



International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(26)18
(English only)**

19 May 2026

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

MEXICO: Sugar production rises 4.9% in 2025/26 by early May – cane growers’ group

Mexico's sugar production in the 2025/26 season reached 4.6 million metric tonnes through May 2, up 4.9% from the same period in the previous season, according to the latest [production bulletin](#) released by national sugarcane growers' union CNPR, reports Sugaronline.

The volume of sugarcane crushed increased 1.2% year-on-year to 42.58 million tonnes.

In the current 2025/26 season, 27 sugar mills have crushed more sugarcane than in 2024/25, 33 have produced more sugar, and 33 have reported lower industrial yields.

Agricultural yield increased by 6.22 tonnes per hectare to 71.19 tonnes of sugarcane per ha. In 2025/26, 47 sugar mills in Mexico were operational, down from 49 last season. By May 2, six mills had concluded activities for the 2025/26 season, and the other 41 mills continued to operate.

US: US Sugar announces deployment of autonomous tractors in farmland in South Florida

US Sugar announced on May 11 that it plans to deploy autonomous tractors across its 255,000 acres of farmland in South Florida over the next decade, which it said would be the largest commercial deployment of autonomous tractors in the US sugar industry, according to a [press release](#).

The autonomous fleet includes four John Deere 8R Series tractors and one John Deere 9R Series tractor, operating on sugarcane fields up to 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The tractors, which are traditionally manually operated, are fitted with technology developed by Autonomous Solutions to operate autonomously under oversight from a central command station, where a single operator can oversee multiple vehicles at once using an autonomous fleet management platform.

“By leveraging American technology to increase efficiency and maximize productivity, we are also increasing reliability in our domestic food supply while creating new, higher-skilled opportunities for our employees,” said US Sugar CEO Ken McDuffie.

US Sugar said that as it incorporates the autonomous fleet, it is working to retain all current employees through additional training and support in new roles, including in autonomous tractor operations. “The company is committed to hiring employees for the knowledge-based skills this

state-of-the-art technology requires," it added.

The technology was piloted on US Sugar's farmlands during an 18-month research and development phase, and is currently used for sugarcane land preparation and cultivation. The company intends to potentially expand it for other types of farming, including sweet corn and green bean land preparation and cultivation in the future.

BRAZIL: New ethanol-fueled power plant expected to start operations in 2H 2026

Energética Suape II, a pioneering thermoelectric power plant using ethanol for power generation, is expected to start operations in the second half of 2026, said the technical director of the power plant, José Faustino, according to Novacana.

The power plant, located in Pernambuco state, received BRL60 million in investment and has a capacity of 4 megawatts (MW). State-run oil company Petrobras holds a 20% stake in the power plant, and the 4M group holds 80%.

The plant's design, construction, and commissioning were handled by the Finnish company Wärtsilä.

BRAZIL: Minister says most in the government support E32

Brazil's minister of Mines and Energy, Alexandre Silveira, said on May 13 that there is an absolute majority in the federal government that understands the importance of increasing the mandatory blend of anhydrous ethanol in gasoline to 32%, according to a report from Reuters published by Novacana.

The proposal will be debated in the National Energy Policy Council (CNPE) meeting on a date yet to be defined.

A CNPE meeting to discuss the topic had been scheduled, but was canceled because president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva went to the United States for a meeting with US president Donald Trump, according to Silveira.

AUSTRALIA: Sugar industry prepares for season start, plans to crush 29 million T

Sugarcane growers in Queensland are ready to begin the 2026 sugarcane crushing campaign next week, when around 29 million metric tonnes of sugarcane are expected to be processed by December, according to the local sugarcane producers' association Canegrowers, reports Sugaronline.

MSF's Arriga mill will kick off the season on May 18, followed by Tully Sugar on May 26. The other mills in the region are expected to begin operations throughout June.

"The crop is looking promising and, so far, conditions in the paddock have been favorable, but the sugar price is really dragging growers down," Canegrowers chairman Owen Menkens said in a statement.

"Australian producers are one of the few sugar industries in the world fully exposed to the global sugar price. We're directly impacted by supply and demand fluctuations and soaring input costs." Ongoing fuel supply uncertainty has also raised fears that growers may struggle to source enough diesel to harvest their cane. Almost 100 million litres of diesel will be required between now and the end of the year, most of it for harvesting and planting operations and transporting cane to mills.

A Canegrowers member survey conducted in April found growers statewide had less than four million litres of fuel on hand, while one in 10 had tried unsuccessfully to source fuel in recent weeks.

Fertiliser availability is equally concerning, with around 130,000 tonnes of urea needed between now and December, but with significant uncertainty about supply.

“Canegrowers has been working directly with the fuel and fertiliser sectors, who have assured us that supply is on the way. Still, the high diesel price alone is expected to blow a massive \$150 million hole in grower profitability,” said Menkens.

FoodNavigator.com



The proposed deal would unite two of the food and beverage industry’s largest ingredients makers.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/05/15/ingredions-37-billion-tate-lyle-takeover-bid-explained/>

Oral GLP-1 breakthrough: What it means for impulse-driven food categories



Food and beverage brands face consumers staying on appetite-suppressing drugs for longer.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/05/18/the-impact-of-oral-glp-1s-on-the-food-and-beverage-industry/>

Tariff refunds are available - here’s how to get them right



High rejection rates and a tight 80-day filing window are turning what should be straightforward IEEPA tariff refunds into a high-stakes, error-prone process for small and mid-sized CPG brands.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2026/05/14/tariff-refunds-what-brands-need-to-know/>