



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.

FoodNavigator.com

Consumers are unsure what processed foods are, but seek to avoid them, IFIC reports



American consumers say they are cutting out processed foods from their diet, despite many not fully understanding what they are, Alyssa Pike, senior manager of nutrition communications at the International Food Information Council (IFIC), shared during a recent webinar.

https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/01/19/Consumers-are-unsure-what-processed-foods-are-but-seek-to-avoid-them-IFIC-reports?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright

How confectionery embraced 'healthy indulgence'



Consumers are increasingly focusing on their health without compromising on taste, which is why healthy indulgence has become a serious trend. Millennials (Gen Y) and Centennials (Gen Z) are looking for foods and beverages that are tasty, good for you, and are also good for the planet.

https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/01/18/how-confectionery-embraced-healthy-indulgence?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright

Why has beverage weathered inflation better than food?



Inflation in recent years has impacted nearly everyone, with rising prices putting a strain on the cost of living. However, according to a new report, food is being hit harder than most sectors, at least in the UK, while beverage seems to have escaped a similar fate.

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/01/24/inflation-hits-food-hard-beverage-escapes-worst-effects?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright

Sugaronline Ebriefing

BELIZE: Ministry expects sugar supply and prices at normal levels in February

Belize's Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE) said in a statement released Jan. 19 that the cane harvest was underway in the country and Belizean sugar should be available in the domestic market in February, with prices for sugar returning to normal levels, reports Sugaronline.

Sugar stocks imported into the country had been distributed and are expected to be depleted by the end of the week ending Jan. 27, it added.

The Ministry said it contacted Santander Sugar in 2003 to verify if they had sugar available to supply in the domestic market, in response to Santander Sugar's statement last week that the company could have supplied sugar to the domestic market at lower prices than imported if allowed by the government.

"As there was an imminent shortage in the stocks of sugar normally available due to the high demand of the Christmas season in 2023, MAFSE reached out to Santander to verify whether they had any stock of sugar available to alleviate the shortage as early as September 2023," the Ministry said.

"Santander was very clear that they did not have any sugar available. As a result, the Government of Belize took the short-term measure of allowing the importation of sugar to ensure that there was sugar on the shelves for the Christmas season."

The Ministry said that it will engage Belize Sugar Industries (BSI) and Santander to ensure that a shortage of white and brown sugar on the local market does not occur again.

"The Ministry reiterates its readiness to discuss these issues and others relating to how the lives and livelihoods of Belizean citizens are affected and supports both farmers and investors as we continue building the Belizean economy," it said.

Santander Sugar Group is not allowed to supply sugar in the Belizean domestic market due to the Designated Processing Area Act, which limits the sale of its production to export markets. Local market access would need to be provided for through a special dispensation.

BANGLADESH: Government considering to cut value-added tax on sugar

Bangladesh's government is considering cutting the value-added tax and supplementary duty on essential items, including sugar, according to The Daily News.

The measure, aimed at keeping prices affordable for the population during Ramadan, comes after an inter-ministerial emergency meeting with representatives of the ministries of finance, commerce, food, and agriculture and the Bangladesh Bank.

UKRAINE: Trade representative says Ukrainian trade with EU has stabilised

Ukraine's Trade Representative Taras Kachka has said that Ukraine's trade with the European Union has practically stabilised since the EU suspended customs duties, quotas, and trade protection measures in favour of Ukrainian products in May 2022, according to Interfax.

He said there was no reason to expect Ukrainian exports of agricultural products to the EU in 2024 to increase, and that they would even fall with possible isolated exceptions.

Kachka said the Ukrainian government was ready for detailed discussions with EU members about trade flows with neighbouring countries.

UK: British Sugar welcomes authorisation for emergency neonicotinoid use

British Sugar has said that the UK government's approval for emergency use of a neonicotinoid seed treatment is an important decision which, if it is needed, will enable sugar beet growers to protect their 2024 crops from Virus Yellows disease while the sector continues working to find a long-term alternative to the problem, reports Sugaronline.

On Jan. 18. the UK government announced authorisation for the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on the 2024 sugarbeet crop in England if there is a danger of virus incidence of 65% or more.

Emergency authorizations for pesticides are granted for a limited period of time, when the government recognises a danger that cannot be contained by any other reasonable means.

British Sugar said any use of the seed treatment is subject to strict controls, including a bare minimum amount is to be used. There is also a restriction on flowering crops being planted in the same field following seed-treated sugarbeet, and growers must take part in knowledge exchange programmes.

"Growers must also follow a strict stewardship programme to ensure best practice and that the conditions of the emergency authorisation are met on the farm. In addition, the industry has jointly funded residue monitoring over the past couple of years," British Sugar said in a statement on Jan. 18.

The company said that the UK sugar industry is working with plant breeders to improve natural resistance in the beet crop, innovation in on-farm techniques and grower practices, and research into how the industry can benefit from gene editing.

"Our ground-breaking project, in collaboration with agricultural biotechnology company Tropic, to explore how gene editing can be used in sugar beet to target Virus Yellows continues to make progress and we have also seen encouraging results from the British Beet Research Organisation's 2023 Virus Yellows trials. We look forward to understanding more about how we can use the results of this work for the benefit of our industry," the company said in a statement on Jan. 18.

BELARUS: Mongolia buys first batch of Belarusian sugar via commodity exchange

Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) has informed that the first transaction of white sugar to Mongolia had been registered, according to BelTa.

A Belarusian sugar refinery sold 312 metric tonnes of granulated white sugar in a transaction through the BUCE broker in Mongolia, United Meres Machinery.

International sugar sales through BUCE reached 26,000 tonnes in 2023, up 157% from 2022, totaling \$16.1 million in revenue, 124% more than in 2022.

PHILIPPINES: SRA says El Niño impacting sugarcane crops

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) has said sugarcane crops in Kabankalan City in Negros Occidental and Batangas have felt the effects of El Niño, impacting sugar production, according to GMA News.

SRA's preliminary estimates show production of 1.75 million metric tonnes of sugar compared to a target of 1.85 million tonnes.

The president of the United Sugar Producers Federation (UNIFED), Manuel Lamata, has said that the current drought is expected to impact the next crop year, starting in September this year.

GUYANA: Minister of Agriculture says government investing in revitalising sugar sector

Guyana's minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha said on Jan. 24 that the government is investing in revitalising the sugar sector, according to Newsroom.

Opposition Parliamentarian Vinceroy Jordan said the current PPP/C administration invested more than GYD30 billion (US\$143.5 million) in the sugar industry in the past three years, but this hasn't resulted in significant gains.

Mustapha rejected the criticism, adding that when the PPP/C returned to office in 2020, it had to spend large sums to reopen states and resume sugar production after the former APNU+AFC administration closed estates and left thousands of people unemployed.

INDONESIA: Sugar production needs to rise 300% by 2030 for self-sufficiency

Indonesia's state-owned plantation holding PTPN estimates that the country would need to expand sugar production by 300% to 9.7 million metric tonnes to achieve self-sufficiency by 2023 and meet its ethanol output goal, according to the Jakarta Post.

Indonesia produced 2.5 million tonnes of sugar last year.

The country would need to expand its sugarcane crops from 489,000 hectares of land currently to 1.18 million hectares by 2030.
