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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(25)24  
(English only)**

**29 May 2025**

**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**

**EUROPE: Parliament approves tariff rise for Russian and Belarussian agri goods including sugar**

The EU Parliament approved a proposal on May 22 to increase tariffs on some Russian and Belarussian agricultural goods, including sugar, by 50%, reports Sugaronline.

The tariff increase, applied to goods that were not yet subject to extra customs duties, is part of an effort to reduce the European Union's dependency on those imports, according to a statement released by the EU Parliament.

The new tariffs will apply to products including sugar, vinegar, flour and animal feed.

Following this approval, the regulation must be adopted formally by the Council and subsequently published in the Official Journal, before it can enter into force. The regulation will apply four weeks after the bill enters into force.

The EU expects the measures to reduce imports of these goods significantly, whether they originate in the two countries or are exported directly or indirectly by them.

The approved proposal also provides for a 6.5% tariff on fertilisers imported from the two countries, plus duties of between EUR40 (US\$45.13) and EUR45 (US\$50.8) per tonne for 2025/26. These tariffs will rise to EUR430 (US\$485.2) per tonne by 2028.

"Income from the sale of Russian and Belarussian fertilisers is considered to be contributing directly to the war against Ukraine," the EU Parliament said in the statement, adding that the measure should result in further diversification of EU fertiliser production, currently impacted by the low prices of imports.

**USDA forecasts 2025/26 global sugar production to rise by 8.6 million T**

The 2025/26 global sugar production is estimated to rise by up to 8.6 million metric tonnes from the previous year, with higher production in Brazil and India more than offsetting lower European Union (EU) output, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) 's biannual report on the world sugar markets released May 22, reports Sugaronline.

"Exports are down with lower shipments expected from the European Union and Thailand. Ending inventories are forecast to rise due primarily to India and China," the USDA said in the report.

Total sugar production is projected to rise to 189.3 million tonnes in 2025/26, after an estimated fall of 5.9 million tonnes in 2024/25 to 180.8 million tonnes.

Brazil is expected to produce a record 44.7 million tonnes of sugar in 2025/26 due to favourable weather conditions contributing to yields. India production is estimated to jump over 25% to 35.3 million tonnes also supported by expected favorable weather and increased area.

Sugar production in the EU is forecast to fall 9% to 15 million tonnes amid a 10% decline in sugarbeet area mainly among top producers such as France and Germany.

Thai sugar production is also expected to rise 2% to 10.3 million tons due to increased sugarcane production and cane sugar yield.

China is estimated to raise sugar output by 500,000 tonnes in 2025/26 to 11.5 million, driven by expanded sugarcane area and sugarbeet production increase due to favorable weather.

#### **NIGERIA: Sugar Master Plan requires \$4.5 billion in investment, says NSDC**

Nigeria's National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) estimates that the country's Sugar Master Plan will require \$4.5 billion in investments, according to The Cable.

The NSDC's executive secretary, Kamar Bakrin, revealed the investment estimate during a public hiring on a bill to amend the National Sugar Development Act 2024 on May 22.

Bakrin said the sugar master plan aims to create 100,000 high-quality jobs, promote the development of rural infrastructure, and save at least \$1 billion per year in foreign exchange.

#### **CANADA: Newfoundland and Labrador to eliminate sugar tax**

The finance minister of Canada's Newfoundland and Labrador province, Siobhan Coady, has announced plans to soon eliminate the sugar-sweetened beverage tax in the province, according to The Telegram.

Coady said on May 21 that the tax would be eliminated "in a matter of weeks," according to the news report.

She explained that the government is consulting with wholesalers and retailers to prevent any unintended consequences during the rollback.

#### **SOUTH AFRICA: Canegrowers praise decision not to increase sugar tax**

The South African sugarcane farmers' association, SA Canegrowers, has expressed its approval of the government's decision not to raise the sugar tax in the 2025 Budget, **reports Sugaronline.**

"Any increase would risk the livelihoods of growers and increase unemployment in many parts of KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga, where there are few other job opportunities," the group said in a statement released on May 21.

The sugar tax resulted in losses of 16,000 jobs and ZAR2 billion in revenue in the first year of implementation alone, according to SA Canegrowers, citing research by Nedlac.

"Ultimately, we believe that Treasury should scrap the tax to help ensure that the government drives job creation and economic growth, as per its commitments outlined in the Sugarcane Value Chain Master Plan 2030," the group stated.

"This social compact between industry and government to revitalise the industry also has the potential to create new markets for sugarcane growers and kickstart new industrialisation projects in Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal," the group said in a statement on May 21.

#### **RUSSIA: Rusagro reports lower sugar production and sales in Q1**

Rusagro, one of Russia's largest agricultural companies and sugar producers, reported a 36% decline in the sugar sales volume in the first quarter of 2025 amid lower sugar production compared to one year earlier, according to the company's trading update released in late April, **reports Sugaronline.**

Sugar sales fell to 120,000 metric tonnes in the first quarter, compared to 187,000 in the same quarter in 2024.

Sugar production declined 49% to 65,000 tonnes.

"Sugar production decreased compared to the same period of the previous year following the dynamics of sugar beet harvest in the season 2023/2024," the company said.

