International Sugar Organization
1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AB

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

COSTA RICA: Sugarcane production exceeds 3.8 million T and leads agricultural production

Sugarcane was Costa Rica's main crop in 2025, with the highest production volume, per the 2025 National Agricultural Survey released by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), according to Infobae.

The country produced more than 3.83 million metric tonnes of sugarcane in 2025.

The sugarcane planted area totaled 56,266.2 hectares, smaller than the areas cultivated with oil palm (74,871.3 ha) and coffee (72,796.6 ha).

Sugarcane yields about 68 t/ha, well above the other agro-industrial crops included.

BRAZIL: Government authorises tests with E35- news report

Brazil's Ministry of Mines and Energy expects the plan to start tests with gasoline with a 35% ethanol content in vehicles to be published soon in the country's official gazette, according to a news report by the O Globo newspaper on Sept. 18.

The E35 test is part of the Fuel of the Future Law,, which aims to reduce pollutant gas emissions and reduce the country's exposure to international oil price variations.

The technical committee for Fuel of the Future implementation approved the E35 test schedule on Sept. 11. The National Council for Energy Research (CNPE) will ultimately be responsible for approving the use of the higher ethanol blend.

In July, the CNPE approved increasing the country's mandatory ethanol blend in gasoline from 30% to 32%. The measure is valid for 180 days with he possibility of a single extension for the same period.

LYBIA: German firm signs contract to build new sugar plant in Benghazi

German company BMA has signed a contract with Julyana Sugar Project manager Mohamed Ben Attia to build a new sugar plant in Benghazi with a capacity to produce 2,500 metric tonnes of sugar per day, according to the Libya Herald.

The project is expected to be built in the Julyana Free Zone area within 24 months.

Ben Attia said the project aims to provide a competitive domestic sugar product that meets local demand and eventually expands into regional and international markets.

Global biofuels production set to rise 68% by 2030 – study

Global production of biofuels is expected to increase by 68% to 176 million tonnes of oil equivalent by 2030, from 105 million in 2025, as the US-Iran war has prompted economies to advance policies to increase the biofuels share in their transport fuels, according to a study released by policy institute Chatham House on Sept. 21, reports Sugaronline.

"The ongoing conflict between the US and Iran and the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz to shipping have caused a global energy 'shock', with Asian economies particularly exposed to higher fuel prices and supply insecurity as a result," Chatham House analysts wrote in the study. "Biofuels are being promoted as swift and easy way to increase domestic energy security in response to this shock."

Countries advancing policies to increase biofuels production and use include Brazil, India, Indonesia and the US.

Changes to biofuel mandates announced globally since the beginning of the Gulf energy crisis could require around 36 million hectares of additional land to be used for biofuel production, an area the size of Germany, adding pressure that could lead to deforestation in ecologically sensitive regions of the world.

The analysts warn that an accelerated and largely uncoordinated policy push for biofuels, combined with reduced fertiliser availability due to conflict and El Niño-related impacts on agriculture, would likely rely heavily on food crops such as palm oil, soy, maize or rice as feedstocks.

"Increases in the share of biofuels in the fuel mix should be approved by governments only where there is credible evidence that additional demand can be met through higher yields on existing and degraded land, waste- and residue-based fuels, advanced second-generation biofuels, or other, low-impact feedstocks (e.g. sugar cane bagasse or palm oil mill effluent)," they added.

The report cites Brazil as a country with long-standing biofuels experience that has developed extensive policy and market systems around ethanol and biodiesel and is well-placed to assist others with nascent biofuel industries.

They added that information exchanges should focus on identifying transferable principles rather than whole-country models. These principles include sustainability safeguards, feedstock traceability, productivity improvements and clear limits on land conversion.

BELIZE: New CSR sugar refinery is on track to start production in 2026

Caribbean Sugar Refinery (CSR)'s new sugar refinery in Belize remains on track for full commissioning in the fourth quarter of 2026, according to the St Vincent Times.

Sucro Limited and Santander Sugar announced in September last year an agreement for the CSR joint venture, with plans to invest USD20 million to establish a new sugar refinery within Santander Sugar's mill complex in Belize, with initial refining operations targeted for 2026, initially aiming at supplying over 75% of the Caricom's refined market sugar needs.

