



International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AA

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

GUATEMALA: Sugar loading efficiency improves at Quetzal port with new system

A new sling system developed at Guatemala's Quetzal Port has improved the loading efficiency of bagged sugar by 165%, according to news website Republica.

The new system, implemented jointly by the sugar mills, Expogranel, and the Quetzal Port Authority, began full operations in December, after several years of studies and pilot tests.

Since then, all sugar mills in the country have adopted this method for shipping bagged sugar. Previously, the loading of approximately 30,000 tonnes of sugar took 12 to 15 days. With the new system, that same volume is shipped in six to seven days. Daily capacity also increased significantly, from approximately 1,692 tonnes to more than 4,500 tonnes per day.

SERBIA: Sunoko expects increase in sugarbeet cultivated area in 2026

Sunoko has announced the start of its sugarbeet sowing season, which is estimated to cover an area of 30,000 hectares this year, compared to [22,000 ha](#) planned in the previous campaign, reports Sugaronline.

Sunoko has provided its agricultural producers with high-quality seed, pesticides, and nitrogen fertilizer, as well as cash advances for the start of production of EUR300 per hectare, the company said in a [press statement](#) on March 16. This year's sugar beet price to growers will be EUR45 per tonne.

"Weather conditions during February and early March brought more precipitation and somewhat milder temperatures compared with the previous year, which helped replenish soil moisture reserves and provided a good basis for the start of the new production season," said Sunoko general director, Slobodan Košutić.

"Our focus again this year remains on improving productivity, supporting producers and further strengthening domestic sugarbeet production, because we believe Serbia has the potential to maintain sector stability and further increase sugar supply to European markets."

Sunoko didn't reveal its expected sugar production volume for this season in the press statement, but said it will ensure a stable supply to the domestic market, with the possibility of additional placement on foreign markets.

CONGO: Government signs MOU to develop sugar refinery project

Congo's government has signed a memorandum of understanding to develop a sugar refinery project in the Sakania territory, in Haut-Katanga province, according to the Business Insider.

Minister Muhindo Nzangi Butondo said the MOU marks the birth of a vast project that will be known as the Sakania sugar factory. The refinery is expected to start production within two years, meeting local demand.

The MOU signed on March 18 is part of a broader policy to strengthen national food security and reduce sugar imports.

INDIA: PM shares message advising cut in sugar intake

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called on people to reduce sugar intake, sharing a reel posted by influencer Yuvraj Dua, in which he urged the PM to advise his father to cut back on sugar, according to the Economic Times.

Modi echoed the appeal not just to Dua's father but to "everyone else out there."

In a follow-up slide, Modi cited risks of excessive sugar intake and its link to diseases and obesity.

INDIA: Maharashtra CM announces committee to address issues faced by sugar industry

Maharashtra's state government will constitute a committee to address issues related to financial assistance to the sugar industry, according to IANS.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed the Chief Secretary to form a committee that will include secretaries from the Cooperation, Agriculture, and Finance departments, the Sugar Commissioner, the Industry Secretary, and the managing director of the State Cooperative Bank.

CM Fadnavis said the committee will conduct a study of the difficulties faced by sugar factories, remedial measures, and alternative arrangements to submit an immediate report.

INDIA: ICAR introduces new sugarcane variety

The ICAR–Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI), Coimbatore, has recently presented a new mid-late maturing sugarcane variety, Co18009, as part of an effort to boost sugarcane cultivation, according to the Times of India.

During a recent event in Kanjapalli village in Annur taluk, ICAR SBI director Dr Pgovindaraj urged farmers to adopt improved cane varieties, noting that older varieties were losing productivity and were prone to diseases, reducing farmers' income.

He also said that the labour shortage is a major challenge, adding that around 75% of sugarcane cultivation must be mechanised to remain profitable.

PHILIPPINES: Sugarcane production rises 94% in Western Visayas

Sugarcane production in Western Visayas increased 94% in 2025 to 2.37 million metric tonnes, according to the Daily Guardian.

The release by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Regional Statistical Services Office VI on March 23 coverz crop production other than palay and corn, excluding Negros Occidental. Sugarcane recorded the largest increase among the region's top crops.

MEXICO: 2025/26 sugar production rises 2% by March 14 – CNPR

Mexico's sugar production so far in the 2025/26 season has exceeded 2.96 million metric tonnes, up by 2.15% from the same period last year, according to a [production update](#) released by the national sugarcane growers' association CNPR, reports Sugaronline.

By March 14, sugar mills in the country had crushed 28.2 million tonnes of sugarcane, down 1.9% year-on-year. Total harvested area declined by 7.9% to 374,545 hectares (ha), but the average agricultural yield increased by 6.5% to 75.30 t/ha.

