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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

GERMANY: Nordzucker receives sustainability rating; invests in CO2-reduced nitrogen fertilisers

Nordzucker announced on Nov. 10 that it has earned a silver medal in the 2025 EcoVadis sustainability rating, placing the company among the top 15% of over 150,000 assessed globally, according to a statement released by the company.

Nordzucker received a score of 72 out of 100 in the 2025 EcoVadis sustainability rating, recognised in the advanced category.

The EcoVadis assessment is a globally recognised evaluation system that measures a company's sustainability performance across its operations and supply chain based on documentation. It's used by companies to manage ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) risks and improve sustainability practices.

"Potential and existing customers of Nordzucker can therefore use EcoVadis to assess and compare Nordzucker on Sustainability performance," the company said.

Partnership with Yara
As part of its sustainability efforts, Nordzucker is expanding the use CO2-reduced nitrogen fertilisers, as part of a pilot project in partnership with Yara Germany.

Yara Germany and Nordzucker are working on a three-year cooperation (2024–2026) to reduce CO_2 emissions in sugarbeet cultivation.

Nordzucker is using Yara Climate Choice mineral nitrogen fertilisers, which have a significantly lower carbon footprint than conventional nitrogen fertilisers, because they are produced using renewable energies instead of fossil fuels.

The fertilisers has been tested by Nordzucker in Germany since 2024. A total of 25 farms participated in the first pilot year. In 2025, the second year, the project was extended to growers in Poland and Denmark.

Nordzucker said that preparations for sowing in 2026 are already underway, and there are plans to expand the sugarbeet cultivation area covered by the project once again.

Nordzucker expects this project to help it achieve its FLAG (Forest, Land and Agriculture) targets, which are part of the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and represent CO_2 reduction targets in the areas of forestry, agriculture and land use.

INDIA: ISMA welcomes government's plan to allow exports of 1.5 million T of sugar
The Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has welcomed the government's plan to allow 1.5 million metric tonnes in sugar exports in the current season, according to CNBC TV-18.

The association stated that the decision was a timely move that will help the industry manage production and domestic supplies. However, ISMA has also urged the government to implement long-term policy corrections for the minimum selling price (MSP) and ethanol allocation to ensure sustainable growth in the industry.

FRANCE: Agreste reduces 2025 beet production estimate to 33.7 million T
The French agriculture ministry's statistics agency Agreste has reduced its estimate for sugarbeet production in the country for the 2025 season by 500,000 metric tonnes, amid mixed yields reported across the country's beet crop areas, reports Sugaronline.

France's sugar beet production in the 2025 campaign is now expected to reach 33.7 million tonnes, compared to the previously estimated 34.2 million tonnes.

The most recent projection is still 3.5% above production last season and 8.7% higher than the five-year average, according to Agreste's production report released Nov. 12.

Sugarbeet yield is estimated at 84.9 tonnes per hectare (ha), compared to 86.3 t/ha previously projected.

"Locally, yields may be mixed, depending on the extent of beet yellows disease in the fields, but overall, the yield would be 7% higher than in 2024 and 10% higher than the 2020-2024 average," Agreste said in the report.

The total area cultivated with sugarbeets is estimated at 397,000 ha, compared to 412,000 ha last year.

Agreste said more than half of the industrial sugarbeet acreage had been harvested in the Hauts-de-France region.

SOUTH AFRICA: Canegrowers welcome government's decision not to increase sugar tax
The South African sugarcane producers' association, SA Canegrowers, has welcomed the government's decision to keep the sugar tax unchanged, after the Finance Ministry made no mention of a potential rise in the tax during the 2026 budget policy statement on November 12. "The fact that raising the sugar tax was not mentioned in today's Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) will give South Africa's 24,000 small-scale and 1,200 large-scale sugarcane growers some measure of relief in a time when the industry is in an unprecedented crisis. Heavily subsidised foreign sugar is flooding into South Africa and displacing local sugar, putting rural livelihoods at risk," SA Canegrowers said in a press release.

SA Canegrowers estimates that the sugar tax, introduced in April 2018, resulted in 16,000 lost jobs in its first year. The group has been urging local consumers and the food and beverage industries to purchase locally produced sugar, arguing that imports have been displacing domestic output.

"We have seen a 400% increase in imported sugar displacing locally grown sugar from retail shelves and commercial food and drink producers. The 149,000 tons and counting of imported sugar will undoubtedly have a dramatic effect on the industry's ability to remain a stable employer in rural Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal. Any increase in the sugar tax would worsen an already dire situation," said the chairman of SA Canegrowers, Higgins Mdluli.

