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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: Government seeks to support bioelectricity and biofuel production from sugar factories

Agriculture cabinet secretary Mutahi Kagwe has said the government is working to establish frameworks that will enable sugar factories to sell electricity generated from bagasse, a by-product of sugar processing, to the national grid, according to Dawan Africa.

During a visit to West Valley Sugar Company, Kagwe also said the government will introduce policy and fiscal incentives to encourage millers to invest in ethanol distillation plants and other value-added projects.

He added that the future of Kenya's sugar sector depends on maximising every component of sugarcane to produce sugar, electricity, ethanol, and other industrial products.

SOUTH AFRICA: SA Canegrowers says deal to rescue Tongaat Hulett secures future of sugar industry

South African sugarcane producers' association SA Canegrowers has welcomed an agreement reached between the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Vision consortium to rescue sugar company Tongaat Hulett, adding that the deal secures the future of the modern local sugar industry, according to a press statement released by the group.

"With the liquidation of Tongaat Hulett off the table, we hope that its mills and refinery can now focus on operating without interruption. More than 17,500 supplying sugarcane growers rely on Tongaat,"said Higgins Mdluli, chairman of SA Canegrowers, in a statement on June 17.

Tongaat Hulett operates three sugar mills and is the country's biggest standalone white sugar refiner.

"We would like to thank the government, especially the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, and the IDC, for recognising the significance of the sugar industry to the national economy," said Mdluli.

"Tongaat Hulett's mills have continued to be operational, even as the liquidation hearing was looming, in part owing to bridging funding from the IDC."

SA Canegrowers said it looks forward to working with all parties involved to secure a stable and sustainable future for the South African sugar industry.

"As a unified industry, we can also address other immediate challenges facing us, especially the still persistent flood of imported sugar into South Africa. Unfairly subsidised sugar from countries such as Brazil and Thailand is currently displacing locally produced sugar from retailers and food and beverage manufacturers. This affects growers and local millers alike – including Tongaat Hulett," said Mdluli.

GUYANA: Government reaffirms commitment to invest in sugar industry

Guyana's president Irfaan Ali said the government remains resolute in preserving the sugar industry through reforms to improve productivity, efficiency and competitiveness, while acknowledging challenges faced by the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) in meeting production targets, according to Caribbean Today.

Ali said he was not pleased with GuySuCo's failure to consistently achieve the production target, but added that the company was advancing an aggressive mechanisation program to address labor shortages and modernise operations. Around 44% of the company's lands have already been converted for mechanical harvesting.

NEW ZEALAND: Sugarcane in Northland could be used to produce ethanol

Sugarcane could be a potential feedstock for biofuel production in New Zealand's Northland region, according to Farmers Weekly.

Farmers Weekly reported in April that Brazilian ethanol corn producers and the NZ Brazil Business Chamber planned to establish an ethanol-refining business using maize feedstock. However, calculations showed that this would require at least 150,000 tonnes of grain maize feedstock per year, which is almost 75% of NZ's total production.

The CEO of the NZ Brazil Business Chamber, Marcelo Menoita, said Brazil's expertise in producing biofuels could easily adapt plants to suit NZ-sourced crops.

Former chair of Tropical Fruit Growers of NZ, Hugh Rose, said Northland is capable of supporting sugarcane production, but that sugarcane in the region may take longer to mature than in Queensland.

NIGERIA: Public policy group calls for transparent implementation of sugar tax health fund

Nigeria-based public policy and advocacy organisation, Gatefield, has urged the government to commit to transparency and accountability in the implementation of the new sugar-tax health fund, following the Senate's approval of reforms to the sugar tax last week, according to the Guardian.

The new sugar-tax bill establishes an NGN108.6 billion health fund to fight diabetes and other non-communicable diseases.

Gatefield said the success of the reform depends on its implementation and measurable outcomes, and would only achieve its purpose if it reduces the financial burden on Nigerians living with diabetes and other chronic illnesses.

FRANCE: Tereos, Airbus and partners announce JV for SAF production

Tereos, Airbus, Safran and Technip Energies have announced a joint venture to develop a production capacity of 160,000 metric tons of alcohol-to-jet sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) per year at the Port of Dunkirk, France, reports Sugaronline.

The JV, dubbed Rebound, will build one of the largest facilities of its kind in Europe and contribute to European energy sovereignty, the companies said in a press statement.

The partners have committed to funding the project's development phase, including engineering studies and other activities required to consider a Final Investment Decision (FID).

As a European leader in ethanol production, Tereos intends to supply and source the advanced ethanol required for the project.

