



International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(24)15
(English only)**

2 April 2024

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.

Scientists fully map sugarcane genome

Researchers have fully mapped the sugarcane genome for the first time, finding the crop's genome is three times the size of the human genome and more complex, according to a statement released by the University of Queensland, reports Sugaronline.

The research was conducted by scientists as part of the Community Science Program at the US Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute (JGI) in an international research consortium, which included the University of Queensland, Australia's national science agency CSIRO and Sugar Research Australia (SRA).

The research paper was published in [the Nature](#) science journal.

"This marks the start of the genomic revolution for sugarcane, and now we have the knowledge to level the playing field with other crops," said co-author of the study, Professor Robert Henry from the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Innovation, in a statement released by the University of Queensland.

"While this genome mapping will be a tool to help create more resistant sugarcane crops, it is also a major step forward for our other research to turn sugarcane and other plant biomass into aviation fuel."

Principal Investigator and CSIRO Research Scientist Dr Karen Aitken said the breakthrough in genome mapping addressed the critical challenge of stagnating sugar yields by tapping into the previously inaccessible genetic diversity of sugarcane.

"This is a major step forward for sugarcane research and will improve our understanding of complex traits like yield and adaption to diverse environmental conditions as well as disease resistance," she said.

"This is the first high-quality sugarcane variety genome to be completed. It represents a significant scientific achievement from 10 years of collaborative effort from scientists across the world.

BELIZE: Minister forecasts record revenue from sugar exports in 2024

Belize's Agriculture minister, Jose Abelardo Mai, said on March 27 that the country is expected to earn a record \$190 million from sugar exports in 2024, according to Breaking Belize News.

Mai said during a presentation in the Budget Debate at the House of Representatives that the country's sugar industry was demonstrating resilience and adaptability amid challenges, and had managed to grow despite a decline in production in the northern region.

THAILAND: Czarnikow says 2024/25 cane crush could exceed 100 million T

Thailand's 2024/2 sugarcane crush could exceed 100 million tonnes after reaching an estimated 82 million tonnes in the current season, according to Czarnikow, reports Sugaronline.

Unexpected high rainfall in September and October has contributed to this year's crop, prompting a review in the previous sugarcane production estimate for the country, which was 66.5 million tonnes, the lowest in a decade.

"We'd feared a 23% drop in cane yields, but the eventual fall was just 8%," analyst Kanjanaporn Dechwan said in a [report published](#) March 28.

Sugarcane will be the most profitable crop in Thailand for the first time in five years, according to Czarnikow. This should contribute to an increase in the cane area and motivate farmers to invest in better sugarcane maintenance and more field inputs, leading to higher cane yields in the coming season.

"We think the 24/25 cane crush could exceed 100m tonnes for the first time in six years," said Dechwan.

EGYPT: Study compares cane and beet sugar production from economic perspective

A research paper by think tank Ra Centre for Strategic Studies has warned against expanding beet cultivation in Egypt at the expense of sugarcane, arguing that cane sugar is more advantageous from an economic perspective, according to Ahram.

According to the report citing the research paper "Risks of Decline in Sugarcane Cultivation in Upper Egypt", one feddan of sugarcane yields twice the production of a feddan of beets, and sugarcane also requires less effort and consumes less energy to refine.

UGANDA: Local millers say sales are affected by smuggled sugar

Sugar sales by the Uganda's sugar industry in the domestic market have been affected by smuggled sugar, resulting in a build-up in stock, according to The East African.

The chairman of the Uganda Sugar Manufacturers Association, Jimmy Kabeho, said that when duty-free sugar arrives in Kenya, a large part of it is smuggled through some border points into Uganda, distorting local prices.

The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has said it has not intercepted any consignment of smuggled sugar through Malaba and Busia borders for the past three months.

BRAZIL: Sugar exports from Santos port up 99% in first 2M 2024

Sugar exports from Brazil's Santos Port increased 98.8% in the first two months of the year, from the same period last year, to 4.22 million metric tonnes, according to data released by the port authority, reports Sugaronline.

Bulk sugar exports reached 3.64 million tonnes, up 93.7% year on year. Sugar exports in containers increased by 162.1% to 565,891 tonnes. Shipments of sugar in bags fell by 31.3% to 22,068 tonnes.

In February, 2.13 million tonnes of sugar were shipped from Santos Port, 136.3% more than in the same month in 2023. Of this total, 1.83 million tonnes were bulk sugar (+137.3%), 278,476 tonnes were in containers (+148.5%), and 16,464 tonnes were in bags (+1.6%).

FoodNavigator.com

Is the UK investing enough in food and drinks manufacturing?



Financial uncertainty has proved to be a major challenge for UK food and drinks manufacturers. But is the government investing in the industry and what more can it do to support them?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/03/25/is-uk-investing-enough-in-food-and-drinks-manufacturing>

The sweet truth: Embracing better-for-you confectionery for a healthier future



In an era of rising health consciousness, the confectionery industry finds itself at a crossroads. Traditionally associated with indulgence and guilty pleasures, confectionery products are now undergoing a transformation to meet the demands of a more health-conscious consumer base.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/03/26/the-sweet-truth-embracing-better-for-you-confectionery-for-a-healthier-future>

Portions play pivotal role in promoting consumer health, reducing food waste, Georgetown University reports



Reducing portion sizes across the food and beverage industry, including foodservice, can have a profound impact on consumer health and help combat food waste, Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business shared in a recent report.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/news/manufacturers/portions-play-pivotal-role-in-promoting-consumer-health-reducing-food-waste-georgetown-university-reports>

Who funds regenerative agriculture?



Regenerative agriculture, without clearly defined practices or financial incentives, and with uncertain results, needs money to thrive. But where will this money come from?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/03/28/funding-regenerative-agriculture>

Changing freshwater cycle: Are we on a collision course with disaster?



Human activity has significantly altered the freshwater cycle. But is this change reversible, and if not, what does it mean for the future of food and water supplies?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/03/22/changing-freshwater-cycle-how-will-this-affect-food-security-and-drinking-water>

Liquid assets: The need for business action on water



The diamond-water paradox was a puzzle to the man that coined the term, economist Adam Smith. Although water is, unarguably, more valuable to humans, why do diamonds command a higher price?

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/03/22/world-water-day-coca-cola-europacific-partners-talks-water>

ED & F Man Daily

Raízen Gets License to Produce 2nd Generation Ethanol in Guariba - Bloomberg - License allows production of 2nd generation ethanol (E2G) at the Bonfim Bioenergy park, located in the city of Guariba, says Raízen in a statement to the market. The company commenced Friday the commercialization of its 2nd E2G plant, with an expected level of 80% of nominal production capacity, says the document.