The fact that the government has not increased the sugar tax "comes as a relief, but the industry needs more proactive steps from the government."

"SA Canegrowers has always asked Treasury to scrap the sugar tax, and has asked the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition to enact and adjust the existing tariff policy framework speedily to keep up with global realities," said Andrew Russell, vice-chair of SA Canegrowers. "This call is now even more urgent. The added cost of the sugar tax on beverage producers has made imported sugar more appealing to them, thereby punishing local growers even further."

PAKISTAN: PSMA urges government to approve deregulation of sugar sector

The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) has urged the government to approve a policy to deregulate the sugar sector as soon as possible to allow growers to get better prices for their sugarcane, reports Sugaronline.

Sugarcane farmers received better rates for their crop last year, when there was no government interference, according to the PSMA.

In a statement released on Nov. 11, PSMA also stated that unless Pakistan's sugar sector is completely deregulated, it won't compete with the international market, nor will farmers be able to get international rates. This could eventually result in a decline in local sugar production.

"Deregulating the sugar sector earlier is in the national interest. The sugarcane farmers and industry will work together in a better way, which will ultimately enhance the economic development of Pakistan," a PSMA said in the statement.

ARGENTINA: Government raises ethanol prices for mandatory blending by 3% in November

Argentina's government raised the price of sugarcane-based ethanol intended for mandatory blending with fossil fuels in the domestic market in November by 3% from October, reports Sugaronline.

The price of sugarcane-based ethanol rose to ARS918.02 per litre (USD0.65)) in November from ARS891.29 per litre in October, according to a resolution by the Ministry of Economy's Energy Department.

The corn-based ethanol price increased to ARS841.39 per litre (USD816.89) from ARS per litre.
The new prices are valid until the publication of new adjustment by the Ministry of Economy.

GHANA: Sugarcane producers urge government to revive Komenda Sugar

Sugarcane growers are urging the government to take action to resume operations of the Komenda Sugar Factory, expressing concern about their reliance on local gin distillers, according to Citi Newsroom.

The call for the sugar factory's revival comes ahead of the presentation of the government's 2026 budget.

The Sugarcane Outgrowers Association of Ghana (SOAG) has said that local gin distillers fail to provide the expected revenue to farmers, leaving many growers in financial distress.

FoodNavigator.com

Why premium confectionery is the sweet spot for growth

Premiumisation is driving double-digit growth in confectionery - what does this mean for manufacturers?
https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/11/13/why-premium-confectionery-is-the-sweet-spot-for-growth/

EUDR: How the changes affect food and drink

Sweeping alterations to the EU's deforestation regulation changes the game for compliance and enforcement
https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/11/13/eudr-how-changes-affect-operators/

Trump removes coffee, beef, cocoa from tariff list

Consumer Brands Association urges further tariff rollbacks on products like palm oil and tin mill steel
https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/11/14/trump-removes-coffee-beef-cocoa-from-tariff-list/

ED & F Man Daily Research

Guatemalan sugar mills start harvest with stable output forecast – IntelliNews - Guatemala kicked off its 2025-2026 sugar harvest on November 11, aiming to match the previous season's output of approximately 2.6mn tonnes as the industry navigates global market uncertainties. The campaign began with the start of operations at the Magdalena sugar mill, marking the official launch of the harvest season following the end of the rainy period in several departments, according to local newspaper Alfredo Vila, president of the country's Sugar Producers Association (Asazgua), said mills along the south coast would gradually come online, with production expectations mirroring those of the 2024-2025 period.

Negotiations with the U.S. to avoid further reduction in Mexican sugar export quota – Noticias Financeiras - President Claudia Sheinbaum informed that her government is negotiating with the United States to avoid a further reduction in the Mexican sugar export quota, given the drop in prices and oversupply in the country. Sheinbaum informed that her government is working on mechanisms to ensure commercial certainty. There is also pressure, she said, due to the import of fructose -from the United States- which competes with Mexican sugar in the food and beverage industry, reducing domestic demand. The President explained that alternatives for price stabilization, temporary support and long-term solutions for the sector are being evaluated . Among them, she considered the possibility of promoting projects to diversify the use of sugarcane, including the production of ethanol.

Mexico imposes 156% tariff on sugar imports – Reuters - Mexico on Tuesday implemented a new tariff for sugar imports due to falling international prices and a risk of oversupply in the domestic market, according to the country's Official Gazette. The new tariff of 156% per kg applies to all types of sugar, including beet sugar and syrups. Refined liquid sugar will be subject to a 210.44% tariff, according to a decree signed by President Claudia Sheinbaum and published in the Official Gazette on Monday night.