Technip Energies will act as the project's lead developer and engineering service provider, bringing its expertise in technology scaling and complex project execution. Airbus and Safran join as industrial partners, offtake facilitators and potential SAF offtakers.

The Port of Dunkirk awarded Technip Energies an industrial site in Northern France, which will offer, upon finalisation of the JV, logistical advantages to Rebound for feedstock and product transport, as well as a streamlined permitting pathway.

"The partners will progress through a disciplined, stage-gated development process. Steps ahead include the selection of the technology licensor, permitting activities, launch of pre-FEED (Front-End Engineering Design) and FEED activities, finalisation of feedstock supply and SAF offtake agreements, and securing the financing for the construction of the asset," the companies said. The creation of the joint venture is subject to customary closing conditions and is expected to be finalised in the second half of this year.

"This project is fully aligned with Tereos' mission to develop low-carbon industrial value chains by creating value from agricultural production. Tereos will bring to the project its expertise and industrial assets dedicated to the production of advanced ethanol. It also provides a strong illustration of the development of a bioeconomy rooted in French and European agricultural production," said Jérôme Bos, chief strategy officer of Tereos.

CAMEROON: Somdia prepares to sell stake in Sosucam – news reports

French group Somdia seeks to sell its 82% stake in Sosucam, amid a decline in the company's performance and productivity, according to news reports from Cameroun-Eco and Sikafinance.

The company has informed Cameroonian authorities of its intention to sell its entire stake, according to the news reports.

In a working session on June 8, Prime Minister Joseph Dion Ngute said Somdia should ensure the 2026/27 sugar campaign before any sale of its shares to a third party.

Cameroon's sugar consumption totals around 300,000 tonnes per year, with domestic production covering between 120,000 and 160,000 tonnes.

UGANDA: Sugarcane farmers oppose proposal to increase sugar tax

Sugarcane farmers in Uganda have opposed the government plan to raise the excise duty on sugar from UGX100 (USD0.027) to UGX200 per kg, warning that this could reduce cane prices and reduce their incomes amid rising production costs, according to the Monitor.

The UGX200 tax is lower than the initially proposed UGX300 per kg, but farmers are pressuring for it to remain at UGX100/kg, arguing that any increase will hurt cane growers.

The chairperson of the Uganda National Association of Sugarcane Growers (UNASGO) Julius Kateveru said millers deduct taxes before calculating farmers' share, which means the increased tax burden will eventually affect sugarcane producers.

FoodNavigator.com

Why is Ingredion taking over Tate & Lyle?

Both companies will benefit from combining
https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/06/18/behind-the-ingredion-tate-lyle-deal/

A decade of innovation to monitor agricultural supply chains from space

In 2016, a bold idea emerged from the collaboration between Airbus and Earthworm Foundation: harnessing satellite technology to help companies navigate up and down in their supply chain, to analyse where deforestation was linked to their business and to engage relevant stakeholders.

At the time, transparency in commodity sourcing was still limited. Companies were making commitments to eliminate deforestation from their supply chains, but lacked the tools to monitor risks at scale, as well as traceability data.

To address these challenges, Starling was developed to bridge the gap between sustainability commitments and on-the-ground implementation by combining satellite imagery, geospatial intelligence, and supply chain expertise into a single operational solution.

Let's look back at a decade of developments and trends that have shaped Starling's history and its future.

The journey so far: 10 years spent observing forests and nature from space 2016 to 2018: Birth of satellite monitoring. The solution started in 2016 with pilot projects focused on palm oil, working alongside pioneering companies such as Nestlé and Ferrero. The ambition was clear: provide companies with visibility over deforestation risks in their sourcing regions. At the time, most audits still relied on costly and geographically limited on-the-ground testing.

Thanks to satellite imagery, Starling enabled continuous, tangible and objective monitoring of vast forest areas for the first time, wherever the plantation was located on Earth. The pilots then helped to reassure industries about the quality and reliability of the data, but above all to see what levers could be used to reduce the risk, including supplier engagement and on-site verification if necessary.

"In 2010, we made a No Deforestation commitment stating that none of our products globally will be associated with deforestation by 2020. Starling satellite monitoring has been a game changer to achieve transparency in our supply chain," says Pierre-Alexandre Teulié, head of corporate communications, public affairs, and environment policy at Nestlé France.

"Data and analytics provided by Starling enabled us to manage risks and perform field intervention strategies together with our suppliers to drive changes better and faster."

