



International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(17)52
(English only)**

17 August 2017

Various Sugar Related Articles from ECRUU and Sugaronline Ebriefing

The Executive Director would like to draw your attention to the following relevant sugar related articles below.

ECRUU Sugar News Monitor - 16 August 2017

PHILIPPINES - Industry and consumer groups flay sugary drinks tax plan

The government's claim that the proposed tax on sugar-sweetened beverages is good for the health of the people has drawn flak from consumer and industry groups. The Beverage Industry Association of the Philippines (BIAP) pointed out that the low-income consumers who will be hit the hardest do not suffer from obesity and diabetes and there are other items which cause these diseases more. BIAP has recommended a mix of tax and health measures as an alternative to the proposed tax so that the retail prices and jobs and investments in the sector are not affected. ([The Business Mirror](#))

ECRUU Sugar News Monitor - 16 August 2017

SWAZILAND - War on sugar hurts market: Sugar Association

Sugar consumption has not yet been affected by discussions on the introduction of a tax on sweetened beverages and anti-sugar campaigns, but they are creating uncertainties in the commodities market, the Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) CEO said. (Original source: The Swazi Observer) ([Press Reader](#))

Sugaronline Ebriefing - 16/08/2017

UK: Industry bodies backing coordinated reduction in sugar content

Industry bodies representing the UK's food and drink sector are backing a "coordinated" drive to reduce the amount of sugar in products, according to the UK's Confectionary News.

The Food and Drink Federation (FDF) and the British Retail Consortium (BRC) are working in partnership to develop a database of "sugar alternatives" that will be shared amongst their membership.

The organisations are inviting ingredient manufacturers, product specialists and researchers to submit details of products that may help companies reformulate. The FDF and BRC said they are looking for ingredients that will help sugar reduction, whilst enabling companies to maintain product quality, taste, product safety and shelf life.

Andrea Martinez-Inchausti, deputy director of food policy at the BRC, told FoodNavigator that the initiative aims to help take the industry's efforts to reformulate to the "next level".

"Retailers and manufacturers have been reducing sugar for a number of years. However, to take the reduction to the next level, alternative ingredients to sugar need to be used. All companies were looking at it separately. Both BRC and FDF felt that coordinating this approach would make it easier for our members."

The move is targeting large manufacturers and retailers as well as small- or medium-sized businesses. "All businesses want to improve the wholesomeness of their product without affecting flavour and texture. The technological challenges are slightly different depending on of the scale of production, the type of product produced and the manner in which the product is retailed," Martinez-Inchausti noted.

The database will also boost "some of the ingredient suppliers who may be struggling to understand how to engage with a big company", she suggested.

Through the list, the FDF and BRC want to bring together innovative "sugar alternatives" that appeal to consumer trends, such as clean labelling. "We have a good understanding of sweeteners as a substitute, but these are not always appropriate or acceptable to customers. We therefore need to investigate other options which will enable a substantial sugar and ideally calorie reduction," Martinez-Inchausti explained.

The FDF and BRC said the food industry's reformulation efforts aim to improve public health.

Kate Halliwell, nutrition and health manager at the FDF, explained: "FDF and our members are committed to playing our part in the fight against obesity. The food and drink industry has been on a positive journey for a number of years and this joint initiative with the BRC is the latest stage in the journey. We are confident this initiative will go a long way in supporting retailers and manufacturers in their sugar reduction efforts, leading to significant improvements in public health."

The initiative follows the publication of Public Health England's guidelines on sugar reduction and supports the UK government's ambition laid out in the Childhood Obesity Plan to reduce sugar consumption by 20%.

Martinez-Inchausti said that to achieve this reformulation will be key. "A certain amount of sugar can be reduced by rebalancing [the] proportion of ingredients or looking at product composition, but to achieve a substantial reduction, which would be required to achieve the government ambitions to reduce sugar consumption by 20%, sugar needs to be replaced with other ingredients."

Sugaronline Ebriefing - 16/08/2017

BevSA says still no decision on sugar tax

BevSA is opposing the introduction of a 20% tax on sugary beverages, or what has been referred to as sugar tax, which government wants to implement in a bid to curb non-communicable diseases.

Engagements among the non-alcoholic beverage industry, represented by BevSA, and stakeholders are underway at Nedlac to develop an effective anti-obesity solution that would not lead to job losses while still meeting health objectives.

However, there had not been any agreements as engagements were set to continue on Thursday and Friday.

Mapule Ncanywa, BevSA executive director, said the industry still believes that the levy in its current form would have serious negative impacts on the economy, which will ultimately lead to job losses and significant loss of the contributions to the gross domestic product (GDP) and have no impact on the non-communicable diseases problem.

Ncanywa said the primary aim of the industry was to avoid any job losses particularly under the current economic conditions, which is faced with a technical recession and credit rating downgrades and have an impact on health.

"BevSA welcomes the continuation of the engagements and hopes that all efforts will be explored on finding a solution that addresses concerns raised by industry and other stakeholders," Ncanywa said.

The industry estimates, in the absence of a proper socio-economic impact study, that the job losses across the value chain could be up to 24,000 jobs.

The industry further believes that the proposed tax may not have the necessary impact to achieve its intended health objectives.

"We appeal to parties to commission through government a proper substantive Socio-Economic Impact Assessment study (SEIA's) which can help to mitigate the unintended consequences that the proposed tax may have on the economy and the industry," Ncanywa said.

"We believe that a solution can still be found and the spirit of the engagements should be about finding solutions which are in the best interest of the country and the economy."