

**International Sugar Organization**

1 Canada Square  
Canary Wharf  
London E14 5AA

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(24)29  
(English only)**

**4 June 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.

**Sugaronline Ebriefing****FIJI: FSC plans review in grant program to support larger and more efficient cane growers**

The Fiji Sugar Corporation is planning to focus its planting grant program on larger, more efficient sugarcane growers, according to FBC News.

FSC chief executive Bhan Pratap Singh said previous grants for smaller growers had limited results. He also said the industry should have a broader discussion to develop solutions for unproductive growers.

**GERMANY: Moody's raises Suedzucker's ratings**

Ratings agency Moody's has raised Suedzucker AG's long-term rating to Baa2, from Baa3, and the short-term rating to P2, from P3, reports Sugaronline.

"This strengthens Südzucker's rating within the investment grade range as a solid borrower," Suedzucker said in a statement on June 3. The ratings outlook is stable.

Moody's attributes the improvement to the strong recovery in the company's underlying profitability in recent years, driven by very high sugar prices and favourable supply and demand dynamics in the European sugar market.

Suedzucker's profitability is expected to decline over the next 12 to 18 months as sugar prices normalises, but strong cash generation should allow the company to reduce its financial debt which, together with stronger profit diversification, will support strong credit metrics on an ongoing basis, according to Moody's.

**SOUTH AFRICA: Project to help improve pest monitoring and turn sugar into energy**

A project led by a British agri-technology company AgriSound aims to increase sugarcane yields in South Africa through improved pest monitoring and investigate the use of hydroponic technologies to boost bioenergy production, reports Sugaronline.

Developed in collaboration with the UK Agri-Tech Centre and GYO Systems based in South Africa, the project will deploy an insect listening device named Polly to enable growers to track and eliminate the damage caused by pests such as the Eldana Stalk Borer, according to a [statement](#) released by AgriSound.

The project will also investigate expanding bioenergy production near urban land areas through the introduction of low-cost hydroponic technologies in Camperdown, KwaZulu-Natal, an urban settlement close to one of the main sugarcane growing regions in South Africa.

The project has received a grant of over GBP200,000 (US\$254,876) from Innovate UK's African Innovation Collaborations for Net Zero Places.

"We have begun work this month and our aim for the project is to harness the power of nature-based solutions to revolutionise the South African agricultural landscape," said Casey Woodward, chief executive officer (CEO) of AgriSound.

"We expect it to contribute to tackling the energy crisis and climate change while providing substantial economic and social improvements, and reduce the country's carbon footprint, all within the span of 12 months."

### **US: Dispute over delay in sugar delivery is dismissed – report**

Louis Dreyfus' request to the Intercontinental Exchange for an intervention over delays in receiving some of the sugar acquired after March futures expired has been dismissed by a panel of arbitrators, according to BNN Bloomberg, citing people familiar with the matter.

According to the news report, the request was dismissed because vessels had been loaded by the time the case was assessed.

### **SOUTH AFRICA: Cane industry exploring options to diversify production**

The sugarcane industry in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province has been exploring options to diversify production beyond sugar to create new revenue streams and reduce exposure to fluctuating sugar prices, according to Food for Mzansi.

Infinergy Consulting and the South African Sugar Association (SASA) have been involved in projects to consider the potential for producing fuel ethanol, biogas, renewable electricity, sustainable aviation fuel, and polylactic acid.

### **ANGOLA: Biocom plans to increase production in 2024**

Sugar and ethanol producer Biocom started the 2024 season in early May, planning to increase production this year, it said [in a statement](#) published on its website.

The company plans to harvest an area of 30,000 hectares of sugarcane this season. It didn't specify how much it plans to increase sugar production.

Biocom said it supplied 51% of Angola's domestic sugar demand and 30% of the ethanol consumption in 2023.

### **AUSTRALIA: Canegrowers struck by cyclone request more time to conclude repairs**

Australian sugarcane producers association Canegrowers has called on the state government to give producers impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper last year more time to apply for and conduct works under disaster recovery grants, the association said in a statement on May 30, reports Sugaronline.

Canegrowers chief executive officer (CEO) Dan Galligan said many growers will not be able to apply for funding by the government's June 30 deadline.

