



International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AA

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

UK: NFU and British Sugar look to cut carbon in sugarbeet sector

NFU Sugar and British Sugar are working on a Homegrown Beet Climate partnership to set priorities and provide an 'umbrella' for several carbon reduction projects, reports Sugaronline.

Among those, a carbon footprint strand will incentivise growers to use a fit for purpose carbon calculator on farm and to measure progress year-on-year, while 'sustainable agriculture agreements' could encourage certain on-farm practices and open new markets.

Such practices needed to be practical, flexible to farm set-ups and weather and not compromise farming margins or extractable sucrose quality, a National Farmers Union Conference Sugar sector session heard on Feb. 22.

"The Homegrown Beet Climate Partnership will put the sector in the vanguard, said NFU Sugar Board Chair Michael Sly. "We are proud as a board to be pioneering and showing the way to other sectors."

Studies have found sugar produced from UK beet has a greenhouse gas footprint around half that of cane imports, which could factor into consumer choice, the breakout session heard.

NETHERLANDS: Cosun Beet picks up platinum EcoVadis

Cosun Beet Company has been awarded a platinum rating from EcoVadis for a second year in a row, gaining the the highest score among all participating sugar producers, reports Sugaronline.

EcoVadis is a benchmark that measures the sustainability of companies and in which more than 90,000 companies in more than 160 countries participate.

Mirjam Huysmans, Industry Account Manager, said: "One of the Cosun Beet Company's most important goals is to be the greenest sugar beet processor. Thanks to this benchmark, we can show that this is absolutely the case: the Cosun Beet Company currently holds the highest score among all sugar producers."

Platinum rating places the Cosun Beet Company among the top 1% of participating companies in the 'Manufacture of other food products' category.

The Cosun Beet Company has production locations in the Netherlands and Germany. The platinum rating applies to all of these locations.

BRAZIL: Sugarcane generated 79% of bioelectricity in 2021

The sugarcane industry generated 79.5% of the total bioelectricity supplied to Brazilian consumers in 2021, according to the cane industry association UNICA, reports Sugaronline.

The sugarcane sector sent 20,202 gigawatt-hour (GWh) of electricity to the national network last year, enough to supply 10.2 million homes in the country, down 10.6% from 2020.

The total volume of bioelectricity generated in 2021, including all the biomass (biogas, pellets, sugarcane, etc), was 25,400 GWh, equivalent to 4% of the total power generation in the country, according to data by the Chamber of Electric Energy Commercialization (CCEE).

In 2021, electricity from biomass helped to save 14% of the energy stored as water at hydroelectric dams in Brazil's southeast and centre-west regions.

Out of the 20,202 GWh generated by the sugarcane sector in 2021, 85% were supplied during the dry season, between May and November.

"Furthermore, (power) generation from sugarcane biomass reduced CO2 emissions by an estimated 7 million metric tonnes, a mark that would only be reached with the cultivation of 49 million native trees over 20 years", said UNICA's Bioelectricity manager, Zilmar de Souza.

SOUTH AFRICA: SA Canegrowers disappointment at sugar tax increase

Industry association SA Canegrowers says it is "deeply disappointed" by the government announcement that the Health Promotion Levy (or sugar tax) is to be increased, reports Sugaronline.

Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana revealed that the tax for beverages with more than 4g of sugar per 100ml would increase from ZAR 2.21 to 2.31 cents (US\$0.14 cents) per gram from April 1, in his 2022 Budget announcement on Feb. 23. Consultations will also be initiated to consider lowering the 4g threshold and extending the levy to fruit juices, the Treasury said.

This hike will not only threaten thousands more rural jobs in the sector but will hamstring efforts to successfully implement the Sugarcane Value Chain Masterplan, said SA Canegrowers. No evidence had been produced to date that the tax had reduced obesity levels in the country, it said.

It is to request a meeting with the Minister to discuss government's reasons for increasing the levy, first introduced in 2018 and the impact it will have on the industry.

UK/BRAZIL: Campaigners attack Brazil's pesticide standards

Campaign groups have warned the government it risks "contributing to the destruction of the Amazon" if it boosts trade with Brazil, where "pesticide standards are far weaker than those of the UK", according to The Grocer.

According to a new report by NGOs Pesticide Action Network UK and Sustain, any future UK-Brazil trade deal would likely see increased British imports from Brazil, fuelling the use on Brazilian farms of chemicals banned in the UK.

Brazil is the world's third-biggest pesticide user, after China and the US, according to statistics collated by the University of Oxford's Our World in Data.

The UK announced a tariff-free quota for imported raw cane sugar in 2020, with Brazil quickly emerging as the leading supplier.

The quota, which was recently extended to 2024, has been vehemently opposed by British Sugar, which relies on domestic beet, and by the National Farmers' Union, which said lower production standards in Brazil and elsewhere would undercut British growers.

FoodNavigator.com

From cocaine to palm oil: The highs and lows of transforming a narcotic landscape



Colombia, the world's largest producer of cocaine, is working to reduce reliance on coca cultivation. Instead the government is investing in oil palm, which locals say is benefiting communities and the environment.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2022/02/24/from-cocaine-to-palm-oil-the-highs-and-lows-of-transforming-a-narcotic-landscape>
