The Executive Director would like to draw your attention to the articles below all of which are relevant to the sugar sector.

**Sugaronline EBriefing**

**BRAZIL: Raízen to supply renewable power to fashion retailer**
Brazil’s Raízen will supply renewable energy to 35 stores and one distribution centre of local women’s fashion company Marisa, according to Renewables Now.

The sugar and ethanol producer plans to use several energy sources, including solar and biomass from sugarcane waste, to generate power delivered to Marisa, according to Raízen’s vice president of Energy and Renewables, Frederico Saliba. The companies signed a power supply contract that also includes International Renewable Energy Certificates (I-RECs).

**EUROPE: New EFSA risk assessment concludes GMO beet H7-1 is safe**
The Panel on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published earlier this month a new risk assessment for the GMO sugar beet H7-1, reports Sugaronline.

The EFSA GMO Panel has previously assessed this transgenic sugar beet variety, confirming its safety.

On Feb. 19, 2021, the European Commission requested EFSA to analyze new nucleic acid sequencing data and updated bioinformatics data for GM sugar beet H7‐1 and to indicate whether the previous conclusions of the GMO Panel on the safety of GM sugar beet H7‐1 remain valid. The new sequencing data indicated seven nucleotide differences as compared to the sequence originally provided.

“Based on the analysis of the provided data, EFSA considers that the newly reported sequence differences are most likely attributed to sequencing errors in the originally reported sugar beet H7-1 event sequence. The new sequencing data and the bioinformatic analyses performed on the new sequence did not give rise to safety issues,” said the Panel in a summary of the assessment published on EFSA’s website.

“Therefore, EFSA concludes that the original risk assessment of sugar beet H7-1 remains valid.”

**NIGERIA: Dangote Sugar invests to expand power generation capacity**
Dangote Sugar Refinery has invested in expanding power generation capacity at its Numan facility to 32 megawatts, installing new turbines and a 2-high pressure boiler of 90 tonnes of steam per hour, according to Leadership.

The unit originally had an installed capacity of 6.4 MW, far below the company’s electricity requirements during the sugarcane harvest and production peak.
The upgrade should allow the company to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen its sugar production capacity to 9,800 metric tonnes per day.

FoodNavigator.com

Coca-Cola Co. leverages ‘intelligent experimentation’ to land ‘epic’ innovation

While The Coca-Cola Co.’s tolerance for underperforming brands and product launches that miss the mark has dropped dramatically in recent years, its appetite for “intelligent experimentation” has increased – underscoring the need for a structured yet flexible approach to innovation that the company has finetuned during the pandemic.


Consumer appetite for unhealthy food remains strong, poll reveals: ‘This demonstrates the need for brands to innovate’

Nine in 10 UK shoppers would still buy sweets or chocolate if they weren’t on offer, yet most consumers think that less fat, sugar and salt in supermarket foods is a good idea.

https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2022/06/24/consumer-appetite-for-unhealthy-food-remains-strong-poll-reveals-this-demonstrates-the-need-for-brands-to-innovate

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BRAZIL: São Martinho plans to invest in biogas projects

Brazil’s São Martinho plans to invest BRL160 million (US$31 million) in the biogas sector, said the company’s financial director Felipe Vicchiato on June 21, according to Agência Estado.

He said the company was evaluating profitable business models and technologies to decide on potential investments by the end of this year. São Martinho plans to reduce its dependence on fertilizers by applying them more efficiently as costs continue to rise.

Vicchiato also said high diesel costs had impacted the sugar sector, especially for sugar exporters far from Santos Port. He said that producing ethanol could be more advantageous for some mills amid the high logistical costs of exporting sugar.

NICARAGUA: Sugar season concluded with record production

Nicaragua produced 17.7 million quintals of sugar in the 2021/22 season, a record in more than 130 years of sugar production in the country, according to Tiempos de Negocios.

The four mills in the country crushed 8.1 million short tonnes of sugarcane in the 2021/22 season, planted in an area of 104,508 manzanas, according to the general manager of the national sugar producers association CNPA, Mario Amador.

Nicaragua exports 65% of its total sugar production including to the United States, South Korea, the European Union, African countries, and others.