



International Sugar Organization

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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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

US: Study shows South Asia leads on taxing sugary drinks

A total of 64 countries have approved sugar-sweetened beverage taxes between 1990 and 2024, per a new study from the Food is Medicine Institute at the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, according to the university's official news site, Tufts Now.

Policies taxing sugary drinks are being adopted at an accelerating pace around the globe, with countries in South Asia leading the way.

Around 50% of countries in South Asia have adopted sugar-sweetened beverage taxes, followed closely by nearly 48% in Southeast and East Asia.

Globally, 29% of high-income countries have adopted sugar taxes. Countries with the lowest adoption rates were in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, at 17%. The study was published in [The Lancet Global Health](#) this June.

JAPAN: Ministry proposes default GHG emission values for ethanol from Brazilian corn, Thai cane and cassava

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has proposed default greenhouse gas (GHG) emission values for ethanol derived from Brazilian corn, Thai sugarcane and cassava, according to a USDA [report](#) released in early June.

Currently, METI has established GHG emission values for US corn and Brazilian sugarcane ethanol, which Japanese oil refineries have relied on for imported ethanol.

However, METI is seeking to expand the ethanol sourcing options available to Japanese oil refineries and requested a contracted advisor to calculate the default life-cycle GHG emission values for ethanol derived from Brazilian corn, Thai sugarcane, and Thai cassava, according to the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in Tokyo.

For Brazilian corn ethanol, METI proposed total life-cycle GHG emission values of 28.59 g-CO₂eq/MJ (using biomass during production) and 40.40 g-CO₂eq/MJ (using natural gas during production).

Thai cassava-ethanol producers use wood chips as an energy source to produce ethanol, resulting in a proposed total life-cycle GHG value of 29.90 g-CO₂eq/MJ. If the producer uses natural gas

instead of wood chips, the proposed value increases to 59.25 g-CO₂eq/MJ.

For Thai sugarcane-ethanol producers, the proposed life-cycle GHG emissions score is 28.26 g CO₂eq/MJ.

BRAZIL: IATA says country has potential to become a SAF powerhouse

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on June 8 that Brazil has the opportunity to become a powerhouse in the production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), according to a [press statement](#) released by the association referring to its 82nd Annual General Meeting gathered in Rio de Janeiro.

Airlines will need 500 million metric tonnes (Mt) of SAF to achieve net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050. Brazil has one of the world's largest biomass feedstock production potentials, with around 180 million tonnes by 2050, which could generate around 60 million tonnes of SAF, according to IATA.

"Looking to 2030, Brazil's sustainably sourced sugar-based ethanol, as well as virgin and waste oils feedstock, could reach around 18 Mt, translating into approximately 12 Mt of SAF production potential. That equates to five times the estimated global SAF production in 2026 of 2.4 Mt," according to IATA.

Brazil has around 15 SAF projects underway, which will have the capacity to produce around 2 million tonnes of SAF when completed, according to IATA.

In addition to feedstock availability, Brazil's experience in ethanol production, as well as its established refining base, creates a strong foundation for scaling HEFA (Hydroprocessed Esters and Fatty Acids) and other advanced SAF pathways, particularly ethanol-to-jet. IATA said these conditions could enable Brazil to become a net exporter of SAF in the future.

With the right policies implemented in the right order, Brazil is ready to jump-start the market, according to IATA's director general Willie Walsh.

"Brazil has all the ingredients to be a global SAF powerhouse. It has one of the cleanest electricity mixes in the world, as well as abundant feedstock. Moreover, as the second largest producer of liquid biofuels in the world, the country benefits from deep expertise and developed infrastructure," he said.

RWANDA: Government discussing major sugar investment with Kenya's Rai Group

Rwanda's government is in discussions with Kenya's Rai Group over a major sugar investment to reduce dependence on imports, according to Africa Sustainability Matters.

A 11,000-hectare concession would be allocated for sugarcane cultivation and a sugar processing plant in the Nyagatare District, according to Rwanda's minister of Trade and Industry, Prudence Sebahizi.

The government views a potential partnership with Rai Group as a strategic intervention to reduce the country's reliance on imported sugar and improve food and industrial supply security.

KENYA: Government reports growth in sugar sector, unveils funding for 2026/27

Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi on June 11 reported growth in the country's sugar, tea and coffee sectors, while presenting the 2026/27 Budget in Parliament, according to the Eastleigh Voice.

Land under sugarcane cultivation increased by 19.4% and national sugar production rose to 815,454 metric tonnes in 2024 from 472,773 metric tonnes in 2022.

The Treasury has proposed KES2.7 billion for the sugar sector in the 2026/27 financial year to help stabilise the industry and safeguard livelihoods dependent on sugar production and processing.

