



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

NIGERIA: Financial analysts' institute warns that sugar tax could harm economy

Nigeria's Chartered Institute of Financial and Investment Analysts (CIFIAN) has urged the government to align the sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) tax policy with public health and industrial development goals, according to Vanguard.

During a recent policy workshop, CIFIAN president, Godfrey Omojefe, said the current sugar tax of NGN10 per litre, introduced in 2022, has already had significant economic consequences. He warned that steep tax increases implemented without a coherent framework could harm the country's sugar economy, undermine jobs and fail to deliver the intended health outcomes.

SOUTH AFRICA: Canegrowers urge food and beverage industry to purchase local sugar

The South African sugarcane growers' group Canegrowers has called on domestic food and beverage manufacturers and retailers to commit to buying mainly local sugar to support the industry, reports Sugaronline.

The association said that the minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Parks Ta published regulations on Aug. 14 that will allow retailers, food and beverage manufacturers, millers and growers to collectively negotiate about purchasing mainly local sugar without the talks breaching the Competition Act.

"The exemptions and voluntary commitments to buy sugar will be critical in safeguarding the industry from cheap sugar imports from countries that heavily subsidise their own sugar industries," SA Canegrowers said in a [press release](#).

The association had written to minister Tau in early August ask him to fast-track the process. Tau first published the draft exemptions in May for public comment and has finalised them this week. "The exemption from competition regulations will allow industry-wide discussions without fear of falling foul of the Competition Act for a period of five years. Such discussions include working towards commitments from local commercial users of sugar and retailers to use and stock mainly locally produced sugar," said SA Canegrowers chair Higgins Mdluli.

The group said the exemptions will also allow talks on diversifying the industry into sectors such as sustainable aviation fuels to enable long-term growth.

SA Canegrowers said the exemptions and voluntary commitments to buy sugar will be critical in safeguarding the industry from "cheap sugar imports from countries that heavily subsidise their own sugar industries."

SA Canegrowers said imports are displacing local sugar, jeopardising jobs and the stability of the rural economies of Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal.

"We call on retailers and commercial users of sugar to buy local," said Mdluli.

INDIA: Government continues to defend E20 amid concerns over impact on vehicle's performance

India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has issued a [statement](#) to address concerns over the impact of 20% ethanol-blended petrol (E20) on mileage and vehicle life, adding that some are seeking to derail it by "fomenting fear and confusion", reports Sugaronline.

The government said the "fear mongering is totally baseless", adding that "usage of E20 fuel has no impact of the validity of insurance of vehicles in India."

The Ministry reaffirmed that ethanol use reduces GHG emissions and benefits the rural economy, contributing to increasing sugarcane farmers' income.

The government estimates E20 to result in INR400 billion (US\$4.6 billion) in payments to farmers this year and INR430 billion in forex savings.

The Ministry also said that critiques suggesting that E20 causes a "drastic" reduction in fuel efficiency are misplaced. "Vehicle mileage is influenced by a variety of factors beyond just fuel type. These include driving habits, maintenance practices such as oil changes and air filter cleanliness, tyre pressure and alignment, and even air conditioning load," it said.

Going back to E-0 petrol would mean losing "hard fought gains" on pollution and the success achieved in energy transition, it added.

"The roadmap of the IMC had been in the public domain from 2021 and laid out a calibrated path to reaching E-20. Since then, there has been a period of over 4 years which has allowed vehicle technology to improve, supply chain to be calibrated and an overall eco-system developed."

ZIMBABWE: Sugar exports seen rising this year after 364% increase in 1Q – Hippo Valley Estates

Zimbabwe's sugar exports are expected to increase this year, supported by improved sugarcane supply and higher available stocks compared to 2024, according to sugar producer Hippo Valley Estates, reports Sugaronline.

The company said sugar exports reached 15,711 metric tonnes in the first quarter of the current financial year ended in June, up 364% from the same period last year.

"Export volumes performed better than prior year, on the back of improved opening stock position compared to prior year. With better production runs currently being experienced and hence more stocks, more exports will be realised in the balance of the year," Hippo Valley said in a recent [trading update statement](#) signed by chairman Canaan Farirai Dube and chief executive officer (CEO) Tendai Masawi.

The company said sugarcane supply increased by 15% in the first quarter, when cane quality measured by Estimated Recoverable Crystal rose to 11.46% from 11.3% one year earlier.

"Despite some minimal mill start-up challenges, the plant had impressive recoveries after achieving a cane sugar ratio of 8.49 against prior year 8.50 and target 8.75."

Hippo Valley's revenues increased by 16% in the first quarter, supported by higher sugar sales volumes amid increased stocks and a gain in market share.

AUSTRIA: Agrana announces acquisition of Slovenian food company Mercator-Emba

Austrian sugar processor Agrana announced on Aug. 18 that it has acquired Slovenian food company Mercator-Emba, expanding its presence in Europe, reports Sugaronline.

