



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(25)45
(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

GUATEMALA: Cane industry agrees on cooperation to support landscape conservation and restoration

Guatemala's sugarcane industry group, Guatecaña, and the country's National Forest Institute (INAB) have signed a five-year technical cooperation agreement to implement actions aimed at managing, conserving and restoring degraded forest areas, as well as promoting sustainable production, reports Sugaronline.

Guatecaña will share its expertise to strengthen policies and strategies for long-term sustainable landscape conservation and restoration, according to a [press statement](#) released by the association on Sept. 22.

It will also assist in the promotion of forest incentive programs and best practices in sustainable landscape management, land restoration, and forest management.

INAB should contribute its technical expertise in forestry matters, providing specialised assistance by assigning institutional technical staff to deliver and participate in training sessions, workshops, and other activities.

In addition, the Institute will provide support with equipment and technical personnel to carry out activities, and promote strategic alliances at the national and international levels that contribute to achieving the goals of the agreement.

Guatecaña and INAB also agreed to develop a joint work plan, collaboratively manage funding sources and technical support.

AUSTRALIA: Canegrowers join ASEAN Sugar Alliance meeting for the first time

Australia's Canegrowers group is participating this week in the ASEAN Sugar Alliance meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, showcasing its sustainability credentials and targeting bioeconomy opportunities, the group said in a [press release](#) on Sept. 26.

This is the first time the association has been officially invited to the annual forum, according to the group.

"This invitation recognises the leadership Australia's sugar industry already brings to global discussions," said Canegrowers' CEO Dan Galligan. "Queensland growers have long been key players on the world stage."

BRAZIL: Embraer buys SAF from Vibra to advance studies on its aircraft

Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer plans to accelerate studies to enable its airplanes to fly on 100% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) by 2030, following its first acquisition of the biofuel from Brazilian fuel distributor Vibra, reports Sugaronline.

This batch of SAF will enable Embraer to intensify testing on the reaction of non-metallic materials present in the aircraft during prolonged contact with the biofuel.

The testing results are expected to contribute to public discussions on technical aspects related to SAF in the aviation sector, according to a [press release](#) by the company on Sept. 25.

SAF acquired through Vibra was imported from Belgium and is available at Embraer's base at Tom Jobim Airport in Rio de Janeiro. The site has received the ISCC (International Sustainability & Carbon Certification) EU and CORSIA, which ensures tracking of the entire product supply chain, including distribution through BR Aviation, Vibra's business unit for aircraft refueling services.

Previously to this SAF acquisition from Vibra, Embraer had been conducting studies on the biofuel through laboratories in the United States and Europe.

Some ethanol producers in Brazil, including those in the sugarcane sector, are certified to provide ethanol for SAF production. However, Brazil is unable to supply SAF on a large scale.

Embraer's aircraft can currently operate on a blend of up to 50% SAF. In recent years, the company has conducted studies to enable its aircraft to fly on 100% SAF, with a plan to achieve certification by 2030.

BRAZIL: Competition watchdog approves sale of Raízen's stake in biogas plant

Brazil's competition authority, Cade, has approved the sale of Raízen's stake in a biogas-fired thermoelectric plant located in Cachoeiro de Itapemirim, Espírito Santo, to Gera Energia, according to Agência Estado.

In 2021, Raízen and Gera founded the joint venture Raízen Gera Desenvolvedora (RGD), with Raízen holding a 51% stake and Gera holding a 49% stake. The transaction approved by Cade consists of RGD's sale of 100% of RGD Biogás Cachoeiro de Itapemirim, a special-purpose company dedicated to developing the thermoelectric plant in the municipality of the same name.

US: Texas government announces revival of cane sugar refining capacity in the state

Santa Rosa Sugar LLC has signed a purchase agreement to acquire the assets of Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, with plans to restore Texas' sugarcane industry, according to a [statement](#) released by the Texas Department of Agriculture on September 26.

Santa Rosa Sugar is a collaboration between Bizos Cavallo, Vera International, and Verax Commodities.

Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers announced in early 2024 that it would cease sugarcane growing and processing operations, following challenges in securing reliable water deliveries.

Santa Rosa Sugar now plans to use advanced technology and modern farming practices to revive over 130 sugar farms across the Rio Grande Valley, according to the Texas government.

From 2025 through 2026, the company will focus on scaling grower networks, upgrading water systems with advanced recycling technologies, and preparing for refinery construction.

Investment plans through 2028 include workforce expansion, relaunch of the mill, and the start of production for all commercial and retail sugar types, including crystal, liquid, and powdered sugar.

From 2028 onward, the company will expand acreage, fully integrate production, and establish nationwide distribution.

The shutdown of Rio Grande Valley impacted 1,100 to 2,900 total jobs, including 735 to 1,435 direct farm and mill positions. Restarting the Santa Rosa mill is expected to bring these jobs back and create new growth throughout the region, according to the Texas government.

"Sugarcane has been part of Texas agriculture for over a century," said Commissioner Sid Miller said.

