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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

CHINA: Ministry raises 2026/27 sugar production and domestic consumption estimates

China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has increased its estimate for the country's 2026/27 crushing season by 670,000 metric tonnes to 13.6 million tonnes, according to projections released on Nov. 10, reports Sugaronline.

Rainfall in Guangxi has improved soil moisture, resulting in good overall sugarcane growth and higher-than-expected production. Sugarcane production is now expected to reach 12.29 million tonnes, up from the previously projected 11.43 million tonnes. Beet sugar production is forecast at 1.31 million tonnes, down from 1.5 million tonnes previously estimated.

The average yield estimate for the overall sugar crop increased to 66.02 tonnes per hectare, up from 60.92 t/ha. China's sugar consumption estimate was also revised upward by 170,000 tonnes to 15.9 million tonnes, driven by industrial sugar consumption.

The domestic supply-demand gap is projected at 2.3 million tonnes, which is 640,000 tonnes narrower than last year's. The Ministry kept its sugar import estimate unchanged at 4.8 million tonnes.

BRAZIL: Petrobras to buy full ownership of ethanol logistics company

Brazilian state-run oil company Petrobras announced on Nov. 12 that it has entered into an agreement to acquire the remaining 70% stake in biofuel logistics company Logum Logística S.A. held by Raízen Energia (30%), Copersucar S.A. (30%) and Uniduto Logística S.A. (10%) for a total value of BRL620 million, reports Sugaronline.

Petrobras already holds the other 30% stake in Logum and, upon completion of the transaction, will hold 100% of the company, the company said in a statement.

The total acquisition price will be paid in three installments, with BRL300 million at closing, BRL160 million after 12 months, and R$160 million after 24 months.

Sugar and ethanol producer Raízen said in a separate statement that Raízen Energia's share in Logum will be sold to Petrobras for BRL310 million (USD55.5 million), with BRL150 million due on the transaction completion date, BRL80 million to be paid 12 months later, and the remaining BRL80 million 24 months after transaction completion.

Raízen said in a statement that the Transaction is aligned with its strategy of optimising its asset portfolio and simplifying its operations.

Logum operates a network of pipelines of more than 1,000 kilometres and terminals in Uberaba (Minas Gerais), Ribeirão Preto (São Paulo) and Paulínia (São Paulo), which receive ethanol from production facilities across the country.

The biofuel is transported by pipeline to distribution hubs in Barueri, Guarulhos, São Caetano do Sul and São José dos Campos (São Paulo state), and Duque de Caxias (Rio de Janeiro state), as well as to the Ilha d'Água maritime terminal (Rio de Janeiro state), where it is loaded onto tankers for coastal shipping and export.

GERMANY: Excise tax on sugar drinks is postponed to 2028 – news report

Germany's sugar tax on sugary drinks, originally set to start in July 2027, was postponed to 2028, according to a news report by Tagesschau on Nov. 11.

The measure was agreed as part of a compromise of the center-right/center-left government coalition on several contentious issues during budget negotiations.

The CDU/CSU parliamentary group advocated a later start date for the sugar tax, from Jan. 1, 2028, partly to give drink manufacturers time to adjust. The sugar tax will be levied in three tiers instead of two, based on sugar content.

AUSTRALIA: Beverages industry pledges to raise sales share of low-sugar water-based drinks

The Australian Beverages Council Limited (ABCL) launched on Nov. 11 the Beverage Choices Roadmap to 2030 (BCR30), setting an industry-wide goal for 70% of water-based drinks sold to be low- or no-sugar varieties by 2030, reports Sugaronline.

"This continues a shift that has already seen the proportion of low- and no-sugar water-based drink market share increase from 30% in 1997, to 65% in 2024," the association said in a press statement.

The BCR30 framework sets commitments related to responsible marketing and advertising, energy drinks, consumer awareness and choice. "BCR30 is a shared direction for the non-alcoholic beverages industry, establishing a clear framework and demonstrating the industry's willingness to continue taking voluntary action," said ABCL CEO Geoff Parker.

"We are building on the momentum of previous initiatives, with members continuing to innovate, reformulate and improve consumer education to help Australians make informed choices about the drinks they consume."

The association said the beverage industry will continue evolving product portfolios, increasing low- and no-sugar choices, reformulating to further reduce sugar and providing information to support consumers in making informed choices.

GHANA: Minister says country seeks sugar self-sufficiency by 2030

Ghana's Finance Minister Cassiel Ato Forson said on Nov. 12 that Ghana is seeking to achieve self-sufficiency in sugar production by 2030 as part of efforts to reduce dependence on imports and strengthen domestic production, according to My Joy Online.

During his presentation of the 2027 Budget Statement and Economic Policy to Parliament, he said the sugar industry is one of eight integrated agro-industrial sectors under the government's New Economy program.

The measures achieving the 2030 target will be outlined as the government develops its plans for the sugar industry.

BARBADOS: Sugar Association of the Caribbean to move headquarters to Barbados

The Sugar Association of the Caribbean (SAC) will move its headquarters from Trinidad to Barbados, according to a news report from Barbados Today on Nov. 12, citing SAC chairman Mac McLachlan.

