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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

NIGERIA: Sugar development council says country is on its way to sugar self-sufficiency

Nigeria is on its way to achieving self-sufficiency in domestic sugar production, said the executive secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Kamar Bakrin, in a recent interview with the Daily Post.

He said that strong stakeholder interest in the Sugarcane Outgrower Development Program (SODP) signalled growing confidence in efforts to boost local sugar output.

The SODP integrates farmers into Nigeria's sugar value chain through guaranteed offtake arrangements, access to quality seedcane, inputs, and technical support.

EU and Mercosur sign trade agreement

The European Union and Mercosur signed a trade agreement in Paraguay on Jan. 17, creating one of the biggest trade zones in the world, reports Sugaronline.

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Council Antonio Costa, and leaders from Mercosur countries participated in the signing ceremony of the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement (ITA), which refers to trade and investment liberalisation, and the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement (EMPA), which covers political dialogue, sectoral cooperation and also trade and investment.

The trade deal, signed after 25 years of negotiations, allows Brazil to export up to 180,000 metric tonnes of raw cane sugar for refining duty-free to the EU.

Brazil has been using a tariff quota under the EU's WTO schedule, with an in-quota duty, for its sugar exports to the EU. With the agreement, these 180,000 tonnes of raw cane sugar for refining will be allowed into the EU duty-free under this existing quota.

The EU-Mercosur deal also creates a new duty-free quota of 10,000 tonnes for Paraguay only. Speciality sugars are excluded from the agreement.

The agreement also establishes a duty-free quota of 450,000 tonnes of ethanol for the chemical industry. A quota of 200,000 tonnes, with an in-quota rate of one-third of the full duty, will be opened for all other uses, including the fuel segment.

Both ethanol quotas are to be phased in gradually over five years.

The European Commission said in a statement that the agreement is expected to deliver "substantial new commercial opportunities for companies across the EU, driving an estimated 39% increase in annual exports to Mercosur (a value of approximately €49 billion), while supporting hundreds of thousands of EU jobs."

"Today, two like-minded regions open a new chapter of opportunity for more than 700 million citizens. With this win-win partnership, we both stand to gain – economically, diplomatically and geopolitically. Our companies will create exports, growth and jobs," Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement.

"We will support each other in our clean and digital transitions. And our signal to the rest of the world is clear: the EU and Mercosur are choosing cooperation over competition, and partnership over polarisation."

The EMPA will be subject to ratification by all EU member states, and the ITA will follow an EU-only ratification process as it falls under EU exclusive competences.

"This will require the consent of the European Parliament and the adoption of a decision on the conclusion by the Council, after which it will enter into force," the EC said in the statement.

UKRAINE: Sugar industry is investing in bioenergy production

Seven of 27 sugar plants in Ukraine have invested in bioenergy projects that were in operation during the 2025 season, according to Ukraine Open for Business.

The plants implemented the production of bioethanol, biogas, or biomethane, and the industry "has good potential in this area," according to the news report, citing the head of the national sugar industry association Ukrtsukor, Yana Kavushevska, in an interview with newswire Interfax-Ukraine.

Bioenergy projects in the Ukrainian sugar industry were mainly implemented before 2022, and improved in the following years,with some companies switching from biogas to biomethane production.

BARBADOS: Cane growers warn that imports outside Caricom threaten the sugar sector

The Barbados Sugar Industry Limited (BSIL) chairman, Mark Sealy, has warned that imports of brown sugar from outside the Caribbean Community (Caricom) are putting the local sector at risk, according to Barbados Today.

Sealy said the growers' group is concerned about licences for the importation of brown sugar into Barbados from outside the Caricom region. He said that if sugar imports from outside Caricom continue, both farmers and the island's only sugar factory could go under, as the local factory cannot compete with sugar from countries that have lower labour and fuel costs.

UKRAINE: EU share in Ukrainian sugar exports in 2025 falls from 40% to 27%

Ukraine exported around 463,700 metric tonnes of sugar in 2025, nearly 38% less than the record 746,000 tonnes achieved in 2024, according to the national sugar industry association Ukrtsukor.