According to the St Vincent Times report on Sept. 16, waivers for refined white sugar will remain active until April 1, 2027, to support a smooth shift for regional customers and private-sector partners. During the transition phase, CSR will process raw sugar feedstock while building out its Caribbean distribution network. Additionally, a new sugarcane crop cycle starting by March 1, 2027, is expected to further support supply availability across the region.

INDONESIA: Government works to advance ethanol-blended fuel to reduce oil imports

Indonesia is doubling its 2028 ethanol-blending target to 20% in a move to reduce reliance on fuel imports, according to Bloomberg.

Coordinating minister for Food Affairs Zulkifli Hasan told reporters after a meeting with the president in Jakarta on Sep, 16 that about 2 million hectares (ha) across Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan and Papua were being produced for sugarcane cultivation.

Sovereign wealth fund Danantara will develop ethanol-processing facilities.

According to the news report, much of the additional biofuel needed to meet the ethanol-blending target is expected to come from sugarcane. Zulkifli said sugarcane is considered the most feasible feedstock after officials evaluated corn and cassava.

FoodNavigator.com

From aspartame to allulose: The future of sweeteners takes shape

The sweetener landscape is becoming increasingly diverse, but what does the future hold?

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/15/from-aspartame-to-allulose-the-future-of-sweeteners-takes-shape/

General Mills, Kellanova, Mars and McKee Foods sue sugar producers over alleged price-fixing

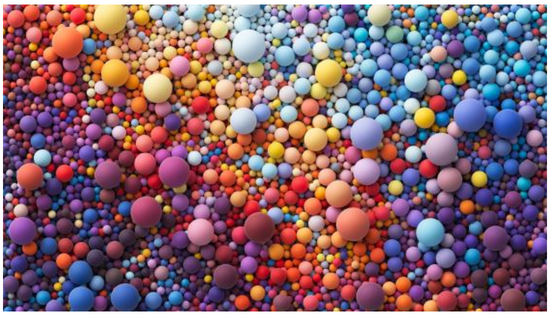
The food companies' lawsuit alleges sugar producers used nonpublic competitor data to fix, raise & maintain granulated-sugar prices for years

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/16/general-mills-mars-kellanova-and-mckee-accuse-big-sugar-of-price-fixing/

Which food commodities are threatened most by 'Godzilla' El Niño?

The weather event could be the largest since the 19th century
https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/16/food-commodities-threatened-by-el-nino/

The race to reinvent confectionery is on



From multisensory experiences to AI-powered product development, innovation is reshaping the confectionery industry

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/17/the-future-of-confectionery-innovation-and-new-product-development/

Nestlé Russia falls under Kremlin control

Nestlé Russia under State administration following Kremlin decree

5 ways GLP-1s are reshaping how consumers eat

The way people eat is changing. This is only the beginning.

https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2026/09/22/5-ways-glp-1s-are-reshaping-how-consumers-eat/

USA / GERMANY

Pfeifer & Langen snack subsidiary expands into the US

The German Intersnack Group, a subsidiary of the Cologne-based Pfeifer & Langen group, is planning to acquire a 50% stake in the US snack manufacturer Utz Brands. Starting as a German potato chip producer in 1968, Intersnack Group, now known for brands such as Chio, Ültje, Funny-frisch, and Pom-Bär, has grown into a leading snack manufacturer in Europe and Oceania. The acquisition marks the family-owned company's first entry into the North American market. Once the deal is completed, Intersnack and the Rice and Lissette families (descendants of Utz's founders) will each hold a 50% stake in the company.

Utz is being delisted and the enterprise value of the transaction is approximately USD2.90bn (€2.54bn), including debt. Utz's revenue in 2025 was USD1.44bn (€1.26bn).

The transaction will be financed by a combination of USD920mn (€806mn) in cash from the Pfeifer & Langen group, borrowings under a new USD1.1bn (€960mn) term loan facility, borrowings under a new USD250mn (€219mn) ABL facility, and rollover equity by the Rice and Lissette Family. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2026. According to MarketScreener, Intersnack will acquire all outstanding shares of Utz Brands for USD14.25 (€12.49) per share in cash. This represents a 91.3% premium over the US company's last closing price. As of December 2023, the Intersnack Group comprised 75 subsidiaries, 31 production sites in Europe, 5 sites in Asia and a further 7 sites across Australia and New Zealand.

