



International Sugar Organization

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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

SPAIN: Azucarera announces new CEO

Azucarera has appointed Pablo Puerta as its new CEO, replacing Juan Luis Rivero, who will leave the company on Feb. 27, according to El Economista.

This decision is part of a strategic adjustment aimed at aligning Azucarera's leadership with the new business model and future needs, according to the news report.

Puerta is an industrial engineer who has spent most of his career in operational management positions at Azucarera. Most recently, in the UK, he held the position of Supply Chain director at British Sugar.

US: Stricter dietary guidelines could further reduce sugar demand

Regulatory changes and stricter federal dietary guidelines could further reduce sugar demand in the US, according to Reuters, citing a top industry executive.

The president and CEO of the Sugar Association, Courtney Gaine, told the USDA Outlook Forum on Feb. 20 that school meal standards taking effect next year might prohibit added sugars in kindergarten meals and significantly restrict them in other grades, cutting demand by over 130,000 short tonnes.

The sugar industry also faces pressure from the increasing use of GLP-1 weight-loss drugs.

MALAWI: Illovo Sugar expands distribution lines

Illovo Sugar Malawi has scaled up secondary distribution to rural areas by expanding shipping containers turned into sugar selling depots in strategic locations from 10 to 54 in 2025, according to the Maravi Express.

The company has also refined its route-to-market strategy to improve product availability and customer experience.

Illovo Sugar also expanded the production of smaller 500g and 200g packs to improve accessibility and affordability. The company said that smaller packaging constituted 74% and 49% sales volume contribution to the US and Europe, respectively, in 2025.

US: USDA announces USD150 million assistance to sugar farmers

The US Department of Agriculture has announced that it is providing USD150 million in assistance to sugarbeet and sugarcane farmers in response to temporary market disruptions and increased production and processing costs, according to a [statement](#) released Feb. 20.

“These one-time payments build upon the previously announced Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) program and Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) program, which are designed to ensure producers have the financial stability needed to continue operations and plan for the upcoming crop year,” the USDA said.

The USDA said that it will work with sugar processors in the coming months to finalise agreements that will deliver assistance directly to farmer-members.

The USDA is also providing USD89.1 million in weather-related disaster assistance to sugarbeet producers who suffered losses due to excessive heat in 2024. This funding, provided by Congress via the American Relief Act, 2025, will be administered through eligible beet sugar cooperatives. Producers who are members of these cooperatives should contact their cooperative for more information.

TANZANIA: Government invites investors to increase sugar production

Tanzania's government is working to attract domestic and foreign investment in the sugar industry to boost local sugar production, according to the Daily News.

Minister Kitila Mkumbo said on Feb. 23, while speaking to Mkulazi village residents, that investment in the sugar industry will help narrow the gap between local production and demand in the coming years. He said the country's annual demand is of 700,000 metric tonnes of sugar.

The minister and other officials visited the Agro Tech company that has acquired land in Morogoro for sugar plantations and production. Mkumbo added that the government has been creating an environment conducive to investment through the private sector, citing the VISION 2050 plan to make Tanzania one of the top 10 African countries in food production.

NEPAL: Government prepares to implement E10

Nepal's minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Anil Kumar Sinha, has said an order to blend ethanol with petrol has been approved by the government and will soon be published for implementation, according to a My Republica report on Feb. 22.

He said the government's decision to blend ethanol with petrol has reached the implementation stage following studies and discussion.

Sinha said that blending 10% ethanol in petrol could reduce Nepal's annual petroleum imports by around NPR6 billion, helping to lower the trade deficit.

BRAZIL: CTC reports increased productivity of cane variety in partnership with Agroco

Sugarcane biotechnology firm CTC has achieved improved productivity of its CTC9006 sugarcane variety at the Fazenda Modelo, in São Paulo state, in a partnership with Agroco, according to a statement released by the company on Feb. 23.

Productivity of the CTC9006 variety reached 145 tonnes per hectare and Total Recoverable Sugars (TRS) totaled 122 kg under local conditions.

“With modern genetics, high productivity, and excellent tillering, the variety demonstrates superior performance both in the field and in the industry,” CTC said in the statement.

The owner of Agrocico, Gilson Lacerda, said the CTC9006 has given good results since its implementation. "With 15 buds, you have a perfect planting. The tillering is excellent. No other variety has achieved the same productivity under local conditions."

Agrocico works with different varieties of pre-sprouted seedlings from CTC and has expanded its area by investing in CTCAdvana1, a variety launched last year with high performance (TAH), high TRS, and consistent results in all regions of the centre-south, according to CTC.

BRAZIL: Cosan, Shell and BTG funds negotiate capital injection in Raízen – news report

Raízen's shareholders, Cosan and Shell, are in advanced talks to inject new capital into the company, according to Bloomberg, citing people familiar with the matter.

The proposal under discussion includes investments from private equity funds managed by BTG Pactual, which would acquire a significant stake in Raízen's fuel distribution business for approximately BRL5.5 billion.

The parties are still discussing the percentage of Raízen's debt to be converted into capital, with discussions focused around 35%.

FoodNavigator.com

Blurred lines: Confectionery and sports nutrition collide in snacking revolution



From protein-packed chocolate bars to big-brand collaborations, sports nutrition and confectionery are merging fast

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/02/25/blurred-lines-confectionery-and-sports-nutrition-collide-in-snacking-revolution/>