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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.

Newshub
Artificial sweeteners could be associated with increased cancer risk, study suggests

https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/lifestyle/2022/03/artificial-sweeteners-could-be-associated-with-increased-cancer-risk-study-suggests.html

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FoodNavigator.com
'Dietary guidelines are likely wrong': Saturated fat does not increase cardiovascular disease risk, argue researchers

While consuming saturated fats increases blood cholesterol, meta-analyses suggest this does not translate into increased risk of cardiovascular disease, say researchers.

https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2022/03/24/saturated-fat-does-not-increase-cardiovascular-disease-risk-argue-researchers

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ED & Man Daily News

Brazil tax cut for ethanol, sugar, soy oil imports to have little impact -analysts - Reuters News - Brazil's recently announced tax cut for ethanol, sugar and soy oil imports should have little impact on trade deals in the short term and was driven more by politics than business, analysts said on Tuesday. The move came as the government tries to tame double-digit annual inflation, with import tariffs for ethanol and six food products - ground coffee, margarine, cheese,

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pasta, sugar and soy oil - being zeroed until the end of 2022. President Jair Bolsonaro said that cutting taxes on ethanol imports to zero from 18% should lower gasoline prices at the pump by up to 0.20 real ($0.0406) per liter - local laws require the biofuel to be blended into gasoline. Analysts, however, saw the move as having little impact for now. Even with no taxes levied on it, imported ethanol would enter Brazil with prices 8% to 10% higher than local ones, which are set to further decline beginning in April, when sugarcane crushing begins in Brazil. "We are on the cusp of the new sugarcane crop, when the prices will drop, so we expect the arbitrage window to remain closed even with zero tax," Datagro's analyst Plinio Nastari said. "Brazilian ethanol tends to get more competitive in the coming weeks with producer prices falling, and that should be passed on to consumers," he added.

German Sugar Industry Files Complaint Against EU Beet Subs - Bloomberg - The German Economic Association for Sugar submitted a complaint to the European Commission against subsidies for sugar-beet growers in EU member states, saying they lead to a "rise in unfair competition," according to a statement published by the industry group on Tuesday. The group wants the revamp of country-level beet subsidy practices to be reflected in the EU's Common Agricultural Policy to be implemented from next year. "Premiums should only be granted in exceptional cases. In many member states, however, they have become standard:" German Economic Association for Sugar. The German sugar industry cited a 2017 study by the University of Wageningen showing such extra payments distort competition. Eleven out of the 19 EU member states that grow sugar beet subsidize their farmers.

FoodNavigator.com

FRANCE: Study shows some alternative sweeteners increase cancer risk

A study published March 24 in PLOS Medicine by Charlotte Debras and Mathilde Touvier at the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (Inserm) and Sorbonne Paris Nord University, France and colleagues suggests that some artificial sweeteners are associated with increased cancer risk, **reports Sugaronline**.

Many food products and beverages containing artificial sweeteners are consumed by millions of people daily. However, the safety of these additives has been a subject of debate. To evaluate the potential carcinogenicity of artificial sweeteners, researchers analyzed data from 102,865 French adults participating in the NutriNet-Santé study. The NutriNet-Santé study is an ongoing web-based cohort initiated in 2009 by the Nutritional Epidemiology Research Team (EREN). Participants enroll voluntarily and self-report medical history, sociodemographic, diet, lifestyle, and health data. Researchers gathered data concerning artificial sweetener intake from 24-hour dietary records. After collecting cancer diagnosis information during follow-up, the researchers conducted statistical analyses to investigate the associations between artificial sweetener intakes and cancer risk. They also adjusted for a range of variables including age, sex, education, physical activity, smoking, body mass index, height, weight-gain during follow-up, diabetes, family history of cancer, as well as baseline intakes of energy, alcohol, sodium, saturated fatty acids, fiber, sugar, whole-grain foods, and dairy products.

The researchers found that enrollees consuming larger quantities of artificial sweeteners, particularly aspartame and acesulfame-K, had higher risk of overall cancer compared to non-consumers (hazard ratio 1.13, 95% confidence interval 1.03 to 1.25). Higher risks were observed for breast cancer and obesity-related cancers.