Those early years were dedicated to proving that satellite monitoring could become operational at industrial scale. What began as an innovative project quickly proved useful for sustainability

and procurement teams, seeking reliable and independent monitoring tools. The combination of Airbus' geospatial and imagery processing expertise and Earthworm Foundation's supply chain knowledge and on-the-ground presence helped make this possible.

Deforestation patches in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, captured by Airbus' Pléiades Neo satellite at 30cm resolution 2018 to 2023: Empowering geospatial insights. By 2018, Starling had achieved a major milestone by covering 100% of global palm oil sourcing regions with reliable and field-verified data layers. This represented a transformative step for the industry, enabling companies to monitor vast and complex landscapes across Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The same year also marked the beginning of monitoring activities in the cocoa industry, with first initiatives launched in West Africa, a region where deforestation and agricultural expansion were becoming increasingly interconnected.

In 2019, Starling evolved from a monitoring initiative into a fully commercialised solution through the launch of a dedicated digital cloud platform. This new phase enabled companies to access geospatial insights, alerts and reporting tools directly through a scalable interface designed for operational sustainability management.

In 2021, Starling became an industry-wide solution, leading the way companies are reporting on their No Deforestation Verification commitments. The collaboration with some of the largest consumer goods industries highlighted the growing recognition of satellite monitoring as an important component of responsible sourcing strategies. The approach was increasingly being used not only to identify risks but also to support the implementation of no-deforestation commitments.

In 2023, capabilities continued to evolve with expanded coverage across regions and commodities, and strengthened analytics based on proprietary datasets.

The Cavally Landscape Initiative example in Ivory Coast. Since its launch in 2020, the Cavally Landscape Initiative, implemented by Earthworm Foundation and supported by partners including Nestlé, Barry Callebaut, Touton, Cocoasource and SECO/Swissco, has worked to both protect the Cavally Forest Reserve (Ivory Coast) and improve the livelihoods of surrounding communities.

In the third quarter of 2025, the project reached a major milestone, with no deforestation alerts detected by Starling over that time period. Only three hectares of minor degradation were recorded, a significant drop compared to previous years. This achievement reflects years of coordinated efforts, combining satellite monitoring and concrete actions on the ground:

- Large and small-scale patrols covering 95% of the reserve
- 2,800 person-days deployed annually, including forest officers, gendarmerie and local communities
- Over 2,700 hectares of illegal cocoa cleared in the last 18 months
- Nearly 8,000 farming households supported through livelihood improvement initiatives

More than just numbers, these results demonstrate a real change of paradigm.

Field visit by the Earthworm Foundation team in Ivory Coast, supporting on-the-ground forest conservation efforts under the Cavally Forest project.

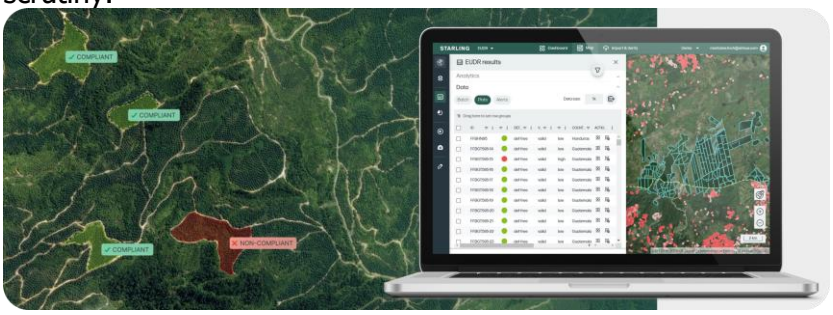
2023 to today: Navigating standards and regulations
The introduction of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) has fundamentally changed the expectations placed on companies sourcing agricultural commodities.

In response, Starling has established itself as a leading multi-commodity solution to support companies in their due diligence obligations and has adapted, notably with a redesign of the platform capable of handling geolocation verification, deforestation risk analysis, supplier due diligence and large-scale reporting workflows.

Access to in-house archives of very high-resolution Pléiades and Pléiades Neo satellite imagery has also opened the door to accurate evidence-based capabilities, essential for analysing the most complex situations, e.g., smallholders, agroforestry, etc.

But beyond the legal aspects, and in an uncertain regulatory context, Starling has continued to support industries in monitoring and demonstrating its alignment with evolving standards and best practices. Together with its partner Earthworm Foundation, Starling has worked closely alongside leading frameworks such as the Accountability Framework and the Palm Oil Collaboration Group, among others.

The dedicated platform has expanded its capabilities to support more complex frameworks, such as the Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) standard, by taking a broader view of natural ecosystem conversion. Commodity coverage has also diversified to include wood, soy, sugarcane, coffee and other agricultural commodities increasingly exposed to regulations and market scrutiny.



