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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

KENYA: President says country no longer needs commercial safeguards for sugar

Kenya's president William Ruto has said that Kenya is no longer on the commercial safeguards list for sugar, ending a 25-year period under the restrictions, as the country now produces enough sugar and no longer needs the safeguards, according to The Kenya Times.

During a speech at the Kenya International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi on Nov. 4, Ruto also said the government had written off approximately KES117 billion in debt owed by sugar factories, freeing them from financial obligations that had accumulated over nearly three decades. Ruto also cited the government's decision to re-organise allow private investors to manage state-owned sugar mills as having improved payments to farmers and workers.

BRAZIL: Unicamp researchers develop low-glycemic-index cane sugar

Researchers at the State University of Campinas (Unicamp), in São Paulo state, developed a sucrose derived from sugarcane that the body absorbs much more slowly, helping reduce the ingredient's glycemic index without altering its flavor, according to Agência FAPESP. The researchers combined sucrose with antioxidants derived used extracts obtained from defective green coffee beans and the thin red skin surrounding peanuts to develop the product.

A patent application has been filed with Brazil's National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) for the crystal-form sugar substitute, which food manufacturers can use in processed foods without altering formulations.

"Our goal was to develop a sugar that could be absorbed more slowly by the body and, at the same time, incorporate agro-industrial byproducts in Brazil, such as defective coffee beans rejected by the industry and peanut skins," said research coordinator Juliana Macedo, a professor at the School of Food Engineering at Unicamp.

ZAMBIA: Government plans excise duty on sugar and confectionery in 2027 national budget

Zambia's government plans to introduce excise duties on sugar and confectionery, according to a document outlining the national budget highlights for the fiscal year 2027, released by the Zambia Revenue Authority on Nov. 6, reports Sugaronline.

The tax measures announced in the budget are subject to approval by Parliament, according to the revenue authority. "The measures cut across revenue generation, tax relief, and overall revenue administration efficiency," it added.

The 2027 National Budget introduces an excise duty on sugar at ZMK1 per kilogram. "The measure is intended to streamline application of excise duty on similar products as currently, sugar does not attract Excise Duty while sugar-based drinks are subject to excise duty," according to the Zambia Revenue Authority document.

The government also proposes a 20% excise duty on chocolate and sugar confectionery.

FIJI: PM says sugar industry cannot depend on subsidies forever

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka told Parliament last week that the government subsidies cannot remain the permanent foundation of Fiji's sugar industry, calling for reforms to secure its long-term survival, according to news reports from Fiji Times and FBC News.

He said while financial support remained necessary to protect growers, the industry's future depended on improving productivity, profitability and commercial performance. Fiji's government has allocated $96.3 million to the sugar industry in the 2026/27 National Budget.

Rabuka said the industry remained an important pillar of Fiji's agricultural economy, but declining cane production, aging milling infrastructure, rising production costs, labour shortages, land tenure uncertainties and financial constraints continued to affect the sector.

BELARUS: Beet harvest reaches 90% of this year's target

Farmers in Belarus have harvested 100,000 hectares of sugarbeet crops so far this year, 92% of the planned 109,000 hectares, according to state-run news agency BelTa.

More than 5 million tonnes of sugarbeet have been harvested as of Nov. 7, with an average yield of 506 centners per hectare and a sugar content of 17%, according to data released by the Agriculture and Food Ministry. Around 1.8 million tonnes were harvested in Minsk Oblast, followed by Grodno Oblast, with around 1.7 million tonnes.

INDONESIA: Sugar output estimated to reach 2.8 million T in 2026

Indonesia's sugar production in 2026 is projected to rise to 2.8 million metric tonnes, one of the highest volumes in the past decade, according to the Voice of Indonesia (VOI).

Secretary-general of the Indonesian Sugar Association (AGI) Dwi Purnomo said on Nov. 7 that current national sugar production has reached 2.6 to 2.7 million tonnes, with potential to increase because several sugar factories have not completed the 2026 cane milling process.

He said government policies have also encouraged improvements in the sugar industry's operational performance, especially in production techniques.

FIJI: PM unveils plan for national strategy to transform sugar industry

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka told Parliament last week that the government intends to progress a National Sugar Industry Transformation Strategy to bring together reform initiatives under one coordinated national framework, according to the Fiji Times. The plan intends to revive Fiji's struggling sugar industry through mill modernisation, increased cane production and diversification into new products.

The strategy will target eight key areas, including grower profitability, improved milling efficiency, harvesting and transportation, land tenure security, institutional governance and the development of a new sugar mill. Opportunities in ethanol, refined sugar, renewable energy, private-sector investment and access to international markets will also be explored.

FoodNavigator.com

Democrats face grocery affordability test as one-third of shoppers cut meals



As Democrats prepare to take control of Congress, new dunnhumby research shows mounting financial pressure is changing how Americans eat and shop

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/11/04/midterm-elections-put-grocery-affordability-in-focus/

Affordability, health and trust: What the midterms signal for food manufacturers



As Democrats take Congress, food companies face a new competitive advantage: trust

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/11/05/how-consumer-trust-became-foods-new-competitive-advantage/

How are GLP-1 users redefining indulgence?



As use of weight-loss medications grows, research points to changing consumer preferences and spending patterns, creating opportunities for food brands to rethink indulgence with healthier ingredients, new formats and better-for-you benefits

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/11/04/glp-1-drugs-reshape-food-treats-and-indulgence/

Grocery taxes, soda taxes and school meals: How voters decided



Food-related ballot measures delivered mixed results, with wins for Arizona's grocery tax cap and Berkeley's soda tax increase as California's billionaire tax trails

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/11/09/which-food-ballot-measures-passed-in-2026/