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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(23)17**  
**(English only)**

**8 March 2023**

**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.

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**Sugaronline Ebriefing**

**UK: Farmers allowed to use neonicotinoid; forecast for virus yellows incidence is 67.5%**

Beet farmers in the UK will be allowed to use seeds treated with Cruiser SB this season after the British Beet Research Organization (BBRO) estimated an incidence of virus yellows of 67.5% for the 2023 crop, above the 63% threshold required to trigger the use of the neonicotinoid, reports Sugaronline.

“It is important to remember that this forecasts the proportion of the crop that is expected to show virus yellows symptoms in the absence of any control measures,” the BBRO said in its advisory bulletin released on March 2.

The national forecast is based on the March 30 sowing date. The date of the first arrival of aphids in crops in 2023 is forecasted from April 22.

In 2020, the forecast for virus yellows incidence was 85% with the first arrival date of aphids on March 24. Last year, the forecast was 69%, with an expected aphid flight date of April 18.

**NIGERIA: Dangote Sugars posts strong rise in profit for 2022**

Dangote Sugars posted a profit before tax of NGN54.7 billion (US\$118.9 million) in 2022, up 141.9% from the previous year, according to Premium Times.

The company’s revenue increased by 46.1% to NGN403.2 billion (US\$876.5 million), mostly due to sales of its flagship product, a 50kg-sugar bag, which accounted for NGN97 (US\$0.21) of every NGN100 (US\$0.22) made during the year.

The company said its operating profit was boosted by other income which leapt three times to NGN1.4 billion (US\$3 million), helped by an inventory adjustment of NGN707.1 million (US\$1.54 million).

**BRAZIL: Researchers develop fertilizer using sugarcane bagasse**

Researchers at Brazil’s Maringá State University (UEM), in Paraná state, have developed a fertilizer using sugarcane bagasse discarded from ethanol production, according to Gazeta do Povo.

The fertilizer dubbed Max G2 has the potential to double the productivity of sugarcane crops, according to Wanderley Dantas Santos, professor at the Department of Biochemistry.

The researchers have a meeting with representatives of Raízen next week. Sugarcane crops will be sprayed with fertilizer and in one and a half year, when the sugarcane field is ready for harvest, researchers will evaluate the results.

Professor Santos said the group had requested authorization from the Ministry of Agriculture to sell the fertilizer, but it can take up to two years to receive approval.

**INDONESIA: Health Ministry defends sugar tax**

Indonesia's Health Ministry is encouraging the imposition of an excise tax on products high in sugar, salt, and fat, according to Antara News.

The ministry's director general for Disease Prevention and Control, Maxi Rein Rondonuwu, said the ministry has proposed to the Ministry of Finance that products rich in sugar, salt and fat should be included in the list of goods subject to the excise.

The government's healthy policy recommendations define that sugar consumption should not surpass 50 grams per day.

**EUROPE: Political group slams new regulation proposing reduction in pesticide use**

The European People's Party (EPP), the largest political group in the European Parliament, has criticized a new proposed regulation from the European Commission that would slash pesticide usage in the block, according to Agriland.

The commission proposed cutting pesticide use across the EU by 50% by 2023. The Member of the European Parliament representing the Group of Greens, Sarah Weiner, has proposed a sharpest cut of 80%.

Alexander Bernhuber, an Austrian member of the EPP and its spokesperson for agriculture in the parliament's environment committee, said last week that the EU must focus on European food security, adding that the EPP wants to go a constructive way with a realistic and holistic view, especially in light of the war in Ukraine.

**BELIZE: Czarnikow estimates 2023 sugar production similar to 2022 despite delays**

Sugar production by mills in Belize should reach similar levels as last year despite the delayed start of the current season due to rains in December, according to Czarnikow, reports Sugaronline.

"Weather forecasts for the next months have improved and mills should have enough time to process all the cane they have available, unlike last year," analyst Stephanie Rodriguez wrote in a report released on March 5.

Belize produces around 180,000 metric tonnes of sugar per year, and production for the last five years has remained consistent, excluding 2020.

The total volume of crushed sugarcane should be a little over 2 million tonnes, according to Czarnikow, after a slight decrease last year, when mills had to leave cane on the fields due to weather conditions.

"This season, total cane acreage and mill capacity in Belize have also increased, which should help increase production even if there is a decrease in cane yields because of the rains," said Rodriguez.

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### Erythritol and health risk: how much weight is behind the claims?



Erythritol remains an important tool in long-term weight gain and disease risk, according to the international association representing the low- and reduced-calorie food and beverage industry, after research showed that the popular artificial sweetener is associated with an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/03/06/erythritol-and-health-risk-how-much-weight-is-behind-the-claims>

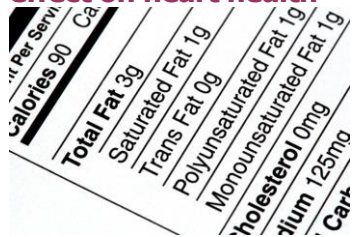
### Eating habits are changing with food prices a 'top concern' for consumers



A survey in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland by the Food Standards Agency suggests most people have made changes to their eating habits in the last year, with food prices a 'top concern'.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2023/03/06/eating-habits-are-changing-with-food-prices-a-top-concern-for-consumers>

### Are all saturated fats equal? Research examines saturated fatty acid chain length and effect on heart health



Saturated fatty acid chain length should be taken into consideration when assessing the impact on heart health, a new study suggests, indicating an opening for food marketers to differentiate the types of saturated fats used in their products and for stakeholders to advocate for a shift in dietary guidelines.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2023/03/07/are-all-saturated-fats-equal-research-examines-saturated-fatty-acid-chain-length-and-effect-on-heart-health>

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