



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(25)36
(English only)**

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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

NIGERIA: Sugar Development Council leader calls on stakeholders to invest in sugar sector

The executive secretary of the National Sugar Development Council, Kamar Bakrin, has called on stakeholders to join the country's effort to reduce dependence on imported raw sugar and by-products, according to Business Day.

During the visit of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Bakrin said that now is the time to invest in the Nigerian sugar sector, currently valued at over \$2 billion.

Bakrin said that, following a land viability assessment, the Council has a land bank of 150,000 hectares suitable for sugarcane cultivation and available to new investors.

OMAN: Sugar refinery receives its first raw sugar shipment from Brazil

Oman's first sugar refinery has received its inaugural shipment of more than 90,000 metric tonnes of raw sugar from Brazil, according to two separate reports by the TAS news agency and the Times of Oman.

Sugar smelting operations at the refinery are scheduled to start this August, in preparation for the launch of commercial white sugar production next September, according to the chairman of the sugar refinery's board of directors, Nasser bin Ali Al Hosni.

The sugar refinery is located in the Sohar Industrial Port, with warehouses with a capacity to store over 500,000 metric tons of raw sugar and 70,000 tonnes of refined white sugar.

BRAZIL: Anhydrous ethanol demand may rise by up to 1.4 billion litres with E30

The increase in the mandatory anhydrous ethanol blend in gasoline from 27% to 30% could raise demand for the biofuel by up to 1.4 billion litres per season, per a recent report released by the Mato Grosso Institute of Agricultural Economics (Imea) and the Mato Grosso's bioenergy industry association Bioind-MT, according to Novacana.

Imea and Bioind-MT expect this measure, which became effective on Aug. 1, to benefit corn-based ethanol millers.

Bioind-MT estimates Brazil's ethanol production to reach 38 billion litres in 2025/26, of which 14.82 billion litres of anhydrous ethanol, up 7.7% year-on-year, and 23.19 billion litres of hydrous, which would be stable from 2024/25.

INDIA: Government allocates 5,841 T of sugar exports to the EU

India's government has announced the allocation of 5,841 metric tonnes of sugar to be exported to the European Union under the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for the 2025/26 year, according to a notification issued by the Director General of Foreign Trade on Aug. 1, reports Sugaronline.

Sugar exports to the EU under the TRQ quota are free from duties, according to the DGFT.

A certificate of origin, if required, for preferential export of sugar to EU shall be issued by additional director general of Foreign Trade, Mumbai, on the recommendation of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), regarding the entity and quantity for which eligible, according to the notification.

The quota will be operated by APEDA, New Delhi, as the implementing agency for the export of TRQ items to the EU.

SOUTH AFRICA: Canegrowers forecasts rebound in 2025 harvest, urge government to raise sugar import duties

South Africa's sugarcane harvest is expected to rebound in 2025/26, which may lead to increased sugar exports from the country if the government fails to adjust import duties on sugar, according to the South African sugarcane producers' association SA Canegrowers, **reports Sugaronline.**

"With production levels back to normal, but with suppressed local demand due to foreign sugar that displaces local sugar, more sugar will have to be exported at a considerable loss this year," the association said in a [statement](#) on July 30.

South African cane harvest is expected to rise to 17.7 million metric tonnes in 2025/26 from 16.47 million tonnes in the previous year, when production fell to the lowest volume in eight seasons. Improved rainfall following drier-than-normal conditions last year should support the production recovery in 2025.

SA Canegrowers said the industry's economic outlook remains under serious threat due to delays in adjusting South Africa's import tariff, the influx of cheap imports into the country and the 30% tariff by the United States on South African sugar exports.

"The delay in adjusting our own sugar import tariff to reflect current global realities is undermining the competitiveness of local producers," said SA Canegrowers chairman, Higgins Mdluli.

"At the same time, the US tariff threatens our access to what has historically been one of our key premium export markets."

