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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

INDIA: ISMA and RSB sign deal to build capacity to support SAF production

The Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has signed an agreement with the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB), focusing on building capacity in the sugarcane sector to expand participation in the sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) supply chain, according to Sugaronline.

ISMA and RSB will provide assistance to farmers in major sugarcane producing states, mainly Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka amongst others, to implement the RSB ICAO CORSIA Certification.

The partnership seeks to equip stakeholders in the sugarcane sector with knowledge and tools to produce sustainably sourced SAF, tracked across supply chains and eligible under the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation) program.

RSB will deliver training materials and tools to enable the capacity building of farmers, sugar mill workers, and small-scale enterprises in India. The initiative includes workshops focused on bioeconomy, SAF and sustainability certification.

"We are proud to lead India's SAF capacity-building movement. This partnership with RSB places ISMA at the forefront of shaping a resilient, inclusive, and globally aligned SAF value chain rooted in our sugar sector," said ISMA director general, Deepak Ballani.

"India plays a critical role in the global SAF landscape, with abundant feedstock potential and strong policy momentum. Through this partnership, we aim to equip sugarcane producers with the tools and knowledge to meet the sustainability demands of the SAF economy, ensuring that both feedstock and fuel production align with RSB's globally trusted sustainability standards," said Program director, Arianna Baldo.

The project is part of the SAF Horizon: Building Capacity for a Just and Sustainable Energy Transition (2025–2026) project, led by RSB and supported by Boeing.

GERMANY: Nordzucker starts 2025/26 beet campaign; warns of risks of beet diseases

Nordzucker announced on Sept. 1 that it will start its 2025/26 sugarbeet campaign in Europe this week and has cautioned about the risk of beet diseases affecting sugar content this year, reports

Sugaronline.

The beets have grown well in many places and have developed well in most regions. The weather conditions until harvest are crucial for the further growth of the beets and, above all, for sugar formation," Lars Gorissen, chief executive officer at Nordzucker, said in a [press release](#) on Sept. 1.

"Regionally, there is also the risk of SBR/Stolbur spreading – transmitted by the Schilf-Glasflügelzikade."

The company said that the Syndrome Basses Richesses (SBR) in combination with Stolbur can severely impair the processability and sugar content of sugar beets.

Nordzucker's factory in Schladen, Lower Saxony, will begin the campaign on Sept. 3, followed a few days later by the other sites in Germany, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, and Slovakia. In Schladen, Germany, and Nykøbing, Denmark, organic beets will be processed first, the company said.

Nordzucker expects to continue processing sugarbeet for the 2025/26 season until mid-January 2026.

The company said it has invested in its factories during the maintenance phase to increase energy efficiency, modernising, automating, and digitising its infrastructure, also focusing on decarbonising production.

Nordzucker has renewed beet washing facilities in several factories, modernised sugar houses, and adapted existing infrastructure to new regulatory requirements. At the Clauen site, a new decanter is expected to ensure a more stable processing performance throughout the campaign. In the Danish factories, biogas from beet pulp will be used for energy production for the first time in the upcoming campaign. "The company will supply this to a nearby biogas plant and, in return, use biomethane to decarbonise sugar production and incrementally reduce CO₂ emissions. This will enable the company to gradually replace natural gas as a fossil fuel, starting with this campaign," said Nordzucker.

CUBA: Government seeks collaboration with China to revamp sugar sector

Cuba's president Miguel Díaz-Canel received a delegation of Chinese sugar industry entrepreneurs in Havana last week, when they discussed potential joint projects to help revive Cuba's sugar industry, according to Ciber Cuba.

Cuba's president met with Zhang Anming, the deputy general director of Guangxi State Controlled Capital Operations Group, when Díaz-Canel highlighted the experience of the autonomous region of Guangxi in cultivating and processing sugarcane.

According to the news report, the Chinese delegation was set to visit several sugar mills in Cuba to assess their productive potential.

BRAZIL: Cosan says it is evaluating potential investors for capitalisation in Raízen

Raízen's controlling shareholders Cosan and Shell have been evaluating potential investors for the capitalisation of Raízen, according to [a statement](#) released by Cosan on Sept. 2.

Cosan added that no approvals or binding documents had been executed.

Bloomberg reported on Sept. 2 that Raízen's controlling shareholders are considering selling a stake at the company to Mitsubishi, citing sources close to the matter.

On Aug. 14, Raízen's chief executive officer (CEO) Rafael Bergman said the company was in active negotiations with its controlling shareholders for a capital injection.

BELARUS: Sugarbeet farmers start harvest

Sugarbeet farmers in Belarus have started the 2025 sugarbeet campaign and 6% of the sown

area has already been harvested this season, according to BelTa.

The sugarbeet crop area estimated to be harvested this season is 107,000 hectares, according to the news report, citing the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The average crop yield has reached 476 centners per hectare, compared to last year's 57.7 centners per hectare.

SOUTH AFRICA: RCL reports higher earnings despite decline in sugar segment

RCL Foods reported a 29% rise in headline earnings for the full year ended in June to around ZAR1.4 billion (US\$79.5 million), driven mainly by the strong turnaround in its baking sector and improvement in the groceries business, despite challenges related to the sugar segment, reports Sugaronline.

"Sugar performed well operationally, but was subject to unfavourable market dynamics, such as lower global sugar prices and higher imports into South Africa, both beyond its control," the company said in its [earnings report](#).

RCL's revenue from continuing operations rose 1.8% to ZAR26.5 billion. EBITDA increased by 11.4% to ZAR2.56 billion.

In the sugar business unit, revenue decreased by 0.8% and EBITDA fell by 24.3% to ZAR963.1 million.

"This marked another strong absolute result, albeit down on the prior year, aided by a pleasing agricultural and manufacturing operational performance. The local industry faced pressure in the second half of the year largely due to reduced consumer demand and a substantial increase in imports," the company said.

ED & F Man Daily

Tereos confirms commitment to regenerative agriculture – ECRUU - Tereos Brasil's Sustainability Report for 2024/25 highlighted the company's commitment to regenerative agriculture, stating that it had improved its results and enhanced soil health and productivity. Tereos managed to cut its fertiliser use by 30%, resulting in a 10% reduction in costs, following its partnership with ICL, which started in 2021.

Tonga Hulett mills perform better, Zimbabwe expropriation a concern – IOL - Tongaat Hulett said that its Maidstone, Felixton, and Amatikulu sugar mills in South Africa were performing very well thanks to recent capital injections and upgrades, which successfully cut breakdown time and improved sucrose extraction. In Zimbabwe, analysts say that the indigenisation law and potential expropriation of land could hurt Tongaat Hulett, although there is hope that resettled land would still be used to grow cane.

Food Navigator.com

Artificial sweeteners still bitter? Natural fix shows promise



Scientists discover possible solution to 'bitter' taste in artificial sweeteners

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2025/08/26/artificial-sweeteners-still-bitter-natural-fix-shows-promise/>

Nestlé appoints new CEO



Philipp Navratil gets top job as Laurent Freixe steps down

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/09/01/nestle-appoints-new-ceo/>