


**International Sugar Organization**

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Press Release(24)73  
(English only)**

**26 September 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.


**PRESS RELEASE Groupe Florimond Desprez and DLF Seeds A/S join forces to create United Beet Seeds**

**COPENHAGEN, DENMARK AND CAPPELLE-EN-PÉVÈLE, FRANCE – 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024** – Groupe Florimond Desprez and DLF Seeds A/S are pleased to announce the signing of an agreement to merge their sugar beet, fodder beet, industrial chicory seed businesses and the related R&D activities into a new joint venture called United Beet Seeds (UBS). This strategic partnership will position UBS as a leading player in the international beet seed market.

The sugar beet seed industry is facing demanding requirements and market segmentation due to new legislation and the impact of climate change. Recognizing these requirements alongside rapid technological advancements, these factors continue to escalate investment demands in the sector. In UBS, Groupe Florimond Desprez and DLF Seeds A/S combine their extensive experience in breeding, seed production and processing, allowing them to leverage their complementary strengths and shared passions. The new company will prioritize continuous investment in expertise, research and sustainability, which are essential to offer competitive and innovative solutions to growers and the industry and to support them to face important agro-ecological challenges.

United Beet Seeds will be led by Lilian Escalon, a seasoned professional with over 14 years of experience in the seed and breeding industry, previously with a global leading potato breeding company. Earlier this year he was already appointed as CEO of SESVanderHave. His operational skills and strategic insight will elevate UBS's business activities to new heights.

François Desprez, Chairman from Groupe Florimond Desprez, stated, "We are delighted with this new stage in the cooperation between our two companies. DLF Seeds A/S is a trusted partner whose values we share, and who, like us, has a long-term vision and strategy for its seed business. We are joining strengths, expertise, and passion to make UBS an innovative key player in the beets & chicory business, particularly in supporting growers to face the challenges posed by climate change."

Søren Halbye, Group CEO from DLF Seeds A/S added, "The opportunity in sugar beet is significant, but competition is fierce. To succeed, we need substantial investment to develop competitive and resilient varieties. Therefore, a partnership with Groupe Florimond Desprez is essential. As we embark on this joint venture, I am excited about the opportunity to share

technologies, value chains, and market access, reinforcing our competitive edge."

Lilian Escalon, CEO of UBS, expressed, "I'm enthusiastic about taking up the role of CEO of UBS. With this new company, we're bringing over 200 years of combined expertise and groundbreaking technologies to the beet seed market. Our dedication to innovation and sustainability is driven by our talented international teams. At UBS, we believe in fostering a culture of collaboration and creativity, enabling us to develop solutions that will deliver high quality, sustainable products and services that will contribute to the future success of growers and industry."

**ABOUT DLF SEEDS A/S DLF Seeds A/S**, headquartered in Denmark with over 2 000 employees globally in 22 countries, is a farmer-owned cooperative. The company stands at the forefront of the global seed industry. With over a century of expertise, the company is dedicated to advancing agriculture with respect to the environment. Focused on breeding and distributing high-performance seeds for forage and turf, DLF Seeds A/S delivers locally adapted products to more than 100 countries. Their portfolio includes innovative varieties engineered for drought resistance, contributing to climate adaptation. The company collaborates with partners worldwide to ensure resilient and productive crops. DLF Seeds A/S remains committed to driving positive change in agriculture, combining tradition with forward-thinking solutions.

**ABOUT GROUPE FLORIMOND DESPREZ Groupe Florimond Desprez** breeds varieties and produces seeds to meet the needs of arable crop farmers, the agro-industrial sectors and consumers, while actively supporting the agro-ecological transition. The group mainly works with species intended for human consumption and is a world leader in sugar beet seeds, a leading European breeder of straw cereal and a major player in the European seed potato market. Florimond Desprez is an independent family-owned company founded in 1830 that operates in 65 countries, devotes 15% of its sales to research and employs 1200 persons.

**ABOUT UNITED BEET SEEDS United Beet Seeds (UBS)** is a joint venture between Groupe Florimond Desprez and DLF Seeds A/S and is specialising in all aspects of sugar beet seed research, production, processing and commercialisation. We leverage our combined strengths, extensive expertise and shared passion to expand opportunities for growers and industry in the global beet and chicory seed markets. UBS has a strong focus on innovation and quality, resulting in high performing and sustainable varieties. Headquartered in Belgium, the company employs over 900 people worldwide. Follow us on [www.unitedbeetseeds.com](http://www.unitedbeetseeds.com) and on LinkedIn « United Beet Seeds ».

**[The full press release can be found on this link: GFD-DLF Press Release UBS](#)**

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## **Sugaronline Ebriefing**

### **THAILAND: Sugar production fell 20.4% in 2023/24**

The head of Thailand's Office of Sugar and Cane Board, Virit Viseshsinth, said on Sept. 23 that sugar production in country reached 8.8 million metric tonnes in 2023/24, down 20.37% from the previous season, according to Reuters.

He said sugar production is expected to increase 18% next year to 10.39 million tonnes.

### **UKRAINE: Sugar exports total 691,800 T in 2023/24**

Ukraine exported around 691,800 metric tones of sugar in the 2023/24 season (Sept-Aug), according to a statement released by the Ukraine's sugar industry association Ukrugar on Sept. 20, reports Sugaronline.

