



International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AA

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

ITALY: Food and beverage industries welcome postponement of sugar tax

Italy's food and beverage industry has welcomed the government's decision to postpone the enforcement of a sugar tax from July 2024 to July 2025, according to statements released by two industry associations, reports Sugaronline.

President of Federalimentare, Paolo Mascarino, has welcomed the decision, adding that sugar tax is an "unfair and illiberal tax" that would not help to fight obesity and non-communicable diseases.

"This postponement, therefore, is a victory of common sense and science against ideology to the benefit the consumers and businesses. A tax which, if introduced, would also have betrayed the historic position of the Italian institutions against discriminatory nutritional policies, which classify our food excellences as "unhealthy" and affix traffic light labels and new taxes to them," Mascarino said in a [statement on May 14](#).

The president of non-alcoholic beverage producers Assobibe, Giangiacomo Pierini said in a [separate statement](#) that the postponement of the sugar tax is "a breath of fresh air" for the sector.

"We reiterate our willingness to collaborate with the government to find solutions that can lead to the definitive abolition of a measure that is useless and harmful for the entire supply chain and which does not bring any positive effect in terms of health given that it also taxes calorie-free products," he said.

PHILIPPINES: Roxas Holdings requests trading suspension amid news on acquisition

Roxas Holdings has requested a trading suspension of its shares to avoid market speculation amid news on a deal for the acquisition of a majority stake at the company by Countryside Investments Holdings Corp (CIHC), according to a [company's filing](#) with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) on May 20, reports Sugaronline.

The company said that a non-binding term sheet was signed by Roxas Holdings, First Pacific Natural Resources Holdings, First Agri Holdings Corporation and CIHC on May 16, setting "indicative key terms and conditions for the proposed subscription by CIHC to RHI primary shares in tranches."

Roxas said that the proposed investing by CHCI is not "a done deal", and that once the binding definitive documentation is executed, it will make the proper disclosure of material information relating to the proposed investment.

The company requested the voluntary suspension of trading until May 31, 2024, “when the investment agreement and other definitive agreements are indicated to be executed and completed as per the term sheet.”

News websites PhilStar and Business Mirror [reported on May 20](#) that Countryside Investments Holdings, owned by Leandro Antonio Leviste, had agreed to buy 71.6% of sugar company Roxas Holdings.

FoodNavigator.com

Are protein bars and powders damaging to gut health?



High-protein products and gut health represent two of the biggest food trends of the last decade, but is one bad for the other?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/05/21/are-protein-bars-and-powders-damaging-to-gut-health>

How are food companies responding to changes in advertising?



From data to legislation, advertising is changing. This provides challenges for food companies but, with their abundance of first-hand consumer data, opportunities as well.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/05/21/advertising-how-food-is-responding-to-changes>

ECRUU

WORLD - La Nina could develop later than expected

Skymet warned that La Nina would develop later than initially expected and that, due to climate change, a cool La Nina year was expected to be warmer than the El Nino years seen a few decades ago. Japan's weather bureau expects La Nina to form by November while the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) sees a 60% chance by Jun-Aug. (Includes content from: Reuters)

([Chini Mandi](#) & [The Hindu](#))

FRANCE

Cristal Union considering installing mini-nuclear reactor for its power needs

Sugar producer Cristal Union is considering to install a mini nuclear reactor that can generate 20 MW on a 10-ha plot near its Bazancourt site in Marne, reported France Bleu. Bazancourt is the largest site of Cristal Union with a beet sugar factory slicing 23,000 t/d and the Cristanol factory producing 3.5 mn hL ethanol from wheat and beet. In addition, a wheat starch plant operated by ADM is located at Bazancourt.

The small reactor would supply the factory's energy needs. This would be carbon-free and "cheaper than that obtained with fossil fuels," said Jimmy Energy, the start-up that will supply the reactor.

Jimmy Energy acknowledges that the project is subject to "a long investigation process by the authorities." "Jimmy has launched a feasibility

study for installing this type on the Bazancourt / Cristanol site of Cristal Union. This project is necessarily subject to validation, by the competent authorities, of all safety and security guarantees," the company said.

Cristal Union, the second largest sugar producer in France, has not denied its interest, saying, "The company is studying all possible avenues to decarbonize its activities, producing energy from biomass being the most promising. Among the other avenues being explored, we are in contact with the company Jimmy Energy, whose solution is the subject of a long-term study. No agreement has been signed; such a project requires several years of studies, and all the guarantees of safety and authorizations must be provided."

CHINA

Cofco's sugar refinery in ZDZ about to go online

The construction of a new sugar refinery by Cofco Sugar in the Zhangzhou Development Zone (ZDZ) in Fujian Province, South-Eastern China, has reached the final stage, YNTW reported. The project, started in October 2022 and poised to be completed in May 2024, has a total investment of RMB881mn (€114mn) and a construction area of 97,000 m².

After completion, the project will annually produce 350,000 t of refined sugar (60,000 t of refined white granulated sugar and 290,000 t of first-grade white granulated sugar) and 150,000 t/y of liquid sugar (dry basis), meaning it can produce 1500 t of sugar (finished product) daily. Besides, this project will also produce 70,000 t/y of by-products.

USA

Domino Sugar launches new sugar package

ASR subsidiary Domino Sugar has launched a new 3.5-lb (1.58-kg) rigid package for granulated white sugar. It is called Easy Baking Tube and it features a flip-top lid that "lets you scoop directly into your baking while the secure click closure feature keeps your sugar fresh," the company wrote on Facebook. The new package is made of polypropylene (PP), which is recyclable and refillable. Packaging Digest noted that "Domino's Easy Baking Tub also offers sustainability benefits, using 28% less plastic than the company's previous round 4-lb canister."

Sugar Industry International

ANGOLA

BMA to develop sugar refinery for Carrinho Group

BMA is building a sugar refinery for the Angolan Carrinho Group. The plant will be set up at the group's food industrial complex in Benguela Province, about 30 km south of the Port of Lobito, and is poised to be the largest of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a raw sugar processing rate of 3,000 t/d. BMA also said it completed the preliminary design for the sugar refinery in 2020. "We have recently started on the detailed engineering, preparing plans and specifications for project implementation." BMA will supply not only the machinery, equipment and technology for the refinery, but also the distributed con-

trol system (DCS). The scope of supply includes a revolving-arm mingler, three melters, three evaporators, a vertical continuous evaporating crys-

tallizer (VKT) and nine batch evaporating crystallizers. Commissioning of the new sugar refinery is scheduled for mid-2025.



USA

Sucro's result in 2023 boosted by Lackawanna plant

In the full year 2023 (ended December 31), revenues of Sucro Limited reached USD496mn (€466mn), 13% up year-on-year. The company said higher average sugar prices during the year partially offset a decrease in volumes sold (-8%, driven by lower sales volumes in Mexico). In the period, adjusted EBITDA jumped by 48% to USD33mn (€31mn).

In 2023, Sucro refineries manufactured 160,323 t of sugar, up 92% from 83,615 t in 2022. "The addition of our new refinery capacity has had the

desired effects – significant growth in our refined volumes and higher per ton profitability, the combination of which supported a 48% year-over-year increase in our adjusted EBITDA," said Jonathan Taylor, founder and CEO of Sucro.

Revenues are anticipated to increase in 2024 as the commissioning of the Lackawanna refinery is completed – it went online in December 2022 – and production and optimization rates move to anticipated operating levels.