"The shortage of contractors, staff and equipment in far north Queensland means growers, often those most severely affected, have been unable to complete repair work," he said in a statement.

"If growers can't find contractors to complete the necessary work, then they will miss out on the government's deadline and will no longer be able to access those desperately needed disaster recovery funds."

Galligan said failure to extend the deadline would be another blow, particularly for Mossman growers, who are already facing the challenges related to the recent liquidation of their local sugar mill.

"Growers in the region are already struggling and they need to get their farms back into shape. They are anxious about what the future holds for their businesses, their families, and their entire community," he said.

---

## Food Navigator.com

### Sugar and confectionery trade groups commend Farm Bill progress to reinforce supply chains



A bipartisan-supported sugar policy addresses supply challenges by enhancing domestic production and streamlining imports "to create a healthier, more abundant sugar market," Grant Colvin, executive director of the Alliance for Fair Sugar Policy, told FoodNavigator-USA.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/06/03/sugar-and-confectionery-trade-groups-commend-farm-bill-progress-to-reinforce-supply-chains>

### 'Swicy' flavors take the spotlight in ad campaigns



Sweet and spicy (swicy) play into consumers' ongoing pursuit of diverse, globally inspired taste experiences, and are reflected in recent brand ad campaigns.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/05/31/swicy-flavors-take-the-spotlight-in-ad-campaigns>

### Regenerative agriculture: How manufacturers and farmers are working together



Regenerative agriculture has gained widespread attention in recent years as manufacturers and consumers grow to fully understand its importance. But how are farmers approaching it and what challenges are they facing?

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/05/31/regenerative-agriculture-how-mondelez-works-with-farmers>

---

## ECRUU Sugar News Monitor

### INDIA - Monsoon arrives early

The monsoon hit Kerala on May 30, two days earlier than expected, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Rainfall should be average in June, but La Nina could start to increase rainfall in Jul-Sep.

Meanwhile, the water reservoirs in the north were at 30% capacity as of May 30, compared to 38% last year, while the level in the west was 24%, down from 28% last year.

([Reuters](#) & [Chini Mandi](#))

### INDONESIA - Plans to boost production, lower imports

Indonesia's SGN started the season in Jember, East Java, and unveiled a plan to process 793,000mt of cane compared to 625,000mt last year. The crop might suffer from El Nino, but area was increased by 2,000ha. Overall, the firm hopes to process 13.5 million mt of cane to make 992,000mt of white crystal sugar. In West Java, PTPN III (Persero) is converting 4,216ha of rubber plantations to boost cane output. And a spokesperson for the PTPN Group said 490,000ha of new cane fields should be developed by 2030, which should allow sugar imports to keep dropping.

([Medcom](#) & [Tribun News](#) & [Liputan6](#))

### SWITZERLAND - Using beet pulp to lower milk emissions

Milk producers announced that emissions per kg of milk dropped by 4.9% since the 2022 launch of the voluntary KlimaStaR Milch program. Part of the drop in emissions was thanks to the use of waste products as feed, such as beet pulp.

([Swiss Info](#))

### UNITED STATES - Ethanol output keeps rising, exports to match record

The US produced 1.068 million bbl/day of ethanol during the week ending May 24, the third week of increase and up by 49,000bbl/day on week, according to the EIA. Stocks dropped 1.005 million bbl to 23.207 million bbl, a six-month low. Otherwise, exports reached 212,000bbl/day in the period, up by 129,000bbl/day on week. The USDA hiked its 2024 ethanol export forecast to 1.6 billion gal, the same as the 2018 record, thanks to the price advantage over Brazilian ethanol.

([Ethanol Producer Magazine](#) & [Brownfield Ag News](#))

---

## ED& F Man Daily Research Sugar

- **Weight loss drugs could already be denting sugar demand – Bloomberg** - The demand for weight-loss drugs is growing much faster than initially expected, with BMO Capital Markets increasing the expected sales forecast to USD 150 billion by 2033, compared to USD 100 billion expected a year ago. Market Morgan Stanley forecast that 10% of the US will be on these GLP-1 drugs by 2035, which will cause a 5% drop in the country's sweets and confectionery demand. Czarnikow argued that the sugar industry was underestimating the impact that these drugs would have on demand, explaining that food companies are already seeing a hit on sales.