



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(25)19
(English only)**

8 April 2025

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

BRAZIL: Embrapa announces new cane research program; signs partnership with Orplana

Brazil's state-run agricultural research company has announced a new National Sugarcane Research Program, which will focus on innovation applied to sugarcane production and will open a public call for projects in partnership with the production sector later this year, reports Sugaronline.

Embrapa also signed an agreement with the Organisation of Associations of Brazilian Sugarcane Producers (Orplana) on April 3 to support the adoption of innovative solutions in bio-inputs, sustainable management and other areas by cane producers.

"The goal of the agreement is clear: to take Embrapa's technologies directly to production areas, validating solutions aligned with the problems in the field and generating technical recommendations that increase the productivity and sustainability of sugarcane fields," Embrapa Agroenergia's general manager, Alexandre Alonso, in said in a [statement](#) released by the company.

The agreement resulted from negotiations that started in 2024, when Embrapa and Orplana signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to join forces for technical assistance and other actions.

Following the signing of the MoU, Embrapa Agroenergia presented a proposal for cooperation to test and validate technologies developed by Embrapa in producer areas, focusing on problems faced by sugarcane growers.

Orplana mobilised its associations to identify which would be willing to install and conduct experiments and map the main technical and production challenges faced in the field. Embrapa Agroenergia cross-referenced the demands of producers with the portfolio of assets and technologies available at the different Embrapa units. The result was the identification of a set of technological solutions to address the needs reported by the associations.

The next step in the partnership with Orplana will be holding technical workshops between Embrapa teams and producers from interested associations. These meetings will outline the experiments to be conducted and define the terms of the cooperation agreements between the Embrapa units responsible for the technologies and the partner associations in developing and validating the solutions. This step is expected to take place in the coming months.

Embrapa said the expectation is that the agreement and the new research program will consolidate a collaborative innovation model, with strong participation from producers from the conce

PHILIPPINES: Government agency launches training in sugarcane production

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has launched the country's first training program on sugarcane production in partnership with the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, according to the Manila Standard.

Initially, 25 people will participate in a four-month course on sugarcane production and gain experience in field preparation, sugarcane farming, and post-production processes.ption to the validation of technologies.

ARGENTINA: Government raises ethanol prices in April

Argentina's government has increased prices for ethanol intended for mandatory blending with fossil fuels in April, according to a resolution published by the Ministry of Economy's Energy Secretariat in the [official gazette](#) on April 3, reports Sugaronline.

The price of sugarcane-based ethanol was increased to ARS772.73 (US\$0.72) per litre from [ARS746.59](#) (US\$0.70) previously.

The corn-based ethanol price was raised to ARS708.23 per litre (US\$0.66)) from ARS684.28 (US\$0.64) per litre.

The new prices are valid for transactions carried out in April, and will remain in effect until the publication of a new price adjustment.

FAO Sugar Price Index falls in March

The FAO Sugar Price Index declined in March, driven by signs of weaker global demand, which has alleviated concerns over tight global sugar supplies, reports Sugaronline.

The price index averaged 116.9 points in March, down 1.4% from [February](#) and 12.3% lower than its value a year earlier.

"Additionally, recent rainfall in key sugarcane growing areas of southern Brazil, following a period of prolonged dry weather, further contributed to the decline in world sugar prices," FAO said in a [statement](#) on April 4.

Deteriorating production prospects in India and persisting concerns about the overall outlook for the sugarcane crop in Brazil continued to exert upward pressure on prices, limiting the monthly decline in March.

SOUTH AFRICA: Sugar Milling Research Institute says cane industry must diversify production

The Sugar Milling Research Institute (SMRI) CEO Janice Dewar has said the sugar industry must diversify beyond sugar production to ensure its sustainability, according to Engineering News.

According to the SMRI, sugarcane industries are under threat because revenue from traditional products has not increased at the same pace as production costs, particularly in countries where the size of the sector exceeds local demand for sugar.