McLachlan told reporters after the opening of the SAC's 178th Board of Directors meeting that the relocation would be its first since the association's establishment in the 1930s.

SAC, previously known as the West Indies Sugar Association, represents sugar manufacturers in Barbados, Belize, Guyana and Jamaica. McLachlan said Trinidad has stopped producing sugar, leaving only Barbados, Belize, Jamaica and Guyana producing sugar and committed to the future of sugar to supply the Caribbean market.

CHILE: Grupo Gloria reportedly eyeing sugar producer Iansa – news reports

Peruvian industrial conglomerate Grupo Gloria is reportedly evaluating an acquisition of Chile's only sugar producer Iansa, in a renewed bid to expand its operations in that market, according to news reports by Semana Economica and Peru Retail.

The deal could exceed USD100 million, but Iansa's high debt of UUSD242 million, would pose a challenge, according to the news reports.

Iansa, currently controlled by US-based fund Hartree Partners, has also attracted interest from Argentine and Guatemalan sugar groups, according to news reports, that did not name the sources.

FRANCE: Agreste reduces sugarbeet production estimate to 24 million T

Agreste, the statistical service of France's agriculture ministry, reduced its 2026 sugarbeet production estimate to 23.95 million metric tonnes, down from 25.26 million tonnes projected in October, reports Sugaronline.

The latest estimate is 33.3% lower than production in 2025 and 27.4% below the five-year average, according to an Agreste agricultural report released on Nov. 17. The cultivated area is projected to fall 6% year-on-year to 372,000 hectares.

Agreste sharply reduced the yield estimate to 64.3 tonnes per hectare (t/ha) from 67.8 t/ha projected in October, as some beet plots in poor health conditions, particularly in Normandy and the Grand Est regions, couldn't be processed by the sugar and ethanol industries.

"With 52.2 t/ha expected in the Grand Est region in 2026, the yield gap compared to the five-year average would be particularly significant (-38%)," Agreste said in the report. In 2025, the average beet yield was 90.3 t/ha.

TANZANIA: East African Community countries urged to boost cooperation in sugar sector

East African Community (EAC) countries have been urged to strengthen cooperation in the sugar industry by investing in competitive factories, boosting sugarcane production, and improving farmers' productivity, according to Tanzania's Daily News.

Director of the Tanzania Sugar Board and chairman of the East African Sugar Industry Association (EASIA), Kenneth Bengesi, said regional collaboration is key to overcoming production challenges, sharing technology, and increasing the industry's competitiveness.

EASIA serves as a platform for member states to exchange knowledge and develop joint strategies for expanding sugar output and manufacturing capacity. Despite the region's potential, current production levels are insufficient to meet both domestic and export demand, he added.

INDIA: Sugar industry defends balanced approach in feedstock selection for ethanol blending

India's ethanol blending program requires a balanced approach to feedstock selection, and no single feedstock can do justice to the entire ethanol demand, said ISMA director general Deepak Ballani, according to The Tribune.

The director of the country's sugar industry association said that relying solely on one feedstock would not adequately meet the country's growing ethanol demand.

Ballani pointed out that shifting heavily toward grain-based feedstocks is not an ideal solution for India. Instead, he advocates for a flexible, year-by-year system in which the government determines which feedstocks to use for ethanol blending based on availability and production, ensuring sustainability and efficiency.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Inazúcar expects recovery in 2026/27 sugar production

Sugar production in the Dominican Republic in the 2026/27 season is expected to reach 560,765 metric tonnes, up 10.95% from the previous cycle, according to estimates released by the Dominican Sugar Institute (Inazucar) in a report released in October, reports Sugaronline.

The production increase is supported by a 5.6% rise in the projected sugarcane crushing volume to 5.48 million tonnes. In 2025/26, sugar production declined 2.96% year-on-year to 505,432 tonnes, impacted by above-average rainfall between January and April that affected harvesting and sugarcane delivery, and by the absence of operations at the Porvenir Sugar Mill.

The 2025/26 season started in the third week of November 2025 and ended in the second week of July 2026, with a total volume of 5.19 million metric tonnes of sugarcane crushed, down 4.35% from the previous season, according to Inazucar's final harvest report for the 2025/26 season released in October.

KENYA: President announces bonus payment to cane growers

President William Ruto has announced a KES1.2 billion (USD9.2 million) bonus package for sugarcane growers, with payments set to begin next week, according to The Star. He also announced a KES15.07 billion payout to 680,000 coffee farmers as part of efforts to revive the agricultural sector.

Ruto said on Nov. 18, during his fourth State of the Nation Address at Parliament Buildings in Nairobi, that the bonus payment to cane farmers aims to ensure sugarcane farmers share in the industry's improving fortunes.

FoodNavigator.com

How could GLP-1s impact Christmas consumption?



New data finds that users of the drugs are likely to consume and buy less over the festive period

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/11/18/glp-1-users-to-cut-back-on-christmas-food/
