

**International Sugar Organization**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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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**KENYA: Agriculture secretary says sugar availability is enough for domestic demand**

Kenya's Agriculture and Livestock Development cabinet secretary Mutahi Kagwe has said the country has enough sugar to cover domestic demand and does not need additional imports, according to the Daily Nation.

Kagwe said Kenya is expected to produce 800,000 metric tonnes of sugar by the end of this year, which is the volume required to cover domestic consumption.

Kenya's government banned sugar imports through a directive announced on July 29 this year. Kagwe said the import ban is supported by an increase in domestic sugar consumption from around 40,000 tonnes monthly to over 80,000 tonnes.

FAO Sugar Price Index rises 12% in August

The FAO Sugar Price Index rose 11.9% in August [from July](#) to its highest level since June 2025, mostly driven by growing concerns over the global sugar supply outlook in the 2026/27 season, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), reports Sugaronline.

"Persistent hot and dry weather led to a downward revision of sugarbeet yield forecasts in the European Union, where planted area was already anticipated to decline from the previous season, while El Niño-related weather conditions continued to affect production prospects in key producing countries in Asia," FAO said in a [statement](#) on Sept. 4.

Lower sugar production in Brazil's centre-south also contributed to the tighter supply outlook, while India's announcement of duty-free raw sugar imports further contributed to the increase in international sugar prices.

Sugar is one of the five commodity groups considered to calculate the FAO Food Price Index, which rose 1.9 in August from its revised July level, driven by higher prices recorded for sugar, meat, vegetable oil, cereal and dairy prices.

Retail sugar price falls almost 4% in a week

Sugar prices in retail in India declined by 3.85% to INR62.57 per kg in a week, following government measures to improve local supply, avoid hoarding and tame price increases, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI).

The retail price of the sweetener declined from INR65.08 per kg a week ago, according to government data, but is still 27% higher than the previous month's level of INR49.33 per kg. The average wholesale sugar prices declined from INR60.39 last week to INR57.62 per kg on Sept. 2.

FoodNavigator.com

Allulose-containing products claiming zero sugar threatened with growing litigation



A wave of proposed class actions targeting “zero sugar” and “sugar free” claims is putting allulose-containing products in the crosshairs, following a pivotal Seventh Circuit ruling involving Chobani

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/03/allulose-zero-sugar-claims-face-litigation/>

Beyond 'GLP-1 friendly': The nutrition opportunity food brands are missing



Health experts point to muscle, bone and cardiovascular health as key priorities for consumers taking GLP-1 medications and navigating midlife, creating opportunities for food and beverage brands to connect functional nutrition with consumer education

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/02/healthy-aging-glp-1-products-and-beyond/>

Climate change is an existential threat to food



The threat that heat poses to crops is a global problem

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/08/28/climate-change-is-existential-threat-to-food-production/>

Are consumers right to be concerned about food prices?



A combination of global crises, both human and natural, has already impacted food prices and will likely affect them further

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/04/affordability-are-consumers-right-to-be-concerned/>

Free trade can shield us from El Niño

ENVIRONMENT

Alan Beattie



It's coming, whether we're ready or not. Scientific opinion is solidifying that this latest episode of the El Niño weather pattern will be the strongest in living memory.

With the El Niño already upon us and set to peak towards the end of the year, aggravating factors have worsened in just a few weeks. Food prices, previously gratifyingly quiescent despite the oil and fertiliser shortages from the Iran war, have been rising sharply since mid-August, with Russian attacks on Ukrainian shipping and vice versa severely choking grain shipments in the Black Sea. Droughts in the northern hemisphere have emphasised how climate change creates and amplifies shocks.

So how well prepared is the world, and specifically its food systems, for a

monster El Niño? Droughts, floods and storms will cause severe damage at local levels, but wider devastation can be limited as long as governments allow international markets in food to function and only intervene when necessary.

It is not the ferocity of a weather system that kills people but the lack of preparation for it. The destruction and subsequent famines that followed the infamous El Niño of 1877-78 killed 50mn people out of a global population of around 1.4bn at the time. More than a century of agricultural productivity and state capacity building later, the 1997-98 episode, probably the most severe in the 20th century, killed only an estimated 22,000 people through droughts and floods, less than 0.001 per cent of the global population at the time.

One lesson from recent episodes is the importance of international trade. The protectionist impulse towards self-sufficiency in food, generally a bad idea, is particularly unwise during an El Niño episode. El Niños are typically asymmetric: droughts in one place, floods in another; poor harvests in one country, increased crop yields elsewhere. Trade

can balance production and consumption across nations.

The 1997-98 El Niño disrupted farming across Asia, particularly rice cultivation – spectacularly bad timing given a financial crisis was ravaging much of the continent. Rice production in densely populated Bangladesh fell 20 per cent.

But while floods and a subsequent famine in the 1970s killed about 1.5mn people in the country, the death toll in

It is not the ferocity of a weather system that kills people but the lack of preparation for it

1997-98 turned out to be far smaller.

In the 1970s, Bangladesh lacked the ability to import rapidly at scale, and the US withheld grain shipments because of its links with communist Cuba. But in the late 1990s, having liberalised food trade, Bangladeshi traders imported rice from India, thereby stabilising prices and averting famine.

In a paper on the episode, Paul Dorosh at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington argued that while long-term domestic agricultural productivity was important, trade could play a critical role during emergencies. Subsequent research found the same in sub-Saharan Africa, with the most important factor in mitigating crises being the size of imports rather than the proximity of trading partners.

Such asymmetry is likely to be repeated this time round. Food production in Central America and northern Brazil will very probably suffer from droughts, but higher maize and soya production due to more rainfall in southern Brazil and Argentina is likely to weigh against it.

Governments should generally get out of the way and let international food markets function, but they have a vital role in crisis preparation and response.

The UN's World Food Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization have launched an appeal for preventive measures ahead of the arrival of El Niño. It is striking how precisely targeted their

plans are, with a focus on just 8.8mn particularly vulnerable people in 22 countries and a modest budget of \$202mn. Countries are also preparing their own targeted responses. Brazil, for example, has hired 4,600 personnel to combat wildfires.

In a 2021 report, the UNFCCC noted that while the number of recorded climate disasters had increased fivefold over the past 50 years, thanks to early-warning systems, the total number of deaths from them had dropped by roughly two-thirds. The extraordinary episode in Nepal this past week, where a school of 900 pupils was saved from drowning due to phone calls made to the headteacher a few minutes ahead of the flood, shows the immense power of good information at the right time.

El Niño isn't an unstoppable apocalypse. It's a stress test of a global trade network and an increasingly sophisticated crisis response system. El Niño is coming, but it's a threat humanity can manage rather than a fate to which it must resign itself.

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