Food Navigator.com

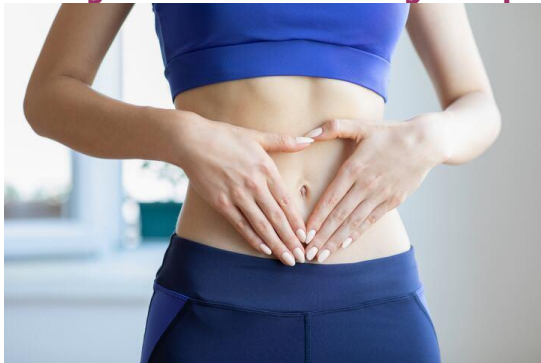
Are sustainable ingredients and proteins the next-gen solution for food security?



As geopolitical and environmental factors affect supply chains, how are sustainable ingredients and proteins providing long-term support? Find out at Future Food-Tech Chicago.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/News/Promotional-features/sustainable-ingredients-and-next-gen-proteins-for-food-security/>

Does gut health soda have global potential?



Functional soda is big news in the US: especially with Coca-Cola and PepsiCo making moves in prebiotic drinks. But what potential is there for the market globally?

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/04/03/gut-health-soda-discover-this-global-trend/>

Trump's trade war has begun: How industry can successfully navigate the change



US tariff announcements have sent shockwaves through global markets and thrown trade into chaos. How can manufacturers weather the storm?

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/04/04/how-to-successfully-navigate-trumps-tariffs/>

Sugar beet pulp promises functional improvements in paper products

The demand for environmentally friendly packaging solutions is increasing, and both paper manufacturers and brand owners of consumer packed goods are looking for new innovative raw materials to develop future-oriented packaging solutions.

Packaging is a complex topic, though. Reliable raw material availability, consistently high printing and processing quality, smooth integration into existing production processes and low-price volatility are of great importance for paper and packaging manufacturers, as well as for printing companies.

At the same time, brand manufacturers want to stand out from the competition with their products on the retail shelf by offering innovative, sustainable and appealing packaging solutions, and create consumer preference without having to compromise on functionality or price.

Regulatory requirements such as the EUDR (EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products) or the PPWR (Paper and Paper Waste Regulation) contribute both opportunities and complexity. The change of existing paper and packaging material to more innovative solutions thus presents certain challenges that new alternative fibres for packaging material must overcome to be relevant. With BeetKraft®, Südzucker aims to offer a solution for exactly these challenges.

An alternative fibrous material for paper

BeetKraft® is made from sugar beet pulp, a by-product that is obtained during the annual sugar production and processed into a high-quality substitute for wood-based pulp using a patented refining process.

Since the end of 2024, and following a collaboration with technology partner Zelfo Technology GmbH and Simply By Nature, Südzucker is now producing industrial quantities of BeetKraft® at a demonstration plant in Offstein, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany.



BeetKraft's suitability as an alternative fibrous material for the production of different paper qualities was examined and evaluated in collaboration with PTS (Papiertechnische Stiftung) in Heidenau, a highly respected institute in the paper industry. During the production of paper samples with up to 40% BeetKraft®, the material's visual and technical properties were found to be very convincing.

After a material screening on a laboratory scale, trials were carried out with various materials in combination with primary and secondary fibrous materials to produce different paper qualities on the PTS pilot paper machine, as well as a production run under real conditions in a paper factory.

The tests have brought up lots of interesting insights, confirming BeetKraft's suitability for a wide array of packaging solutions. During testing, results showed an increase in roughness as well as an increase in air permeability. In addition, due to the unbleached fibre character, the packaging has a more natural-looking colour. Consequently, a high-quality print image can be maintained.