The association said South Africa is experiencing a surge in deep-sea sugar imports, much of which is heavily subsidised in its country of origin, arriving in South Africa at a price far below local production costs and undercutting local growers' sugarcane revenue and financial sustainability.

"Unrestrained sugar imports displace local product from shelves or as input for local commercial users, which lowers domestic sales. This lower level of local sales forces the industry to export more sugar at a significant price disadvantage," said Mdluli.

SA Canegrowers said that a delay in enacting "fair import tariffs" in 2017/18 and 2018/19 pushed the South African sugar industry to export large volumes of sugar to "a highly distorted international market", leading to significant financial losses for the industry.

"A repeat of this scenario will lead to job losses, as growers are also already facing many other threats, including the sugar tax and rising input costs," the group said.

SA Canegrowers represents over 24,000 small-scale and 1,200 large-scale sugarcane growers in South Africa.

The association said the South African sugarcane industry produces sufficient sugar to meet all demand in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and still has excess volume to export.

"We urge the government to move swiftly: to revise the import duty in line with current global prices and to prioritise a new trade agreement with the US that safeguards our export potential," said Mdluli.

INDIA: Sugar production falls 18.4% to 25.82 million T – NFCSF

Sugar mills in India have produced 25.82 million metric tonnes of sugar in the 2024/25 season through July 31, down 18.38% from the same period last year, according to the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF), reports Sugaronline.

NFCSF expects sugar production to close around 26.11 million tonnes by the end of the season, also taking into account output during the special crushing season from June to September. By the end of July, seven mills were operating in Karnataka and nine in Tamil Nadu during this special milling season, compared to one and 11 respectively by the same period last season.

Indian sugar mills had crushed 277.74 million tonnes of sugarcane through July 31, down 11.35% from one year earlier.

A total of 518 mills had concluded activities for 2024/25 by late July, compared to 523 by the same time in 2023/24.

NFCSF expects India's gross sugar production to reach 35 million tonnes in the 2025/26 season starting in October due to favourable monsoons, increased cane cultivation in Maharashtra and Karnataka, and a timely rise in the fair and remunerative price (FRP).

The group urges the government to revise ethanol procurement prices for all feedstocks in line with the revised FRP, increase the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar to offset rising costs, and allow sugar exports to manage excess inventory.

"Such measures are essential to safeguard the viability of sugar mills, maintain rural employment, and ensure India continues its forward momentum on both the ethanol and cooperative development fronts," said NFCSF managing director Prakash Naiknavare, in a press release on July 30.

PHILIPPINES: SRA starts pesticide procurement process to combat RSSI infestation in sugarcane

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) has begun a process to procure pesticides to help combat the infestation of red-striped soft-scale insect (RSSI) in sugarcane, according to the state-run news agency Philippine News Agency (PNA).

The SRA has a PHP15 million (US\$260,547) budget to acquire and distribute the pesticides to farmers in Visayas.

SRA Board Member David Andrew Sanson, who is the head of the RSSI Task Force, said on Aug. 5 that the agency was completing the necessary documents and the correct specifications to procure the pesticides.

The infestation has affected about 3,284.80 hectares of sugarcane farms since May 22, mainly in Negros Occidental.

INDIA: ISMA launches national AI network to enhance cane productivity

The Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has launched a national Artificial Intelligence (AI) network aimed at enhancing sugarcane productivity, quality, sustainability and farmers' income, according to a statement released by the association to the press on Aug. 5.

ISMA has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Agriculture Development Trust (ADT), Baramati, and agri-tech platform Map My Crop, to implement this AI network at scale. Together, they have launched a national network program on the impact of AI and Machine Learning (ML) on sugarcane productivity, quality, and sustainability under diverse agro-ecological conditions.

In 2024, in collaboration with the University of Oxford and Microsoft, ADT started a project to apply AI, computer vision and machine learning to improve cane crop practices, with participation of over 1,000 farmers.