SWEDEN: Soft drink producers vow to reduce sugar content in products

Members of the Swedish beverages association Sveriges Bryggerier have pledged to cut sugar in carbonated soft drinks by 40% by 2030, compared with 2019 levels, according to Just Drinks.

The group said in a statement that the target will be met by reformulating recipes, expanding low- and no-sugar options, and increasing the availability of smaller package sizes.

The association also said it will promote responsible marketing and monitor results across the industry.

In 2025, Sveriges Bryggerier announced that its members had cut added sugar levels in soft drinks by 28% between 2019 and 2024, exceeding the 15% reduction target for the period.

BRAZIL: São Paulo announces plant to capture and store carbon from ethanol production

São Paulo governor Tarcísio de Freitas has announced plans to build Brazil's first plant for capturing and storing carbon emitted from sugarcane ethanol production, according to state-run news agency Agencia Fapesp.

On June 10, the government signed an agreement to create a Centre for Technologies for Biogenic Carbon Capture and Storage (CTCCSBio), funded by the São Paulo research foundation Fapesp and based at the Polytechnic School of the University of São Paulo (Poli-USP).

The Centre will be implemented in partnership with the State Secretariat for the Environment (Semil), Petrobras and law firm Rolim Goulart Cardoso Advogados. They will study the feasibility and plan the implementation of the new plant.

The planned technology known as Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) would allow São Paulo's ethanol to become a "carbon negative" fuel, that is, one that removes more carbon from the atmosphere than it adds.

The biggest challenge will be making the technology viable in the context of São Paulo and its sugarcane industry, according to Bruno Souza Carmo, professor at Poli-USP and director of CTCCSBio.

"Carbon storage does not generate direct revenue. We will study monetisation mechanisms, such as carbon markets, environmental offsets, and incentive policies."

The project will last five years, with a total estimated investment of BRL30 million, and will be implemented in two phases.

INDIA: E25 could unlock 3 billion litres of additional ethanol demand – ISMA

The director general of the Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) estimates that India's push to increase ethanol blending could unlock up to 3 billion litres of additional ethanol demand with E25, according to CNBC TV18.

A higher ethanol blend would offer a significant growth opportunity for sugar mills and biofuel producers currently operating at underutilized capacity, according to the news report.

Ballani said India already has sufficient capacity to increase ethanol blends in fuel, and the sugar industry alone has an ethanol production capacity of nearly 9 billion litres, which is much higher than current allocations.

UK: Food and drink manufacturers cut sugar by 19% in 5 years; oppose proposed nutritional profile model change

The UK's Food and Drink Federation (FDF) members cut sugar, salt and calories in their products over the past five years, contributing 18% less salt, 19% less sugar and 17% fewer calories to the British grocery market compared to 2021, the group said in a [statement](#) on June 8.

FDF said its members have invested in innovation and in developing healthier options for shoppers.

Since 2024, Kellogg's has cut the total sugars in its classic All-Bran cereal by 17%, according to the group. Danone UK and Ireland has reduced sugar across its Core and Triple Action Actimel ranges by 9%, and all Actimel products in the region now contain less than 10g sugar per 100g. FDF said the government's proposed plan to change the Nutritional Profile Model (NPM) will prevent some of these "healthier products" from being advertised to shoppers. "This risks these products being taken off shop shelves, which would reduce the range of healthier alternatives available to shoppers," FDF said in a statement.

The group is urging the government to pause plans to change the NPM and instead bring forward other proposals to make reporting of healthier food sales data mandatory across the food sector. FDF chief scientific officer Kate Halliwell said the industry needs a stable regulatory environment to continue investing in the development of healthier products.

"The UK is already a world leader in healthier product innovation, and bringing in mandatory reporting on healthier food sales would help to incentivise businesses of all sizes to go further, and build momentum on supporting healthier diets," he said.

NIGERIA: Manufacturers' association estimates losses due to new sugar tax

The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) has warned that the sugar tax bill approved by the Senate last week would result in NGN2.8 trillion in losses across the production chain within the first 6 to 12 months, according to the Guardian.

The losses could affect the industry, small businesses such as roadside kiosks that sell beverages, and sugarcane farmers.

MAN director-general, Segun Ajayi-Kadir, said the change in the excise tax from the current fixed rate of NGN10 per litre to a percentage levy of retail price could undermine industrial growth, job creation, investor confidence and broader macroeconomic stability.

FoodNavigator.com

GLP-1 is no longer just a weight-loss story – it's a full-scale reset for food & beverage



Emerging research suggests GLP-1 drugs could move beyond diabetes and metabolic health to treat multiple diseases, meaning millions more consumers will rethink how – and what – they eat

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/06/12/glp-1-drugs-may-expand-beyond-weight-loss/>

Hidden plastics: tackling the drinks packaging problem



Drinks packaging may seem plastic-free, but hidden plastic remains widespread

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/06/11/hidden-plastics-can-be-found-in-cans-and-cartons/>