


International Sugar Organization

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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
US: California Ethanol and Power to build sugarcane ethanol plant

California Ethanol and Power plans to build a US\$650 million ethanol plant in the Imperial Valley, the first ethanol plant in the United States to use sugarcane as feedstock, according to LA Business Journal.

The plant will be build in a 160-acre area and is part of a US\$1.1 billion project that includes agreements with local farmers to grow the sugarcane and an agreement with a farming cooperative to sell the ethanol.

The distillery is expected to be operational by 2025 if the company secures the financing needed to build the project. It will produce 68 million gallons of ethanol, 740 million gallons of biomethane, and generate 49 megawatts of electricity annually.

SPAIN: Azucarera launches solution to identify optimal maturity of beets

Sugar beet processor Azucarera has launched this season a solution to identify the optimal maturity of beets and define the best time for harvesting, ensuring the highest amount of sucrose is extracted from the plant, reports Sugaronline.

The Sucrose Curve was developed in five years in collaboration with technology company Hemav.

This season, Azucarera planted 7,715 hectares (ha) of sugar beets in Andalusia, of which 4,195 ha correspond to irrigated land. "This has been a difficult year, especially concerning the lack of rain at critical times and the lack of water supply to irrigate properly, especially in the province of Seville," said Azucarera's agricultural manager in the southern zone, Miguel Sanromán, in a statement released on June 27.

"Even so, beet cultivation and available contracting models have given growers the security, comfort and sufficient profitability to face this complicated scenario."

Azucarera recorded an average yield of 74 tonnes/ha in irrigated land and 39 t/ha in other lands, according to the most recent sampling. The company expects the sugar beet harvest in the region to last until the first days of August.

UK: Scientists use camouflage to hide beet crops from pests

The Norwich-based British Beet Research Organization (BBRO) is using dyes in the so-called "camo-cropping" in an attempt to hide crops from pests, according to BBC.

The scientists hope the patchworks of multi-colored crops could be a natural alternative to pesticides.

The trials have started at Morley Farms, near Wymondham, Norfolk, in an attempt to protect sugar beet from aphids, a pest that can reduce yields by 50% in a bad year, according to farmer David Jones.

AUSTRALIA: Sugar industry unveils roadmap to drive bioeconomy development

Australia's sugarcane industry expects to become the backbone of the Australian bioeconomy under a plan unveiled at the Developing Northern Australia Conference in Mackay on July 6, according to a statement released by Sugar Research Australia, **reports Sugaronline**.

The Sugar Plus vision and roadmap were developed by sugar industry organizations with support from the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

CRCNA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Anne Stünzner said that Sugar Plus outlines an important role for the industry in fuelling the future of food, energy and fabrication.

"The sugarcane industry has identified an exciting and transformational future of sustainably producing sugar and bioproducts at the heart of regional communities," Stünzner said.

"The roadmap outlines opportunities for a substantially larger industry. A growing bioeconomy industry will enable Australia to become increasingly self-sufficient, improving economic resilience and national security."

Stünzner said analysis undertaken in developing the roadmap indicated enormous opportunity.

"Australian demand for heavy fuels and plastics is substantial. Even modest adoption of biofuels and bioplastic equates to a substantial amount of sugar-equivalent alternative products. Australia's current domestic market alone would create massive demand for alternative protein feedstock, aviation fuel and bioplastics," Stünzner said.

Sugar Research Australia CEO Roslyn Baker congratulated industry organizations for the strong partnership and collaboration in developing the roadmap and their commitment to innovation and growth.

"The roadmap includes initiatives to support better business-as-usual in the near term, add value and create new revenue streams in the medium term, and become a bioeconomy powerhouse in the longer term," Baker said.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities Mark Furner said Sugar Plus highlighted the sugar industry's important role in supporting long-term economic development in Queensland.

"Queensland produces almost 95% of Australia's sugarcane which is worth almost AUD4 billion a year to the nation's economy and supports 23,000 direct and indirect jobs from Mossman in far north Queensland, through to northern New South Wales," Furner said.

"That is why the Queensland Government supported the development of this industry-led initiative, backing the industry to come together to make the Sugar Plus vision a reality."

The roadmap was developed through a nine-month engagement process across the Australian sugar industry supply chain. It was jointly funded and supported by the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia, Sugar Research Australia (as project sponsor), Canegrowers, the Australian Sugar Milling Council, AgForce, Australian Cane Farmers Association and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

EUROPE: Producers defend renewable ethanol as a way to decarbonize transport

EPure, a group representing European renewable ethanol producers, said in a statement on July 1 that ethanol should be considered a solution to decarbonize the European transport matrix, reports Sugaronline.

The statement follows the agreement approved by the European Council of Ministers on a general approach for the revision of car and van CO2 standards.

“Europe needs a range of solutions to decarbonize transport — including renewable ethanol — not just one technology that isn’t yet fully attainable for all segments of society,” the group said.

“A more realistic EU approach would make it clear to EU citizens that there are no ‘zero emission’ cars. Measured on a full life-cycle, there are always emissions and always costs.”

The group defends that the Commission should consider the continuously improving GHG-reduction performance of EU renewable ethanol and recent studies that show hybrid vehicles running on high-ethanol blends have lower GHG emissions than battery electric vehicles on a full-life-cycle basis.

“The fact is we need more than just one solution to achieve real decarbonization today and tomorrow without hitting consumers’ purchasing power and adapting to their needs. A socially inclusive transition to carbon neutrality should empower all citizens, not just those who can afford new technologies, and all countries, not just those that can afford new infrastructure,” said ePure.

FoodNavigator.Com

Fossil-free food: Green fertilizer developed to ‘effortlessly’ decarbonise the food chain



In an industry first, fossil-free ‘green’ fertilizer – made using renewable electricity – is being developed at a commercial scale. FoodNavigator catches up with Yara to find out how.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2022/06/30/green-fertilizer-developed-by-yara-to-effortlessly-decarbonise-the-food-chain>