



International Sugar Organization

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(26)14
(English only)**

16 April 2026

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

GUATEMALA: Sugar producer Magdalena is investing in a precision fermentation facility

Sugar producer Magdalena plans to invest in a 650,000-litre precision fermentation facility in Guatemala, diversifying production to reduce exposure to volatile sugar markets, according to AGFunder News (AFN).

The precision fermentation facility will be built next to Magdalena's sugar mill in Guatemala.

The first phase of the project, scheduled for 2027, will be a pilot/demonstration facility with 50,000 litres of fermentation capacity and 2,000 litres for the pilot. By 2028, capacity is estimated to increase to 200,000 litres, reaching 650,000 litres by 2030.

BRAZIL: Ethanol prices fall more than 3% at São Paulo mills – CEPEA

Ethanol prices in the São Paulo spot market declined by around 3.5% last week, amid increased availability at the start of the 2026/27 sugarcane crushing season in the centre-south region, according to the Centre for Advanced Studies on Applied Economics (CEPEA).

Interruptions in crushing activities due to rain last week did not limit the downward price movement in the São Paulo market. Dry weather is forecasted for the coming days, according to a [note](#) released by CEPEA on April 14.

Some buyers increased purchases last week, but the pace of negotiations involving hydrous ethanol remained weak.

Distributors continue to act cautiously, and attention is turning to the possibility of a more ethanol-focused mix throughout the 2026/27 season, as sugar prices fall and the dollar is at lower levels.

The [CEPEA/ESALQ index](#) for hydrous ethanol prices fell by 3.47% last week to BRL2.7873/litre (USD0.5467). The index for anhydrous ethanol also declined by 3.47% to BRL3.1948 (USD0.6266).

Prolonged disruption in Strait of Hormuz could turn into global agrifood catastrophe – FAO

Prolonged disruptions at the Strait of Hormuz could result in a dangerous spike in food price inflation later this year that could trigger a cascade of effects similar to the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in a [statement](#).

Crop calendars put poorer countries most at risk of scarce and pricey fertiliser and energy inputs, said FAO Chief Economist Maximo Torero in a podcast with David Laborde, director of FAO's Agrifood Economics Division.

"The last thing we want is lower crop yields and higher commodity prices and food inflation for the next year," Torero said, noting that would likely force countries to put policies in place to lower domestic food prices, triggering higher interest rates and, as a result, potential slower economic growth around the world.

Exports of between 20 and 45% of key agrifood inputs rely on sea passage through the Strait of Hormuz, according to FAO.

Pressure on the FAO Food Price Index is rising in April and will intensify in May as farmers will make decisions on whether to switch planting choices to adapt to fertiliser availability, as well as whether to allocate more land and resources to biofuels to benefit from higher oil prices, but curtailing global food supplies.

"We are in an input crisis; we don't want to make it a catastrophe," said Laborde. "The difference depends on the actions we take."

FAO urged all countries to closely ponder biofuel mandates and, above all, to avoid export restrictions on energy and fertilisers.

If farmers produce with fewer inputs, there will be lower yields later this year and in 2027, with higher food commodity prices and retail food inflation likely for the next few years, according to FAO.

Farmers already face thin margins, and if they go bankrupt, the food supply situation will be worse for longer.

FAO economists said risks today are notably greater than in 2022, and conditions are present for a "perfect storm" if the current situation is also affected by a strong El Niño rivaling or exceeding the pandemic crisis.

FAO said that if the standoff in the Strait of Hormuz is not quickly ended, anticipatory actions should be considered, in particular, asking multilateral institutions to provide financing to countries at risk of losing access to basic fertilizer inputs, given that their planting has started.

SOUTH AFRICA: Second phase of Sugar Masterplan to focus on diversification

The second phase of the Sugarcane Value Chain Masterplan to be implemented by the government through 2030 will focus on product diversification and securing jobs, said the Trade, Industry and Competition deputy minister Zuko Godlimpi, according to the Engineering News.

Godlimpi said the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition was committed to accelerating growth and improving diversification through social impact.

He challenged the industry to increase South Africa's domestic fuel production from 40% to 55% through substantial investments in technology and operations.

INDIA: Sugar production rises 7.7% to 27.39 million T by April 15

India's sugar production in the 2025/26 season has reached 27.39 million metric tonnes on April 15, up by 7.7% from the volume produced one year earlier, according to the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF), reports Sugaronline.