This initiative resulted in a 40% increase in crop yield, 35% reduction in labor costs, 30% savings in water usage, 35% improvement in harvesting efficiency, and significant reduction in overall expenditures and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

ISMA said this new digital initiative contributes to the urgent need to increase average cane productivity to over 100 metric tonnes per hectare and sugar recovery to 11% or more.

In 2023, ADT established India's Farm of the Future project at KVK Baramati, a live demonstration site showcasing real-time applications of AI in agriculture. The project combined AI-driven agriculture tools from Microsoft Research (including Azure Data Manager, chatbot, openai, virtual agronomist, farmer co-pilot etc.) with IoT sensors, weather stations, drones, and satellite data. ISMA said the program will deliver location-specific precision farming modules, satellite-based soil health and fertility mapping, real-time pest and disease alerts through remote sensing, image-based weed detection and control.

It will also provide custom weather advisories and water stress monitoring, IoT-enabled precision irrigation for water efficiency, variable rate application (VRA) for optimal fertilizer use, and reduction in both input costs and carbon footprint.

The AI Network Program is being rolled out in key sugarcane-growing regions and will involve sugar mills, research institutions, and farmer groups. Field demonstrations and capacity-building sessions are planned to promote rapid adoption, according to ISMA.

"This technology-backed network will help farmers take better decisions, use fewer resources, and get better returns per acre," ISMA director general Deepak Ballani said in a statement.

FoodNavigator.com

Beyond taste: How sonic branding can shape brand identity



In the food and beverage aisle where taste and packaging helps brands stand out, sonic branding may help cut through the noise and forge emotional connections with consumers

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/08/04/beyond-taste-how-sonic-branding-can-shape-brand-identity/>

Kraft Heinz CEO responds to split rumours



Kraft Heinz considering \$20bn spin-off that would reshape the grocery industry

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/07/31/kraft-heinz-considering-20-billion-spin-off-plans/>

Stevia's functional edge: Fermentation unlocks cancer-fighting potential



As demand for natural sweeteners grows, stevia's health potential could be a game-changer

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/07/29/study-finds-fermented-stevia-kills-pancreatic-cancer-cells/>

Are ultra-processed foods addictive?



Whether or not UPFs can lead to genuine addiction has long been the subject of fierce debate <https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/08/04/ultra-processed-foods-are-they-addictive/>

ED & F Man Daily Research

Starbucks Is Cutting Sugar in Healthy Menu for RFK Jr. - Bloomberg - Starbucks Corp., which built a loyal following in part by selling sugary candy-colored drinks, has a vision for a healthier menu that's better suited for the MAHA era. It's testing matcha and cold brew made with coconut water. It's exploring syrups sweetened with agave instead of sugar. It's been piloting a protein-infused cold foam and looking into more plant-based products. The moves are meant to draw in the health and wellness crowd, part of a broader menu overhaul designed to bring more traffic to stores and reverse a stubborn sales slump. On Tuesday, the company reported its sixth straight quarter of same-store sales declines and a steeper-than-expected drop in profits. The menu revamp is one element of a turnaround plan put into place by Chief Executive Officer Brian Niccol that has yet to bear fruit.

Rwanda Steps Up Efforts to Boost Local Sugar Production, Cut Imports - All Africa Global Media - The government is exploring ways to increase domestic sugar production to cut heavy reliance on imports, according to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Data from the ministry shows that Rwanda imported 308,000 tonnes of cane/beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose valued at \$238 million (over Rwf340 billion) in 2024 (representing an increase of 24 per cent, up from \$192 million in 2023). Currently, domestic sugar production accounts for approximately 7.5 per cent of Rwanda's total demand, with the remaining 92.5 per cent being met through imports, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Prudence Sebahizi, told The New Times. "This heavy reliance on external supply highlights the strategic imperative to boost local production and reduce the economic impact associated with high import volumes," he said.