"At its peak, the industry supported thousands of jobs, covered over 40,000 acres in the Rio Grande Valley, and contributed over \$100 million annually to Texas. When the mill closed in 2024, it wasn't just a plant shutting down; it was a way of life for farm families, rural workers, and communities. The economic and cultural losses were profound. Restoring sugarcane means jobs, community revitalization, and preserving an important part of Texas's agricultural history."

INDIA: Uttam Distilleries to expand production capacity by 4x

Uttam Distilleries, a subsidiary of Uttam Sugars Mills, plans to expand its distillery capacity from 40,000 litres per day to 160,000 litres per day by March 2027, according to a [securities filing](#) on Sept. 29, reports Sugaronline.

The production capacity expansion, approved by Uttam Distilleries' Board of Directors, will require an estimated INR1.1 billion (USD12.4 million) in investment.

Uttam Distilleries is currently operating with a capacity utilisation rate of 95%.

The company stated that the investment in distillery capacity expansion is encouraged by the government's ethanol-fuel blending policy and increased demand for ethanol in the country.

SOUTH AFRICA: SA Canegrowers launches campaign to support local sugar

SA Canegrowers has launched a campaign dubbed "Save our Sugar" in a renewed effort to urge consumers, retailers and businesses to choose locally produced sugar over imported sugar, according to the Engineering News.

The group argues that South Africa's sugar industry produces sufficient product to meet the country's demand, both for retail consumers and commercial users. It adds that imported sugar is threatening the local industry.

Canegrowers said that 90,000 metric tonnes of sugar were imported in June and July, resulting in a loss of ZAR684 million to the local industry.

INDIA: Minister announces working group at ICAR for sugarcane research and policy

India's minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that a dedicated team will be set up within the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to work on sugarcane research and policy, according to [a statement](#) released on Sept. 30.

Chouhan said during an event that the sugarcane variety 238 has shown good sugar content but is vulnerable to red rot disease. Therefore, he said there is a need to work simultaneously on developing alternatives.

He also addressed challenges faced by farmers related to cultivation, water requirements, and high costs, and suggested production of value-added products and natural farming in the cane sector to help reduce fertilizer dependency.

"I urge ICAR to form a separate team for sugarcane research, focusing on practical issues. Research must benefit both farmers and industry. Research that does not serve farmers is meaningless," he said.

ICAR director general M.L. Jat said that there is a need to define research priorities, identify developmental challenges to advance research, tackle industry-related issues, and recommend policy steps to support the sector. He also stressed the need to diversify crops to mitigate the risks associated with monocropping.

UK: Sugarbeet area likely to fall again in 2026/27 – NFU

The sugarbeet area in the EU+United Kingdom in 2026/27, which is still more than 12 months away, is likely to fall again, helping support UK prices, according to NFU Sugar's latest [Beet Brief](#) published on Sept. 29.

"Thinking ahead to 2026/27, processors need higher prices to improve their financial results. This most likely way that this can be achieved is if area continues to fall, thereby increasing the EU's import requirement," wrote NFU Sugar Commercial and Market Insight manager, Gareth Forber. In this month's Beet Brief, NFU Sugar examines the prospects for the contract options that are available to UK beet growers for the 2026/27 crop.

[The contract](#) options were presented by British Sugar and NFU Sugar in August.

ARGENTINA: More sugar mills seen concluding operations for 2025 in coming months

Sugar mills in Argentina are expected to start concluding operations for the 2025 crushing campaign from mid-October, following the Santa Bárbara mill, which ended activities for the season on Sept. 21, according to the Tucumán's Institute for the Promotion of Sugar and Alcohol (Ipaat), reports Sugaronline.

The Santa Bárbara mill was the first to conclude operations for the season, with 168 days of campaign, when it crushed 17.5% more sugarcane than in 2024. Sugar production increased 27% year-on-year, [according to Ipaat](#).

Other mills are expected to conclude operations between mid-October and November.

The total volume of sugarcane crushed in Argentina so far this season has surpassed 21.25 million tonnes, resulting in the production of 1.51 million tonnes of sugar and 402.7 million litres of hydrous ethanol.

In Tucumán, Argentina's largest sugarcane-producing province, a total of 15.46 million tonnes of sugarcane had been crushed by Sept. 29, in 173 days of campaign. Sugar production totaled 1.12 million tonnes and ethanol output reached 250.5 million litres.

In the Salta and Jujuy provinces, sugar mills crushed 5.79 million tonnes in 137 days of campaign, with sugar production totaling 393.16 million tonnes. Alcohol production reached 152.19 million tonnes.

FoodNavigator.com

Rejecting sustainability is bad for business



In the end, neglecting the environment will only harm food and beverage

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/09/26/sustainability-unsustainable-production-is-a-vicious-cycle/>

The health trend: Functionality and clean label in 2025



Consumers are paying more attention to health than ever

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/09/26/health-trend-functionality-and-clean-label-dominate-2025/>
