



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(25)16
(English only)**

1st April 2025

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

BELIZE: PM and Economic Transformation minister to oversee sugar industry

Belize's Prime Minister John Briceno has decided to retain responsibility for overseeing the sugar industry, with the assistance of the minister for Economic Transformation, Osmond Martinez, according to Love FM.

The sugar industry will no longer be the responsibility of minister of Agriculture Jose Mai. Briceno said he felt the change was necessary after the American Sugar Refineries (ASR/BSI) raised concerns in an emergency meeting.

BRAZIL: UNICA and Japan's IEEJ sign deal to collaborate in sustainable biofuels

Brazil's sugarcane industry association UNICA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Japan's Institute of Energy Economics (IEEJ) to expand collaboration between the two countries in the development and use of sustainable biofuels, **reports Sugaronline**.

"This agreement reinforces cooperation between Brazil and Japan and helps establish an environment conducive to new partnerships, in addition to encouraging investments and regulatory advances that consolidate biofuels as one of the pillars of the global energy transition," UNICA's president Evandro Gussi said in a statement on March 27.

Japan has expanded its biofuel demand to achieve 10% ethanol (E10) blending in gasoline by 2030. "Japan wants to decarbonise, and Brazilian ethanol is the best solution for this," said UNICA's president Evandro Gussi.

The Asian country currently demands 1.5 billion litres of ethanol per year and the plan to adopt E10 by 2023 and E20 by 2024 will require even larger volumes to supply the local market, according to UNICA.

Gussi said that Brazilian ethanol is also a strategic solution beyond the automotive sector that meets the demands of maritime and air transportation, and it has great potential in the production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

Japan plans to reach 10% SAF blending in aviation fuel used in international flights by 2030, representing a demand of 1.7 billion litres.

Most of this volume will be made possible by ethanol through the Alcohol to Jet (ATJ) route, and UNICA said 2.38 billion litres of ethanol per year would be needed to meet this target.

The IEEJ said in a separate [statement](#) that the MoU aims to contribute to creating a sound business environment that facilitates private sector investment and trade.

"Through the exchange of information and the deepening of discussions on challenges related to both energy supply and demand, it demonstrates a firm commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation in the energy sector between the two countries."

The MoU was officially announced at the Brazil-Japan Economic Forum on March 26, convened on the occasion of the official visit to Japan by Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

PHILIPPINES: SRA signs MoU with University of Tokyo to improve productivity in cane sector

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) has signed a three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Tokyo to collaborate on improving the productivity of sugarcane growers, according to PhilStar.

SRA and the Japanese university plan to collaborate to develop high-yielding varieties and more efficient milling practices, including better extraction of biofuels from sugarcane.

BRAZIL: Sugar industry against reducing import tariff to US ethanol

The president of Brazil's sugarcane industry association UNICA, Evandro Gussi, said on March 25 that the industry rejects the idea of reducing the 18% tariff charged on corn-based ethanol imported from the United States as a way to avoid the reciprocal tariffs announced by Washington, according to Estadão.

From Tokyo, where Brazil is working on expanding participation in the ethanol market, Gussi said it makes no sense for the Brazilian industry to stop increasing the production of low-CO2 emission ethanol to import "high-emission ethanol" made in the US.

INDIA: Farmers' leader threaten to protest if mills fail to make payments

Sugarcane farmers have threatened to protest outside the commissioner's office in Pune if sugar mills fail to make one-time payments to growers, according to the Hindustan Times.

Farmers' leader Raju Shetti urged officials on March 25 to ensure that sugar factories comply with a recent court's order.

Shetti said the High Court ruled in favor of farmers on March 17 to ensure growers receive their payments for sugarcane in a single installment.

BRAZIL: Vibra starts supplying imported SAF at Rio de Janeiro airport

Brazilian fuel distributor Vibra announced on March 25 that it has become the first company to start supplying sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in Brazil, at the Tom Jobim/Galeão International Airport, in Rio de Janeiro, **reports Sugaronline**.

The SAF blend with conventional aviation fuel will initially be in the proportion of 10% SAF and 90% fossil fuel, contributing to reducing carbon emissions on flights fueled by Vibra.

In January of this year, 23 tank containers with approximately 550,000 litres of SAF departed from the port of Antwerp, Belgium, bound for Rio de Janeiro.