"Acquiring Mercator-Emba gives Agrana access to additional distribution markets and new customer segments in the growing food service sector. This fits perfectly into our portfolio as part of our Next Level corporate strategy, in which profitable growth in the business unit Food & Beverage Solutions is a core element," said Agrana's chief executive officer (CEO) Stephan Büttner in a [statement](#).

Emba is a leading Slovenian food manufacturer for the food service sector, food processors and food retailers. The company has expertise in the product development and production of syrups and dessert toppings and ships its products mainly to Central, Southern and Eastern Europe.

Emba employs around 100 people and generated around EUR30 million in revenues in the 2024 financial year.

The company didn't reveal the value of the transaction in the statement. The deal is subject to approval from the competent competition and regulatory authorities.

US: Government announces TRQ allocations for FY 2026

The Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) has announced the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) allocations on imported sugars for the 2026 fiscal year, starting on Oct. 1, according to a [statement](#) released on Aug. 15.

The USTR said "all imports, whether within or over a US TRQ, are subject to tariffs imposed by relevant executive orders issued pursuant to the President's authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)."

The in-quota quantity for the TRQ on raw cane sugar for the financial year 2026, of 1,117,195 metric tonnes raw value, was allocated to 39 countries, based on historical volumes.

The total TRQ volume approved by the USDA is the minimum quantity the United States is committed to under the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement.

The highest volume of 189,343 tonnes was allocated to the Dominican Republic. The second-highest quantity of 155,993 tonnes was allocated to Brazil. In third, the Philippines got 145,235 tonnes of raw sugar allocated.

The allocation of refined sugar was distributed as 10,300 tonnes to Canada, 2,954 tonnes to Mexico, and 7,090 tonnes to be administered on a first-come, first-served basis. The USTR has also decided to allocate the 1,656 tonnes of specialty sugar under the TRQ to be managed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The USDA had already [announced](#) that it would not add any additional specialty sugar to the refined sugar TRQ for the fiscal year 2026. Last year, the USDA added 210,000 tonnes of specialty sugar to the 2025 refined sugar TRQ, of which Brazil accounted for nearly 50% of imports.

A total of 59,250 tonnes of the in-quota for imports of certain sugar-containing products was allocated to Canada. The remainder, 5,459 tonnes of this quota is available for other countries on a first-come, first-served basis.

UK: ABF confirms closure of Vivergo

Associated British Foods has started to close its UK ethanol production unit Vivergo, after discussions with the government failed to achieve a regulatory and financial solution to secure sustainable operations of the business, reports Sugaronline.

The company said in a [statement](#) on Aug. 15 that it is closing the ethanol production plant in Hull, which also produces animal feed for UK farms. By Aug. 31, all ethanol and animal feed production will be ceased.

ABF said Vivergo's commercial viability was undermined by UK regulations that favour foreign producers, an issue made worse by the government's decision in May to remove tariffs on US ethanol coming into the UK market.

"These two actions meant Vivergo would inevitably continue to be heavily loss-making without corrective government intervention to provide short-term financial support and a longer-term regulatory solution," the company added.

ABF said that, given these circumstances and the financial losses already incurred, it cannot continue to support Vivergo.

Vivergo's ethanol plant has capacity to produce up to [420 million](#) litres of the biofuel and employed 160 people.

FoodNavigator.com

Do consumers really want less sugar? The sweet debate unwrapped



As sugar reduction reshapes sweets and snacks, are brands keeping pace with what consumers want?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/08/13/do-consumers-really-want-less-sugar-the-sweet-debate-unwrapped/>

Global commodity supplies at risk as extreme weather escalates



Manufacturers brace for tighter ingredient supplies, rising costs, and supply chain disruption by Q4

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/08/12/extreme-weather-threatens-global-food-supply-chains-and-crop-yields/>

Nestlé facing “Watergate” as scandal deepens



Nestlé is under fire in France over claims it used banned filtration to hide contamination in its mineral water

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/08/12/nestle-under-investigation-over-alleged-mineral-water-fraud-in-france/>

ED & F Man Daily Research

Guatemala opens market for Brazilian sugarcane seedlings – Novacana - Brazil may export sugarcane seedlings to Guatemala, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced in a joint statement. This year, the country has accumulated 99 market openings for domestic agribusiness products. Shipments of in vitro sugarcane seedlings are authorized for Guatemala, in accordance with the phytosanitary certificate agreed between the countries. "In addition to the added value based on scientific research, this market opening creates opportunities for the Brazilian private sector, enabling new partnerships in the area of biotechnology, consulting, and technical assistance," the ministries note.

New UK sugar tax to impact 17% of drink sales - Beverage Daily - The UK government proposed to lower the threshold for its sugar tax from 5g/100mL to 4g/100mL, which would impact 17% of soda sales by volume, according to a study by Circana. The impact of including milk drinks in the tax remains uncertain, as the government did not publish numbers for a proposed lactose allowance, it added.

Vietnam's sugar output continues to grow – Daidoanket - Vietnam produced almost 1.3 million mt of sugar in 2024/25, the fourth year in a row that production increases and up 161% from four years ago, the Vietnam Sugarcane and Sugar Association (VSSA) said.