Starling's EUDR compliance platform providing deforestation risk for each plot
Going beyond regulations and deforestation monitoring.

At the same time, Starling has significantly advanced its work on land-based Scope 3 carbon emissions accounting in agricultural supply chains. The key? Having over 20 years of historical land cover time series as a foundation to understand the changes in land use that have occurred in the past.

The integration of archival satellite imagery, supply chain data and carbon accounting models enables the estimation of Scope 3 GHG emissions linked to deforestation and land conversion, from farm to landscape level. These insights can be delivered fast enough to support day-to-day decisions by sourcing and sustainability teams and help organisations achieve their climate goals and implement mitigation strategies in supply chains.

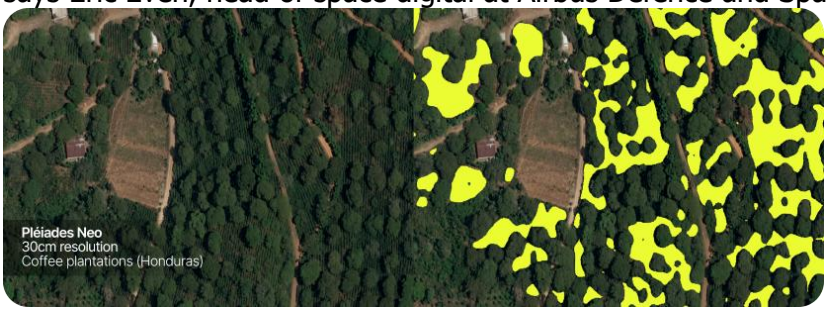
One of Starling's differentiating features lies in its use of the Airbus very high-resolution constellation at scale. Pléiades Neo (30cm resolution) satellites offer a level of precision and scalability that supports increasingly detailed agricultural monitoring, and is transforming how agricultural landscapes can be mapped and understood.

This capability is becoming especially critical for commodities such as coffee or cocoa, requiring increasingly granular visibility when it comes to smallholder landscape analysis, plantation mapping, agroforestry detection and biodiversity assessments.

The Coffee Canopy Partnership example
Another major milestone in 2026 was Starling's involvement in the Coffee Canopy Partnership. This groundbreaking initiative led by JDE Peet's, one of the global leading coffee companies (owning brands like L'Or, Senseo, Tassimo, Jacobs and Douwe Egberts), aims to create the world's first comprehensive, open map of coffee plantations to support deforestation-free and resilient coffee supply chains.

By combining Airbus' very high-resolution satellite imagery (Pléiades Neo) with advanced artificial intelligence models trained on large datasets, coffee plantations can now be identified and monitored from space at a level of detail previously unattainable. These models have been deployed across multiple countries in East Africa, covering more than 1.2m km² of diverse and complex landscapes (shade-grown and agroforestry systems).

"Leveraging our very high-resolution Pléiades and Pléiades Neo satellite imagery combined with advanced AI capabilities, Airbus helps identify deforestation risk and protect our world's forests, while simultaneously empowering food producers and smallholder farmers with the transparency and reliable data needed to strengthen their resilience and build a truly sustainable supply chain," says Eric Even, head of space digital at Airbus Defence and Space highlights.



Coffee plantations in Honduras growing under shade trees, automatically identified by Airbus' in-house algorithm using 30cm resolution Pléiades Neo imagery.

The next decade: Restoration and resilience era
As standards, regulations and business needs continue to evolve, Starling remains committed to supporting industries in producing better, more sustainable and resilient supply chains. Whatever the challenges may be in the next decade, Starling will continue to provide the information needed to support these efforts, aligned with its four core pillars:

- **Deforestation and conversion-free:** Ensure transparency and compliance with EUDR regulations or DCF standard by monitoring deforestation and land conversion within the supply chain.
- **Net-zero target:** Quantify Scope 3 GHG emissions linked to land use change to achieve a path towards credible net-zero commitments and carbon removal.
- **Nature positive:** Monitor the progress of forest positive initiatives by tracking carbon dynamics, evidencing tree permanence and growth, and assess ecosystem restoration outcomes.
- **Resilient agriculture:** Enhance resilient, regenerative and carbon neutral crop production systems through insights on crop mapping, water and crop management, and early detection of diseases and pests.

The satellite doesn't sleep. It passes, it observes, it compares with yesterday and with twenty

years ago, and it produces information that no one else can produce in this way.
Learn more about Starling here.