The imported SAF provided through BR Aviation, Vibra's business unit for aircraft refueling services, is made from used cooking oil (UCO).

"With a 60% market share in the aviation market, we are leaders not only in the sale of fuels, but also in the provision of solutions, innovation and sustainability," Vibra's vice president of operations, Marcelo Bragança, said in a [statement](#).

"As leaders, we are prepared to expand the supply of SAF in the Brazilian market, using our infrastructure in more than 90 airports and our expertise to deliver safe and competitive solutions".

Brazilian sugarcane processors have been preparing to access the SAF market, applying for certifications to enable them to supply ethanol for the production of sustainable aviation fuels in the future. [São Martinho](#), [Atvos](#) and [Tereos](#) are some of the companies that have had Brazilian production units certified to sell ethanol for SAF production.

INDIA: Government expected to maintain sugar export quota for 2024/25 – news report

India's government plans to maintain the sugar export quota of 1 million metric tonnes approved for the current 2024/25 season, according to Bloomberg, citing a person familiar with the matter. There are adequate sugar supplies in the country to meet domestic demand for more than two months before next year's sugarcane crushing season starts, according to news report, citing the unnamed source.

BRAZIL: Suppliers seek to strengthen trade ties with Panama and Dominican Republic

A group of businesspeople representing the Brazilian sugar supply chain will visit Panama and the Dominican Republic from March 30 to April 4, seeking to strengthen trade ties in both

countries, according to the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (ApexBrasil).

The trip is organised by the Brazil Sugarcane Bioenergy Solution Project, which will take representatives of 27 Brazilian companies to participate in technical visits and business meetings at sugar mills in both countries.

In Panama, they will visit Central Azucarero de Alanje (Cadasa), Azucarera Nacional (Azunal) and Grupo Calesa. In the Dominican Republic, they will visit Consorcio Azucarero de Empresas Industriales (CAEI) and Ingenio Porvenir, where Brazilian suppliers will have the opportunity to showcase their products, machinery, equipment, services and solutions for the production of sugar, ethanol and bioenergy.

ED & F Man Daily Research

Nordic Sugar has commissioned a new and expanded sugar mill in Örtofta – Reuters - Nordic Sugar AB ("Nordic Sugar") has commissioned its modernized and expanded sugar factory in Örtofta. The sugar mill, originally built in the 1880s, is now one of Europe's most technologically advanced and competitive facilities, processing over 2,000,000 tonnes of sugar beet into various food products each year. The strategic investment ensures long-term sustainable sugar production in Sweden and will contribute to halving the mill's CO₂ emissions by 2030. Nordic Sugar, part of the German Nordzucker Group, is Sweden's only sugar producer on an industrial scale. The company has previously had its operations divided into a plant in Örtofta and one in nearby Arlöv.

Dominican Sugar Giant Removed From US Forced Labor Blacklist - Bloomberg - Central Romana Corp., a major sugar producer, will be allowed to export to the US again after a two-year ban due to allegations of forced labor. The US Customs and Border Protection lifted the "withhold release order" imposed in November 2022, according to the Dominican Republic's Minister of Industry and Commerce. The company had denied the allegations and had been working to get off the US blacklist, which was seen as a national priority for the Dominican Republic.

Russian court places Rusagro founder Moshkovich in pre-trial detention - IFAX - Vadim Moshkovich, the billionaire founder of Russian agricultural company Rusagro, was placed in pre-trial detention by a Moscow court on Thursday on a charge of large-scale fraud, Interfax news agency reported.

FoodNavigator.com

Hackers targeting 'weak' food and beverage industry



Food and beverage has become a prime target for hackers, but industry continues to underestimate the threat

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/03/24/cyber-attack-threat-not-taken-seriously-by-food-and-beverage/>

How Mondelez International is using AI to maximise product innovation



From production and supply chain optimisation, to marketing and consumer engagement, AI transforming the confectionery sector. Here's how

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/03/19/stategies-confectioners-are-using-ai-to-maximise-product-innovation/>

Trump could kill Europe's food and drink geographical protections

Cracks are starting to emerge in geographical protections. But could they disappear for good?



<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/03/18/are-geographical-food-and-beverage-protections-losing-power/>

Largest companies' supply chains now vulnerable to climate



Even large companies now fear climate change's crippling effect on their produce

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/03/19/how-to-protect-food-and-drink-cocoa-and-coffee-supply-chains/>