Around 77% of the total volume exported was shipped to countries in the European Union and 23% to other global markets.

Italy imported 19% of the total volume of sugar exported by Ukraine to the EU in 2023/24, followed by Bulgaria (18%) and Hungary (14%).

Cameroon accounted for 17% of the total Ukrainian sugar exported to countries outside the EU, followed by Libya (15%), Turkey (11%), Lebanon (9%), North Macedonia (8%), Israel (7%), and Burkina Faso (5%).

### **UK: Beet growers start 2024/25 harvest**

Sugarbeet growers started harvesting for the 2024/25 campaign last week, completing deliveries into the Bury and Wissington sugar factories, according to Farmers Guide.

Farmer Alex Wilcox in Norfolk said that this year's crop has a better sugar content of 16.13%. He cited price drops as the biggest challenge for sugarbeet growers currently.

British Sugar's Bury St Edmunds and Wissington factories officially opened on Sept. 16.

### **BRAZIL: Raízen more concerned about impacts of drought in 2025/26 than this season**

Raízen's chief executive officer (CEO), Ricardo Mussa, said on Sept. 23 that he is more concerned about the potential impacts of the current drought on the 2025/26 sugarcane season than on the current season's crop, according to Reuters.

He said the fires affected the company's sugarcane fields, but the impact on the current 2024/25 season was not that significant at first.

Mussa added that if there is not enough rain in the coming months, a period usually of greater humidity, productivity could fall in the areas affected by fires already in development for 2025/26.

### **BRAZIL: Sugarcane sector contributes to 40% of São Paulo's agri-export revenue**

Exports from São Paulo's sugarcane industry in the first eight months of 2024 accounted for 40% of the state's agricultural export revenue in the period, according to data released by the state government earlier this month, reports Sugaronline.

The sugarcane industry is the top contributor to the state's total agribusiness exports. The sector exported US\$7.91 billion worth of products in the first eight months of 2024, of which 93.1% was due to sugar shipments and 6.9% to fuel ethanol.

São Paulo's total agricultural exports reached US\$19.8 billion in the first eight months of 2024, up 9.3% year-over-year.

"We see agribusiness, once again, as the main responsible for controlling the trade deficit, driven once again by the sugar and alcohol, meat, forestry products and soybean complex sectors," São Paulo's secretary of Agriculture and Supply, Guilherme Piai, said in a statement.

### **EUROPE: EU crop monitor raises beet yield forecast amid favourable weather conditions**

The European Union's crop monitoring service increased the 2024 average yield forecast for sugarbeet in the region to 74.7 tonnes/hectare (t/ha), from [73.4 t/ha](#) estimated previously, due to favourable weather conditions in western parts of Europe, according to the latest [JRC MARS bulletin](#) released on Sept. 23, reports Sugaronline.

This latest estimate is also above the five-year average of 73.1 t/ha.

In France, the average sugarbeet yield forecast was increased to 83.5 t/ha, 4% above the previous estimate and 6% higher than the five-year average of 78.8 t/ha.

In Germany, sugarbeet benefited from the warm weather, abundant radiation and drying soils.

The yield estimate for the country's sugarbeet crop was raised to 77.1 t/ha, above the previous forecast of 74.5 t/ha and the five-year average of 75.9 t/ha.

In Spain, the sugarbeet yield estimate was increased by 1% from the previous forecast to 86.8 t/ha, up 7% from 2023 and 2% above the five-year average. "The sugarbeet harvest is almost complete in Andalucía, with regional authorities reporting positive yield estimates," the EU crop monitor said in the report.

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## FoodNavigator.com

### Water stewardship rises amid scarcity concerns, consumer interest in conservation



Increasing water scarcity is prompting stakeholders across the food industry to rethink and reup their stewardship practices, and in doing so they not only are reinforcing supply chains and the health of the planet, but market research suggest they could boost sales.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/09/24/water-stewardship-rises-amid-scarcity-concerns-consumer-interest-in-conservation>

### Clean-label trends boost natural flavors, but price remains key purchase driver



CPG companies developing clean-label foods and beverages are turning to natural flavors over their artificial counterparts, while consumers might be overstating the importance of more natural additives.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2024/09/12/clean-label-trends-boost-natural-flavors-but-price-remains-key-purchase-driver>

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## ED& F Man Daily Research

**Brazil Sugar Losses Make Thai and Indian Supply More Important - Bloomberg** - Brazil's wildfires and drought that rattled the global sugar market have put the onus on Thailand and India to cover lost supplies. But both have offered recent reminders that they too face their own risks. Futures spiked to the highest since February this week as fears mount over crop damage from blazes, heat and dryness in top grower and exporter Brazil. That's threatening to raise costs for grocery goods from soft drinks to candy and shifting traders' focus to how output fares in fellow major producers. The good news is that the crop in No. 2 shipper Thailand is expected to rebound in the upcoming 2024-25 season. Yet September floods have provided a fresh warning of weather risks, with worries starting to surface that harvesting may be delayed if heavy rains continue. And in second-largest grower India, support for ethanol production means officials will likely prolong sugar-export curbs.

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