Rusagro's consolidated revenue (before intersegment eliminations) increased by 18% in the first quarter to RUB82.79 billion (US\$1 billion), mainly due to rises in sales in the crude vegetable oil and meat segments.

#### **INDONESIA: Mandatory 5% ethanol blending in fuel set to begin in 2026**

Indonesia's mandatory use of 5% ethanol in fuel blends is set to begin in 2026, with a gradual rollout due to limited ethanol supply, said an official in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources last week, according to Xinhua.

The implementation of the mandate will start with Java Island, according to the ministry's director general of new renewable energy and energy conservation, Eniya Listiani Dewi.

She said three companies in the country can produce 60,000 kilolitres of fuel-based ethanol, while Indonesia will require at least 1 million kilolitres to meet the 5% blending target annually.

**ARGENTINA: Coca-Cola's bottler buys part of Bella Vista mill – news report**

Coca-Cola's bottler Salta Refrescos has signed a long-term agreement to buy part of the Bella Vista mill, located in Tucumán, from the Córdoba-based company José Minetti, according to news website La Voz, citing sources with knowledge of the transaction on May 22.

The transaction is estimated at US\$30 million.

Salta Refrescos' acquisition includes sugar production facilities and fixed assets to produce industrial sugars. Minetti will retain the bioethanol distillery, dehydrator, and the sugar brands Fronterita, Dul-C, and Bella Vista.

**US: Winners announced for the 2025 Sugar Notables awards**

On July 19, 2025, the *Sugar Journal* staff will celebrate the 2025 Sugar Notables winners, reports **Sugaronline**.

"We have so many outstanding individuals in our sugar industry that have done so much to improve and move the industry forward that we felt we should celebrate the 'best of the best' that were selected," said Romney Richard, publisher and editor of Sugar Journal.

Nominations were opened last year, and the criteria were the length of service, success in their career, documented contributions to the betterment of the industry, involvement in industry organizations/activities, and demonstrated leadership characteristics. Those who wanted to nominate someone could do so on the website SugarJournal.com. After the nominations were made, a panel of industry leaders helped pick each category's winners.

Since the industry is split into different segments, several categories were identified. The winners are as follows:

- Sugar Cane Grower – Howard Robichaux, Louisiana
- Sugar Beet Grower – Paul Schlagel, Colorado
- Raw Sugar Processor – Dan Duplantis, Louisiana
- Cane Sugar Refiner – Mike Walton, Canada
- Beet Sugar Processor – David Grooms, North Dakota
- Scientific Researcher – Raffaella Rossetto, Brazil
- Supplier Researcher – Keith Picou, Louisiana

A dinner celebration at Antoine's Restaurant in New Orleans will be the stage to honour these Sugar Notables.

**AUSTRALIA: Canegrowers reelect chairman for another 3-year term**

Queensland's sugarcane growers have reelected Owen Menkens for another three-year term as chairman of Queensland's sugarcane farmers association Canegrowers, according to a statement released May 26.

Sugarcane growers have also elected Innisfail grower Joe Marano as senior vice chair and Herbert River's Steven Marbelli, a newcomer to the state board, as vice chair.

The appointments cap off Canegrowers' triennial election process, which began in February.

Also elected to the state board were returning members Joseph Borg and Kevin Borg (Mackay), and Michelle Fischer (Rocky Point), alongside three new faces – Glenn Betteridge (Burdekin), Claude Santucci (Tablelands), and Steven Marbelli (Herbert River).

"The strength of this board lies in its mix of continuity and renewal," Menkens said. "With experienced leaders like Joe Marano and Kevin Borg alongside committed new board members like Glenn, Claude and Steven, we've got the right team to move the industry forward."

The Policy Council will now establish industry committees to lead focused work on key priorities, including mill performance, supply chain efficiency, sustainability, diversification, and grower profitability.

**ED & F Man Daily**

Kazakhstan's sugar beet harvest hits record highs, but processing failures spark policy retreat - bne IntelliNews - Kazakhstan's sugar beet industry achieved a historic high in 2024 with a gross harvest of nearly 1.3mn tonnes, more than double the previous year's yield, Energyprom.kz has reported. However, the country's processing infrastructure was reportedly unable to keep pace,

resulting in widespread waste and renewed criticism of the sector's strategic planning. Driven by a 34% increase in cultivation area to 25,000 hectares and enhanced state subsidies, farmers saw yields rise to 507 centners per hectare. Yet only 58.3% of the harvested beets were processed domestically. The unprocessed surplus was either left to spoil or was exported, mainly to Kyrgyzstan. Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov attributed the shortfall in processing to ageing factory infrastructure, high debt burdens and unregulated sugar imports from neighbouring countries.

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## **FoodNavigator.com**

### **How retail media and shopper behavior are shaping candy & snack sales**



Consumer preferences and retail media strategies are transforming the candy and snack aisles amid inflation and evolving shopper habits

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/05/28/retail-media-and-shopper-behaviors-shake-up-the-candy-and-snack-aisles/>

### **GLP-1 users lack vital nutrients, GNC reports**



GLP-1 drug use is increasingly rapidly, with global spending projected to reach \$131 billion by 2028. However, little is known about how these medications affect nutrient intake.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/05/27/glp-1-users-lack-vital-nutrients-gnc-reports/>

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