


International Sugar Organization

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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.

Sugaronline Ebriefing
GERMANY: Suedzucker says task force combating SBR beet disease

Suedzucker said on March 7 that it had been part of a task force to combat the spread of Syndrome Basses Richesses (SBR), a beet disease that has negatively impacted beet quality and yield in Germany in 2023, **reports Sugaronline**.

The task force was set up in October 2023 under the umbrella of the Board of Trustees for Experimentation and Advice in Southern German Sugar Growing.

"The task force coordinates research and trial topics and accelerates the provision of the necessary funding. An important function of the task force is to network with key players such as the Julius Kühn Institute, universities, ministries, the crop protection industry and the potato industry, which is also affected by Stolbur," the company said in a post on its website.

Suedzucker said that it will put research results into practice in model regions of southern Germany to test the findings on a large scale, work to reduce the cicada population in selected areas and develop practical measures.

The company said that the use of SBR-tolerant varieties is also an important component of SBR control.

"Growers can expect the disease to continue to spread, but an important contribution to the fight against SBR can also be made by beet growers. With their practical observations, they can support the work of the Task Force. Suedzucker has called on its growers to report any specific observations they have made to the Suedzucker beet department," the company said.

WMO says El Niño has weakened but impacts should continue

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said on March 5 that the El Niño was gradually weakening but will continue to impact the global climate in the coming months, **reports Sugaronline**.

WMO estimates a 60% chance of El Niño persisting during March-May and an 80% chance of neutral conditions (neither El Niño nor La Niña) from April to June.

La Niña is likely to develop later in the year, but the odds are currently uncertain.

"Every month since June 2023 has set a new monthly temperature record – and 2023 was by far the warmest year on record. El Niño has contributed to these record temperatures, but heat-trapping greenhouse gases are unequivocally the main culprit," said WMO secretary-general Celeste Saulo in a statement.

The continuing El Niño and predicted above-normal sea-surface temperatures over much of the global oceans are expected to lead to above-normal temperatures over almost all land areas in the next three months, and influence regional rainfall patterns, according to the [Global Seasonal Climate Update](#) released by WMO.

SWITZERLAND: Origin label requirements eased due to low beet production

Switzerland has eased the requirements for the proportion of Swiss sugar required in products carrying the Swiss origin label due to poor sugarbeet production in the country this year, according to Swiss Info, citing the Swiss agricultural information service on March 7.

Products carrying the Swiss origin label must now contain at least 40% of Swiss sugar, instead of 80% required previously.

The Swiss origin label rule usually requires that 80% of the raw materials in a product come from Switzerland unless there is insufficient raw materials available.

FAO Sugar Price Index rises 3.2% in February

The FAO Sugar Price Index averaged 140.8 points in February, up 3.2% from January and 12.5% higher than in February 2023, due to persistent concerns over the outlook for the upcoming season in Brazil following a prolonged period of below-average rainfall, **reports Sugaronline**.

This is the second consecutive monthly increase in the FAO Sugar Price Index.

Forecasts pointing to likely production declines in Thailand and India have also contributed to the price increase.

"Nevertheless, improved precipitation in late February in the key growing areas of Brazil and the weakening of the Brazilian real against the United States dollar contained the rise in world sugar prices," FAO said in a statement on March 8.

UK: Competition authority says T&L Sugars and Tereos UK's merger could raise sugar prices

The UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said on March 8 that T&L Sugars Limited's (TLS) purchase of Tereos UK & Ireland's 'business to consumer' packed sugar business (TUKI B2C) from Tereos SCA (Tereos) could lead to a substantial lessening of competition, **reports Sugaronline**.

"The loss of competition from the deal could lead to supermarkets paying more for packed sugar and shoppers could see higher prices for packs of sugar on shelves as a result," CMA said in a statement.

TLS and Tereos have five working days to offer solutions to CMA's competition concerns, otherwise the CMA will refer the deal to an in-depth phase 2 investigation, according to competition authority.

TLS is a sugar producer which refines and distributes sugar and related products, including under the Tate and Lyle brand, to supermarkets and other businesses such as grocery wholesalers, hotels, and cafes in the UK.

TUKI B2C sources sugar from its Europe-based parent company, Tereos, and uses a facility in Normanton (West Yorkshire) as a packing and distribution site to sell packed sugar in the UK, including under the Whitworths brand.

CMA said these two companies only face competition from one other company, British Sugar, in the supply of packed sugar to a range of businesses, including supermarkets.

"The supply of sugar to grocery retailers in the UK is already highly concentrated. This deal

would bring together two of the three players in the UK sugar sector, reducing competition and choice further for people and businesses,” said the senior director of Mergers at the CMA, Sorcha O’Carroll.

EUROPE: EU INTA Committee endorses proposal to extend trade liberalisation with Ukraine

The International Trade Committee (INTA) of the European Parliament approved on March 7 the European Commission’s proposal to renew the temporary suspension of import duties and quotas on Ukrainian agricultural exports to the EU for another year, **reports Sugaronline**.

The proposal provides for an emergency brake for agricultural products, including sugar, poultry, and eggs, if imports of these products surpass the average 2022 and 2023 volumes, with the reimposition of tariffs.

The proposal is to renew the measures from June 6, 2024, to June 5, 2025.