Functional improvements in paper products

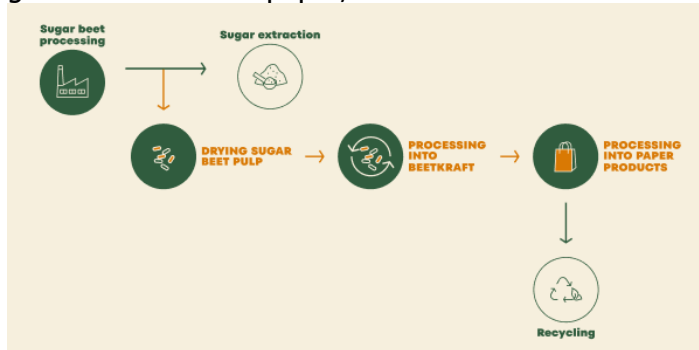
Various product properties were important for Südzucker from the outset when developing BeetKraft®. These include functional improvements over classic wood-based pulp for paper, food safety, recyclability, easy integration in existing processes and no negative impact on continued FSC-certifiability of the final paper packaging solution. During the trials and tests it was found that BeetKraft® offers exactly that.

- BeetKraft® strengthens paper and offers the same or even better stability than conventional wood fibres. Depending on the end use, an increased SCT value (stiffness) of up to 11% is possible. Further improvements are still being worked on.
- Replacement of up to 40% of the classic, primary wood fibres in the paper recipe, while simultaneously increasing the stability of the cardboard and paper.
- Possibility to reduce the overall weight and grammage of the packaging solution.
- BeetKraft® offers consistently high quality for paper and cardboard for reliable and even printing results.

- BeetKraft® can be integrated into existing production processes in the paper industry and can be reliably processed.
- BeetKraft® is food-safe and can be used for packaging of dry, non-greasy foodstuffs.
- Final packaging using BeetKraft® can be recycled, e.g. via waste paper recycling.
- Year-round and plannable supply and thus reliable sourcing and reduction of dependencies on world markets concerning packaging raw materials.
- No negative impact on FSC-certifiability.

Regional, Southern-German sugar beet cultivation

Being obtained from the sugar beet, a crop that is grown in crop rotation and harvested annually, BeetKraft® is an innovative product obtained during the full valorisation of the sugar beet. In addition to being used as animal feed and for energy recovery, sugar beet pulp is therefore now also refined into BeetKraft®. The product has a brownish colour due to its origin, which ultimately gives the final kraft paper, cardboard or container board a natural-looking colouring.



Wide range of applications

BeetKraft® can be used for a wide range of applications such as:

- **Kraft paper** Providing higher strength and durability. At the same time, the total grammage can be reduced depending on the application.
- **Cartonboard** Ensuring stable, high-quality cartonboard that is highly suitable for displays and product packaging.
- **Containerboard** Maintaining or improving the stability of containerboard providing a high-quality solution for the production of robust corrugated packaging and transport boxes.

The BeetKraft® product is firmly integrated in the paper structure; there are no negative effects due to fibre tears or dusting during processing. The fibre structure is not weakened or negatively influenced by the use of BeetKraft® and thus subsequent paper processing can run smoothly. The suitability of the product has already been tested in several paper weights and different packaging and applications, such as 1kg sugar bags, sugar sticks packaging, carrier bags, paper sheets in various grammages, flyers and brochures with highly satisfying results.

Collaboration to support packaging needs

The launch of the product does not mark an end to the development phase, though. Südzucker is continuously working on developing a wider variety of grammages, refinements and further improving the potential of SCT-values, as well as looking into other packaging solutions that could use BeetKraft® as a substitute for classic wood-based pulp.

Südzucker is always happy to discuss packaging needs and sampling with you and support customers in application and integrating BeetKraft® into existing production processes.

https://www.foodnavigator.com/https://www.foodnavigator.com/News/Promotional-features/innovative-paper-and-packaging-alternatives/?source=3&utm_source=newsletter_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=07-Apr-2025&cid=DM1206110&bid=666700633

What's next for unstoppable 'food as medicine' trend?



'Food as medicine' is big and growing fast. But what's next for this major player in food and beverage?

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/04/03/future-of-food-as-medicine-trend/>