There are 47 sugar mills operating in the current 2025/26 season in Mexico.

This year, 18 sugar mills have crushed more sugarcane than last year, 24 produced more sugar and 31 recorded higher industrial yields, according to a statement released by CNPR on March 19.

AUSTRALIA: Canegrowers say Australia-EU deal fails to ensure enough market access for sugar

Australian sugarcane producers' association Canegrowers has regretted the outcome of the Australia–EU Free Trade Agreement, saying that it fails to ensure enough market access for Australian sugar in the European market, reports Sugaronline.

Under the agreement announced on March 24, Australia will receive an additional annual duty-free raw sugar quota of 35,000 metric tonnes after three years, building on the longstanding 9,925 tonne allocation, which was previously subject to an in-quota rate of EUR98/tonne (AUD172/tonne).

This rate will be eliminated, meaning Australian sugar exporters will have duty-free access to the EU market for 44,925 tonnes of raw cane sugar for refining, which the [Australian government](#) said is worth up to AUD44 million per year.

The deal also includes a new annual quota of 4,000 tonnes for Australian processed sugar products.

Canegrowers CEO Dan Galligan said these volumes are not “economically meaningful” and will not materially change Australia’s position in the European market.

“The market access Australia has achieved is extremely small – less than 2% of Europe’s import requirement and well below what Brazil and its Mercosur partners secured last year, which was around four times larger than Australia’s outcome,” said Canegrowers CEO Dan Galligan, in a press statement released on March 24.

“Compounding this, the agreement delivers no growth, no pathway to expand access and effectively locks growers into a bad deal for the next generation.”

Galligan said Queensland cane growers are among the most exposed to the global sugar price and receive no government support to buffer that volatility.

NIGERIA: Private sector organisation opposes additional sugar tax

The Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise (CPPE) has opposed the proposed introduction of an additional tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, according to The Point.

The organisation said in a statement that the sugar tax proposal is misguided, poorly timed and at odds with the government’s ongoing tax reform efforts.

CPPE also added that a new levy on the beverage industry amid rising inflation, high interest rates, escalating energy costs and weak consumer demand would be counter-productive.

CHINA: Digital monitoring system assists cane cultivation in southern China

Sugarcane cultivation in Laibin, in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is supported by a digital monitoring system that delivers timely alerts to farmers about the condition of their fields, according to Xinhua.

Automated messages offer tailored guidance to growers about their fields, including whether they need to stop irrigation to boost sugar accumulation.

The system can also identify pests and diseases in the sugarcane fields and assist in making data-driven production decisions.

AUSTRALIA: QCAR and Energy Estate partner to advance biofuel production project

Sugarcane farmers' association Queensland Cane Agriculture and Renewables (QCAR) and renewable energy developer Energy Estate have formalised a partnership to advance the production of biofuels in North Queensland, according to a [statement released](#) by the energy company on March 23.

The BioNQ Project, at Abbot Point in North Queensland, will leverage the region's existing port infrastructure, agricultural base, and renewable energy resources to produce biofuels, including Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), renewable diesel, and green methanol.

The project developers plan to use proven conversion technologies and locally sourced feedstocks, including sugarcane, sorghum, and agricultural residues.

"By working together, we can unlock additional feedstocks, invest in enabling infrastructure, and ensure Queensland's agricultural industries play a leading role in Australia's energy future – in real terms enhancing energy security for Australia and helping drive regional economic development," said Simon Currie, chief projects officer at Energy Estate.

QCAR chairman Russell Hall said QCAR and Energy Estate working together would advance the opportunities for sugarcane to play a central role in addressing local, state and federal priorities, including fuel security, regional development and emissions reduction.

"This gives North Queensland sugarcane farmers the chance to be active participants in Australia's energy security. For decades, our feedstocks have been exported for processing offshore; we are now creating that value here to strengthen our regional communities," he said.

FoodNavigator.com

Can brands cut sugar without killing taste, texture or trust?



As sugar shifts from ingredient to liability, food and drink manufacturers are rebuilding sweetness from the ground up using rare sugars, fibres and fermentation-driven innovation

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/03/25/sugar-free-reformulation-how-brands-rebuild-sweetness/>

Collaboration, not capital, is driving the next wave of food innovation

Collaboration vs capital to fuel innovation



Industry leaders at Future Food-Tech San Francisco say lower investment levels are giving rise to an era of deeper cooperation among stakeholders focused on creating healthier products

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/03/24/future-food-tech-san-francisco-qlp-1-health-and-food-system-change/>