“The extension of the EU’s trade measures will ensure Ukraine can continue to export its agricultural products to the EU – a crucial lifeline for the Ukrainian economy. At the same time, the proposal includes solid safeguards ensuring our farmers will not be overwhelmed by a sudden surge of imports,” the rapporteur for the Ukraine file, Sandra Kainiete, said in a statement.

“The Commission will be able to re-introduce tariffs or take any other necessary measures if it finds imports of specific products lead to market disturbances. It is a good balance between continuing our vital support to the Ukraine and the necessary protection of our markets.”

The European Parliament is now to vote on its first reading position during next week’s plenary session. If Parliament adopts its first reading position, the Council will then formally approve the regulation, and it will enter into force after being published in the EU Official Journal.

Food Navigator.com

FDA weighs application of new yogurt qualified health claims on sugary products



FDA will not object to two qualified health claims linking consumption of yogurt and reduced risk of type 2 diabetes, regardless of fat or sugar content, but in an enforcement discretion letter to Danone North America detailing its decision the agency urged “careful consideration of whether to use the claim on products that contribute significant amounts of added sugars to the diet.”

https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/03/06/fda-weighs-application-of-new-yogurt-qualified-health-claims-on-sugary-products?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright

Sweetener ‘controversy’ fuels consumer confusion: How should industry respond?



Growing ‘controversy’ and ‘confusion’ around alternative sweeteners is impacting consumer trust. What should manufacturers’ next steps be?

[https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/03/06/consumers-are-confused-about-sweeteners-how-should-industry-](https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/03/06/consumers-are-confused-about-sweeteners-how-should-industry-respond?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright)

[respond?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright](https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/03/06/consumers-are-confused-about-sweeteners-how-should-industry-respond?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright)

Both sugary and artificially-sweetened beverages linked to atrial fibrillation risk



Drinking two liters or more of sugar or artificially sweetened drinks per week is linked to a higher risk of an irregular heart rhythm (atrial fibrillation) compared to adults who drink fewer of these beverages, according to a study published this week.

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/03/07/sugar-sweetened-artificial-sweetener-beverages-linked-to-atrial-fibrillation-risk?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright

PepsiCo brings back Greenhouse Accelerator Program: Juntos Crecemos Edition



PepsiCo is seeking submissions to its annual Greenhouse Accelerator Program, which will once again focus on Hispanic-owned startups in the food and beverage or food supply chain spaces.

[https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/03/07/pepsico-brings-back-greenhouse-accelerator-program-juntos-crecemos-](https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/03/07/pepsico-brings-back-greenhouse-accelerator-program-juntos-crecemos-edition?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright)

[edition?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright](https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/03/07/pepsico-brings-back-greenhouse-accelerator-program-juntos-crecemos-edition?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright)

UK's eighth wettest winter on record: How will this affect food production?



Extreme weather events are becoming commonplace across the globe as the effects of climate change really start to bite. But what does this mean for food production, and ultimately, the future of food security?

[https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/03/08/uk-s-eighth-wettest-winter-on-record-how-will-this-affect-food-](https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/03/08/uk-s-eighth-wettest-winter-on-record-how-will-this-affect-food-production?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright)

[production?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright](https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/03/08/uk-s-eighth-wettest-winter-on-record-how-will-this-affect-food-production?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright)

From 'flakes for dinner' to possible heart attack-inducing fortification: Is it all just a storm in a cereal bowl?



WK Kellogg Co CEO's controversial suggestion of Frosted Flakes for dinner has triggered a fracas from all sectors. The breakfast cereal sector is also dealing with reports that its fortification of niacin (a common B vitamin) is more damaging than helpful to health. 7 March was National Cereal Day, so we took a hard look into the state of play.

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2024/03/07/From-flakes-for-dinner-to-possible-heart-attack-inducing-fortification-Is-it-all-just-a-storm-in-a-cereal-bowl?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright

Connecticut seeks to ban energy drink sales to children once again, amid caffeine content concerns



Connecticut lawmakers once again seek to ban the sale of energy drinks to consumers younger than 16 years, as regulators and researchers raise concerns about the negative health impact of caffeine.

https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/03/08/Connecticut-seeks-to-ban-energy-drink-sales-to-children-once-again-amid-caffeine-content-concerns?utm_source=copyright&utm_medium=OnSite&utm_campaign=copyright

ED & F Man Daily

Brazilian plants increase sugar capacity and "leave" ethanol to corn processors

- Reuters - Brazil's sugar cane mills will increase their sugar production capacity by up to 10% in the new season, which begins in April, to take advantage of relatively high sugar prices and supply corn, which makes the grain a cheap raw material for ethanol production. Sugar prices are currently 60% higher than equivalent values for Brazilian ethanol, brokerage and supply chain services provider Czarnikow said in a report this week. This is the biggest price difference in 15 years. Among some of the biggest investments in sugar, the Jalles Machado plant invested 170 million reais in the State of Minas Gerais, Cerradinho Bioenergia invested 289 million reais in the Mato Grosso do Sul factory and Coruripe invested 200 million reais in a unit, also in Minas Gerais. French company Tereos, which has seven plants in Brazil, plans to allocate 70% of its sugar cane to sugar production and 30% to ethanol. This represents an increase from last season's already high level of 67%.