The study had several important limitations; dietary intakes are self-reported. Selection bias may also have been a factor, as participants were more likely to be women, to have higher educational levels, and to exhibit health-conscious behaviors. The observational nature of the study also means that residual confounding is possible and reverse causality cannot be ruled out. Additional research will be required to confirm the findings and clarify the underlying mechanisms.

According to the authors, "Our findings do not support the use of artificial sweeteners as safe alternatives for sugar in foods or beverages and provide important and novel information to address the controversies about their potential adverse health effects. While these results need to be replicated in other large-scale cohorts and underlying mechanisms clarified by experimental studies, they provide important and novel insights for the ongoing re-evaluation of food additive sweeteners by the European Food Safety Authority and other health agencies globally".

Debras adds, "Results from the NutriNet-Santé cohort (n=102,865) suggest that artificial sweeteners found in many food and beverage brands worldwide may be associated with increased cancer risk, in line with several experimental in vivo / in vitro studies. These findings provide novel information for the re-evaluation of these food additives by health agencies."

BRAZIL: Fitch says higher costs expected for sugar companies

Brazil's sugar and ethanol industry should see higher costs in 2022 due to the inflation, but the impact in their cash flows should be "manageable," said Fitch Ratings, according to Novacana.

Fitch doesn't foresee downgrades in the sugar companies' ratings in the short term, according to a report released by the rating agency on March 22.

High sugar prices above historical averages ensured by sugar companies in pre-fixed contracts and a rise in the volume of sugarcane expected to be crushed in the coming season should help mitigate part of the impact of rising production costs, according to Fitch.

BARBADOS: Manufactures' association expresses concern about sugar tax rise

The Barbados Manufactures' Association (BMA) has said it was "deeply concerned" about the rise in the tax on sugar-sweetened beverages to 20%, effective from April 1, according to Nationa News.

The association said it is committed to supporting efforts to fight non-communicable diseases and curbing obesity but claims that the sugar-tax increase would make products more expensive and severely impact manufacturers that create thousands of jobs, providing economic stability for families.

INDIA: Sugar mills say oil companies restricting new investments in ethanol

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has claimed that the "discriminatory attitude and restrictive policies" of oil marketing companies (OMCs) had been restricting new investments in ethanol production, according to the Financial Express.

ISMA alleges that the OMCs are selectively signing agreements to buy ethanol for 10 years, and demands the government to review their policies.

ISMA said the OMCs did not give any allocation for ethanol production capacity creation for Uttar Pradesh, and gave minimal allocation for Maharashtra and Karnataka.

EU: WHO study shows only 19% of EU countries taxing sugar-sweetened beverages

The World Health Organisation says taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) can help countries fight noncommunicable diseases and make people healthier – but this measure can be more effective if taxes are developed in collaboration between health and finance authorities, reports Sugaronline**.**

This is one of the findings from the new WHO report "Sugar-sweetened beverage taxes in the WHO European Region", which examines the experience of the 10 Member States who were first in the Region to introduce the measure.

"Taxation is a cost-effective policy that can improve health at national level. By introducing taxes on sugary drinks, countries can reduce consumption levels of these beverages and lower the associated risks of overweight and obesity, diabetes and other associated diseases," said Dr Kremlin Wickramasinghe, Acting Head of the WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and one of the authors of the new report.

"However, today SSB taxation is underused in the WHO European Region – only 19% of countries have adopted the measure."

The WHO report focuses on the experiences of Belgium, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Monaco, Norway, Portugal and the United Kingdom. Only those 10 of 53 countries of the WHO European Region have implemented SSB taxes on a national level.

The report's findings are aligned with a recent WHO study published in the European Journal of Public Health and highlight the flexibility of SSB taxation practices and the opportunities they give to decision-makers.

The reviewed practices show that SSB taxes were always levied on industry and not on consumers. But the design and specifics of the tax instrument differed by country.

Some Member States chose to focus on the economic effects of the SSB taxes, others explained the adoption explicitly as a health measure.

The design of taxes was also diverse. Hungary, Latvia and the United Kingdom, for example, introduced differential excise rates with thresholds based on the sugar content of beverages.

"The aim of the WHO study was to inform decision-makers and support the effective implementation of SSB taxation across our Region," added Dr Wickramasinghe. "WHO-recommended policy actions lead to longer lives and better well-being in every country of the WHO European Region."

The WHO European Programme of Work 2020–2025 aims to reduce health inequities, empowering countries to introduce effective measures to improve the health of people across the Region.
