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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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(English only)**

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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.

**FoodNavigator.com**

**Do consumers prefer sugar or non-nutritive sweeteners? It's complicated**



Consumer confusion over how best to reduce sugar in one's diet persists. Are they still looking for 'zero added sugar' in sweet drinks? Regulatory and ingredients experts weigh in.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/01/02/do-consumers-prefer-sugar-or-non-nutritive-sweeteners>

**How agrifood is entering the next phase of its sustainable development**



A number of 2023 research studies have explored past industry insights to understand the agrifood sector today and inform the future of the industry.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/01/02/how-agrifood-is-entering-the-next-phase-of-its-sustainable-development>

## Sugaronline Ebriefing

### **MOROCCO: Cosumar sells stake in Saudi Arabia's Durrah to Wilmar Sugar**

Sugar producer Cosumar has completed the sale of its entire stake of 43.275% in Saudi Arabian sugar company Durrah Advanced Development Company (Durrah) to Wilmar Sugar PTE for approximately US\$65 million, the companies announced on Dec. 28, reports Sugaronline.

The transaction is part of a deal announced in July, in which Wilmar International Limited agreed to dispose of its 30.05% stake in Cosumar and to acquire equity interests in Durrah and Wilmaco.

With the acquisition of Cosumar's entire 43.275% equity interest in Durrah, Wilmar increases its stake in Durrah to 48.275%. The balance 51.725% interest in Durrah was held by local Saudi investors.

Durrah is one of the largest producers of refined sugar in Saudi Arabia based in King Fahad Industrial Port, Yanbu.

### **TUNISIA: 23,000 T of imported sugar arrives from India**

Tunisia received on Dec. 26 a ship carrying 23,000 metric tonnes of imported white sugar from India, according to African Manager.

The white sugar is destined for domestic and industrial consumption. The unloading of the cargo was expected to start on Dec. 28.

The ship Golden ID docked at the commercial port of Bizerte, according to the Tunisian Trade Board.

### **BRAZIL: Fuel distributors will need to buy 38.8 million CBIOS in 2024**

A resolution by Brazil's National Agency of Oil, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP) currently in public consultation states that fuel distributors in the country will need to acquire a total of 38.78 million decarbonization credits (CBIOS) to meet their targets under the RenovaBio program, according to EPBR.

This number is 3.3% higher than the goal set for 2023.

Once approved, the final individual targets for each fuel distributor will be published in 2024.

Biofuel producers in Brazil issue CBIOS, which fuel distributors must purchase to meet decarbonization targets.

### **BELIZE: BSI receives authorization to import white sugar**

Belize Sugar Industries (BSI) has received authorization from the Supplies Control Unit to import 250 metric tonnes of refined white sugar from the United States, according to Amandala.

BSI's director of Finance, Shawn Chavarria, said on Dec. 31 that exports would cover demand until the crop starts and the company can begin producing sugar at Tower Hill.

He added that the company has enough brown sugar inventories, as it had redirected some that were meant for the export market.

### **GUYANA: Sugar production up 28% in 2023**

Sugar production in Guyana increased 28% or by 13,155 metric tonnes in 2023 from the 47,049 metric tonnes produced in 2022, according to Jamaica Observer.

This was revealed by Agriculture minister, Zulfikar Mustapha, during an end-of-year news conference.

He said one of the major achievements for the sugar sector is the reopening of the Rose Hall Sugar Estate in September. According to him, the sugar industry was able to replant 52% more land in 2023, reaching 4,020 hectares in 2023 from 2,640 hectares in 2022.

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### **Nicaragua and China start trading under free trade agreement**

A new free trade agreement that formerly started on Jan. 1 will allow Nicaragua to export some 71% of its products, including sugar, into China, according to Reuters.

In addition to sugar, Nicaraguan exports will include meat and seafood, peanuts and rum, and non-food items, including leather, charcoal, wood, and automobile parts.

The deal doesn't include Chinese goods that could be problematic for the key Nicaraguan industries, such as sugar.

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### **ED & F MAN Daily Research**

**India could import sugar in 2025** – Reuters - India should produce 29.05 million mt of sugar in 2023/24 and 26.6 million mt in 2024/25, because of the bad weather and drop in cane area in Maharashtra and Karnataka, according to Reuters calculations based on farmer interviews. This could push the government to import, the agency argued. Otherwise, the South Indian Sugar Mills Association said the country will probably not have enough sugar for any exports this year.

**Australian cyclone hits 20% of Queensland cane** - The Australian Financial Review - Cyclone Jasper could have flooded about 20% of the cane area in Queensland, although the full extent of the damage will be clear only when floods recede, according to Canegrowers. Most regions had finished harvesting, although floods could still damage newly planted cane, the association explained.

**Brazil could see record heatwave this summer due to Super El Nino** - Revista Globo Rural - CS Brazil is expected to experience record high temperatures in the Dec-Feb period due to the Super El Nino, as well as wetter weather compared with the past few summers, according to several weather forecasters. In the shorter term, southern Brazil is expected to see some rain this week, Inmet forecast, while Climatempo added that there was a high chance of rain in Parana too.

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