GERMANY

Pfeifer & Langen fully controls Sugar Specialities Europe B.V.

In financial year 2025/26, Finasucre subsidiary Iscal Sugar S.A. sold its remaining 24.9% stake in Sugar Specialities Europe B.V. (formerly Iscal Sugar B.V.) to the Pfeifer & Langen Group, giving the German sugar producer full ownership of the Lelystad (The Netherlands)-based distributor of white sugar, sugar blends, pearl sugar and sweeteners.

The transaction follows the sale of a 75% stake by Iscal Sugar S.A. to the Cologne-based group in January 2021. After that deal, Iscal Sugar B.V. was renamed Sugar Specialities Europe B.V. and continued to focus on the retail sugar business.

USA

NY court finds sugar companies liable in price-fixing case

A US federal court has found American Sugar Refining, Domino Foods, United Sugars and Commodity Information liable for participating in an illegal conspiracy to fix the price of granulated sugar.

The ruling, issued on August 4 by the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York, stems from a lawsuit brought by supermarket chains Albertsons, Kroger and Meijer, reported The Lawxy Times.

The retailers alleged that the sugar companies had engaged in a years-long scheme to coordinate prices and exchange competitively sensitive information. The court found that the companies' conduct amounted to an unlawful conspiracy under US antitrust law. It also ordered the defendants to pay damages to the supermarket chains, although the amount was not specified in the information available on the ruling.

TANZANIA

Lake Agro expects sugar mill delivery

Dar es Salaam-headquartered Lake Agro Ltd. expects the start-up of its sugar mill project in early 2027. With over 95% of the equipment supply reportedly completed, the project, developed by the Indian engineering firm Saisidha in the Rufiji District on Tanzania's central-eastern coast, includes the development of a 12,000-ha sugarcane plantation and was designed with an initial crushing capacity of 2,500 t of sugarcane per day, with the potential to expand to 5,000 t.

It incorporates processing technologies, such as falling-film evaporators and a Louvre-type rotary sugar dryer, designed to ensure the sugar flows freely during bagging.

Technical features of the plant are as follows:

- 4 Mill tandem of size 36" x 78"
- Quintuple effect evaporator
- Boiler 50 TPH, 67 bar, 490 °C TG Boiler
- 10 MW (DEC type) Power Generation Plant
- Process % cane – 36 % on Cane

Lake Agro is a diversified agro-industrial company with interests in sugar, wheat and corn, edible oils, poultry and cattle ranching. It is active in most East African countries.

PORTUGAL

RAR Açúcar invests €12.00mn in decarbonization

Sugar refiner RAR Açúcar has completed a €12.00mn investment program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy and water efficiency at its Porto refinery, according to Voz do Campo.

Launched in 2025 under the company's CarbonFree Project, the program included the installation of a forest biomass-fired steam boiler and photovoltaic panels covering around 4,570 m^2, as well as the modernisation of processing machinery and cooling systems. RAR Açúcar aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030.

In parallel, its SweetWatt efficiency program targets a 35% reduction in steam consumption per unit of sugar produced. By 2030, the company also intends to reduce specific water consumption by 45% and its reliance on externally supplied water by 50%.

The refinery can process around 600 t/d of raw sugar.

NICARAGUA

Casur to regain control of Ingenio Benjamín Zeledón

Colombian agro-industrial company Ingenio Mayagüez has accepted a binding offer from Casur Sugar Partners Inc. to sell its controlling stake in Casur Sugar Holdings S.A. and, through it, in the Nicaraguan companies Compañía Azucarera del Sur C.A. and Empresa Generadora de Energía C.A. According to ValorAnalitik, the offer provides for consideration of USD13.5mn (€11.7mn), covering the equity interest and settlement of intercompany debt. Payment will be made over three years.

Casur and Ingenio Mayagüez formed an alliance in 2014 when the Colombian company acquired a 60% stake in Casur. The joint venture operates the Ingenio Benjamín Zeledón in Potosí, Department of Rivas, which has a cane-crushing capacity of 6,000 t/d.