The EU's share in Ukraine's sugar exports decreased from 40% in 2024 to 27% in 2025, totaling 123,000 tonnes, according to a post published by the chairman of Ukrtsukor, Yana Kavushevska, on social media earlier this month.

Around 340,700 tonnes were exported to countries outside the EU. Among the top importers of Ukrainian sugar in 2025, Lebanon had a 15% share, followed by Bulgaria (14%), North

Macedonia (8%), Libya (7%), Syria (6%), and Turkey (6%).

For 2026, Ukraine maintained the distribution of the export quota and licensing approach for sugar export to the EU, initially introduced in 2025. The EU sugar export quota of 100,000 tons, available from 1 January 2026, will be allocated to Ukrainian sugar producers proportionally to their share of production in 2025.

"The National Association of Sugar Producers of Ukraine welcomes this decision of the Government and believes that it will contribute to the harmonisation of sugar trade between Ukraine and the EU, as well as to the better integration of Ukrainian sugar producers into European supply chains," Kavushevska wrote in a post on LinkedIn.

LITHUANIA: Excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages becomes effective

Lithuania has introduced an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs), effective from Jan. 1, according to a press statement released by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Products with 2.5–7.9 g of added sugar per 100 ml or any amount of sweeteners will be taxed at EUR7.4 per 100 litres, while those containing 8 g or more will face a rate of EUR21 per 100 litres.

Concentrated beverages will be taxed at EUR105 per 100 litres in liquid form or EUR4.3 per kilogram otherwise.

The measure excludes food supplements, foods for special medical purposes, infant and follow-on formula, pharmaceutical products, nectars with added sugar and drinkable dairy products.

"Overweight and obesity are growing in Lithuania – our children consume more than the recommended amount of sugar, which contributes significantly to the increase in chronic diseases. A sugar tax is an evidence-based measure that helps reduce the consumption of sweetened beverages. We cannot ignore the facts – action must be taken today if we want a healthier society in the future," said Marija Jakubauskienė, minister of Health of Lithuania.

WHO Regional Director for Europe, Hans Henri P. Kluge, said Lithuania is taking "a smart, evidence-based step" to improve diets and reduce noncommunicable diseases.

"With dietary risks linked to a quarter of all deaths in Lithuania and more than 1 in 10 school children drinking sugar-sweetened drinks every day, measures that increase the price of high-sugar products and encourage reformulation can make a real difference,"

Around 11.3% of Lithuanian school children in grades 5–9 consume SSBs every day, according to WHO. Sales of soft drinks in Lithuania increased by 11% in 2024, reaching a total value of EUR29.3 million, according to statistics from the State Data Agency cited by WHO.

BRAZIL: São Martinho's board approves incorporation of subsidiary Nova Egito Agrícola

São Martinho's board of directors approved this week the incorporation of its wholly-owned subsidiary Nova Egito Agrícola, subject to shareholders' approval at a meeting to be held on Feb. 6, reports Sugaronline.

Nova Egito Agrícola, headquartered at Fazenda São Martinho, focuses on the production and sale of sugar as its main activity.

São Martinho said in a regulatory filing that the incorporation will allow a "more efficient use of assets, generating greater efficiency, synergy, and rationalisation of administrative and financial costs."

The company estimates BRL80,000 in incorporation costs, including expenses with publications, auditors, appraisers, lawyers, and other professionals hired to advise on the operation.

GERMANY: Nordzucker expects to return to profitability in 2027/28

Nordzucker said on Jan. 15 that sugar prices in the EU market remain pressured by high global sugar production, a decline in consumption and other market challenges, affecting the company's earnings in the current and upcoming campaigns, reports Sugaronline.

The company anticipates an operating loss in the high double-digit million range for the current financial year. For 2026/27, Nordzucker also expects a loss as "a significant price recovery is not expected in the short term."

"Our goal is to return to profitability in the 2027/2028 financial year on our own – even with low sales prices," said CFO Alexander Bott in a press statement.

The sugar market dynamics, with two above-average harvests in Europe in a row, "are having a considerable impact on our business," according to Bott.

Nordzucker plans to expand a package of cost-optimisation measures that has been implemented since early 2025.

"We have a clear strategy for regaining the profitability of our business on our own – even if sales prices remain low in the long term," said CEO Lars Gorissen.

