue from the sugar surtax in a letter dated Dec. 13 in response to an inquiry by the Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR). According to the news report, the Ministry didn't provide details on the use of the collected funds.

ZADHR had requested details about the sugar tax funds, including how they were used to finance cancer treatment and related medical expenses.

INDIA: Sugar production down 18% to 6.1 million T by Dec 15 – NFCSF

Sugar mills in India had produced 6.08 million metric tonnes of sugar in the 2024/25 season by Dec. 15, compared to 7.42 million tonnes in the same period in 2023, according to the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF), reports Sugaronline.

A total of 472 sugar factories across India were operational, compared to 501 units last year, according to data released by NFCSF on Dec. 16.

Sugar mills have crushed 71.92 million tonnes of sugarcane so far in 2024/25, around 13.1 million tonnes less than one year earlier.

The average sugar recovery so far this season is 8.46%, compared to 8.72% one year earlier. NFCSF expects sugar mills in the country to produce 28 million tonnes of sugar by the end of the season, compared to a net sugar production of 31.9 million tonnes last season. An additional 4 million tonnes of sugar is expected to be diverted for ethanol production.

NFCSF president Shri Harshvardhan Patil said he expects the government's decisions on the industry's requests for increases in the minimum selling price of sugar and in the purchase price of ethanol in the next two to three weeks.

"However, regarding sugar exports, it is expected that the appropriate decision will be taken at the central government level after reviewing the sugar production at the end of January 2025," he said.

BRAZIL: Tereos' Mandu mill certified to sell ethanol for SAF production

Tereos' Mandu mill, located in Guaíra, São Paulo state, has been certified by ISCC CORSIA, ISCC CORSIA Plus and ISCC EU, enabling it to supply sugarcane-based ethanol for the production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), according to Money Times.

The International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC) guarantees that the ethanol value chain is sustainable within environmental, social and economic criteria.

The CORSIA Plus recognition is granted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and aims to reduce CO2 emissions from the aviation industry. The ISCC EU certification also indicates that the ethanol produced by Tereos meets the requirements of the European Union.

INDONESIA: Ministry preparing areas for ethanol development

Indonesia's Forestry minister Raja Juli Antoni said in a statement on Dec. 15 that the ministry is preparing forest areas to support the president's plan to allocate two million hectares for bioethanol production, according to Antara News.

The ministry is preparing the forest areas, particularly for bioethanol derived from sugar palm trees.

The initiative is part of president Prabowo Subianto's goal to promote food and energy self-sufficiency.

MALAYSIA: 242 drinks have been reformulated following sugar tax

A total of 242 beverage products in Malaysia have been reformulated to reduce the sugar content since the introduction of the sugar tax, according to the Malay Mail.

Responding to senators, Health minister Datuk Seri Dzulkefly Ahmad said producers of sugary drinks have reformulated their products to lower sugar levels to avoid paying the tax.

The sugar tax of 40 sen per litre resulted in a 2.24% increase in price of products, compared to an expected rise of 8.83%, Ahmad said, citing a study conducted in 2022, two years after the implementation of the tax.

EUROPE: Sugar production seen around 15.3 million T by 2035

Sugar production in the European Union should slowly decline over the next decade, driven by a decrease in sugarbeet yield and area, according to the latest [EU Agricultural Outlook](#) report for the 2024-2035 period released by the European Commission, reports Sugaronline.

The EU sugar production is projected to remain relatively stable, declining from an average of 15.4 million tonnes in the 2022-2024 period to 15.3 million tonnes in 2035.

The sugarbeet area is expected to decrease to 1.44 million hectares by 2035, compared to 1.6 million ha in 2024/25.

More frequent adverse weather events and reduced availability of plant-protection products should result in a reduction in sugarbeet yields in the coming years. As alternatives to the banned neonicotinoid substances are made available on the market, the decline in sugarbeet yields is expected to slow down, stabilising at 72 t/ha by 2035.

Sugar consumption in the EU is also expected to gradually decline as consumers shift to diets with a lower sugar intake, especially by reducing the high sugar content of food products. The EU's sugar consumption is projected to decrease annually by 0.2% and reach 15.3 million tonnes in 2035.

"Although the EU is projected to be a net importer of sugar during most years, its reliance on imports is likely to decline," according to the report released Dec. 11.

Sugar imports are expected to slowly decline towards 1 million tonnes by 2035.

ECRUU Sugar News Monitor

EL SALVADOR - Expects stable output in 2024/25

El Salvador should produce 752,000mt of sugar in 2024/25, almost unchanged on year, the sugar association said. Sugar exports should also remain in line with the 476,000mt exported in 2023/24. ([La Prensa](#))

MEXICO - Harvest still lags but yields are better

Mills produced 137,000mt of sugar as of December 7, down from 170,000mt at the same period last year but sugar and cane yields are higher than last year, according to Conadesuca. In southern Quintana Roo, growers are worried that excessive rainfall will lower yields. The

Association of Sugar Technicians (ATAM) pegged final production at 5.7 million mt of sugar in 2024/25, warning that producers should be wary of increasing production due to low world prices and the risks of the trade deal with the US being reviewed.
(Zafranet & Canal 10 & OEM)