The volume of cane crushed since the start of the 2025/26 season in October 2025 was 286.52 million tonnes, compared to 271.39 million tonnes one year earlier, according to data released by the NFCSF to the press.

The average sugar recovery this season is 9.55%, which is higher than the 9.37% in 2024/25.

Sugar production in Maharashtra, India's top producer, totaled 9.92 million tonnes, up 23% year on year. In Uttar Pradesh, the second largest sugar-producing state in the country, sugar production this season declined by 1.9% to 8.92 million tonnes. In Karnataka, sugar output rose 16.5% to 4.71 million tonnes.

The 2025/26 sugarcane crushing season in India officially ends in September, but most mills have already concluded activities for the current cycle.

Only 21 sugar mills – 11 in Tamil Nadu, nine in Uttar Pradesh, and one in Haryana – continue to operate this season, compared to 35 by the same time last year. A total of 520 sugar mills have already concluded operations for the current season, compared to 499 by the same period in the previous cycle.

EL SALVADOR: Sugar production projected to rise 2% in 2026/27

El Salvador's sugar production is expected to rise 2% in 2026/27 to 719,000 metric tonnes, largely due to ongoing investments in irrigation infrastructure, modernised refining equipment, and the adoption of improved seed varieties, according to the US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Post in San Salvador.

The sugarcane harvest for 2026/27 is projected to reach 6.3 million tonnes, up 2% year-on-year. Favorable weather conditions, including timely and well-distributed rainfall, moderate temperatures, and improved soil moisture, have created optimal growing conditions for sugarcane across key production zones.

The planted area is expected to remain stable at 79,000 hectares, as the number of producers in the sector continues to level off.

"Looking ahead, expansion is possible if rural security continues to improve, sugar prices trend upward, and the long-anticipated ethanol production law is enacted," the FAS San Salvador said in the [Sugar Annual report](#) released April 13.

HONDURAS: Sugar production and exports expected to rise in 2026/27

Sugar production and exports from Honduras are projected to increase in 2026/27, driven by higher yields, expanded harvested area, and continued investment in the sector, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Post in Tegucigalpa.

Total sugar production is expected to reach 570,000 tonnes in 2026/27, from 560,000 tonnes in 2025/26.

The total harvested area is estimated to grow by 1.8% at 58,000 hectares, yielding approximately 5.7 million tonnes of sugarcane.

"This expansion is driven by recovery from El Niño/La Niña effects, increased financing for small-scale farmers, and improved global prices (18 cents/lbs)," FAS Tegucigalpa said in the [Sugar Annual report](#).

Centrifugal sugar exports are projected to rise 3% to 212,460 metric tonnes.

FoodNavigator.com

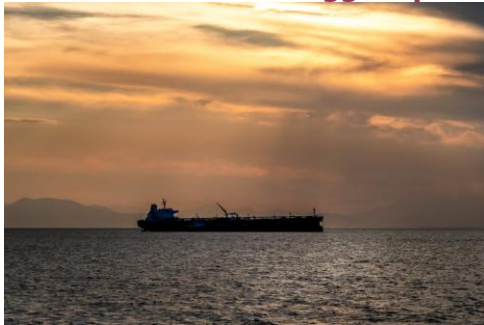
Functional, feel-good drinks edge out alcohol for 'controlled indulgence'



Data from Nielsen IQ and Spate show consumers are turning to non-alcoholic beverages and those infused with THC and adaptogens to relax mindfully as they pull back on alcohol consumption

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/04/14/alcohol-consumption-falls-as-functional-beverages-surge-in-popularity/>

Iran conflict: The 5 biggest pressure points for food and beverage



The price of oil and transport dominates headlines: but food and beverage companies need to anticipate other potential impacts

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/04/13/iran-conflict-oil-energy-prices-hit-food-and-beverage/>

Artificial sweeteners: Why the science war is raging on



New health studies are reigniting a global battle over artificial sweeteners, leaving brands, regulators and consumers divided

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/04/13/artificial-sweeteners-why-the-science-war-wont-end/>

Could the GLP-1 boom open the door to shrinkflation?



Users of the drugs want smaller portions - this could help food companies save money
<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/04/13/glp-1s-leading-to-smaller-pack-sizes/>