"In addition to further internal cost reductions, this also includes reducing beet prices in the current market situation and after several years of very good beet prices. What distinguishes our industry is that all partners along the value chain contribute to ensuring that sugarbeet and sugar production remain attractive and offer good long-term economic prospects."

Nordzucker said beet yields were above-average across its production regions in 2025/26, amid favourable weather conditions. The sugar content was well above the five-year average, ranging from below 16% to over 18%.

Nordzucker's campaign in Finland and Lithuania ended in December and the German sites are scheduled to complete their activities in the second half of January, followed by the sugar factories in Sweden, Slovakia, Denmark and Poland.

"Harvest conditions were good overall throughout the campaign. Beet diseases and the continuing spread of the SBR complex had a limited regional impact but did not have any exceptional effects on beet yields and quality overall," the company said.

In Australia, sugarcane harvesting at Nordzucker's subsidiary Mackay Sugar was completed in December, with a total of 4.8 million tonnes of sugarcane crushed.

WHO urges governments to increase taxes on sugary drinks

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged governments to increase taxes on sugary drinks and alcoholic beverages, arguing that weak taxation is allowing "harmful products" to remain cheap while health systems face mounting financial pressure from preventable noncommunicable diseases and injuries, reports Sugaronline.

"Health taxes are one of the strongest tools we have for promoting health and preventing disease," said WHO director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, in a statement.

"By increasing taxes on products like tobacco, sugary drinks, and alcohol, governments can reduce harmful consumption and unlock funds for vital health services."

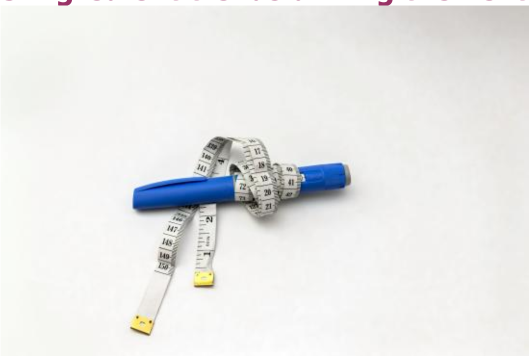
At least 116 countries tax sugary drinks, many of which are sodas. However, WHO argues that many other high-sugar products, such as 100% fruit juices, sweetened milk drinks, and ready-to-drink coffees and teas, are exempt from taxation. "While 97% of countries tax energy drinks, this figure has not changed since the last global report in 2023."

WHO considers current sugary drink taxes weak and poorly targeted, with the median tax accounting for about 2% of the price of a common sugary soda and often applying only to a subset of beverages, leaving large parts of the market unregulated.

“Few countries adjust taxes for inflation, allowing health-harming products to become steadily more affordable.”

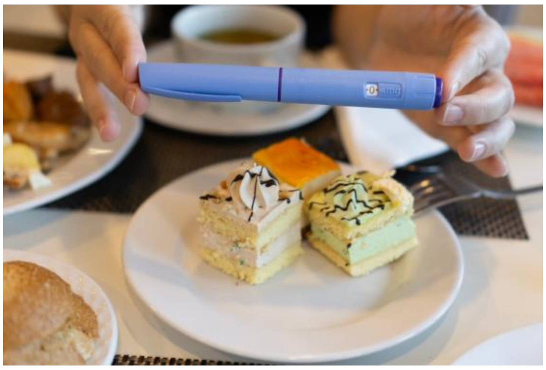
FoodNavigator.com

5 ingredient trends driving the next wave of GLP-1 innovation



Manufacturers get the spotlight for launching GLP-1-friendly food and drink, but it’s ingredient suppliers behind the scenes often spotting the trends that make it possible
https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/01/15/glp-1-ingredient-trends-for-food-innovation/

GLP-1s: Winners and losers in food and drink



The GLP-1 revolution will benefit some sectors and harm others
https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/01/19/glp-1s-winners-and-losers/

The line between snacking and confectionery is disappearing

Over time, the world's biggest confectionery companies have rebranded their products as 'snacks'. So what's the problem?
https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/01/19/the-line-between-snacking-and-confectionery-is-disappearing/