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 - 21 June 2019

UK: Heineken UK cuts sugar from cider brands
The UK unit of Heineken has reduced the amount of sugar in two of its cider brands by almost a third as part of new measures to boost accountability on health, according to Just Drinks news website.

Bulmers Original and Old Mout were reformulated with a reduced-sugar recipe earlier this year, Heineken UK said on June 20. Bulmers has taken a 30% cut while the sugar in Old Mout has been reduced by "about" 30%, a spokesperson told just-drinks.

The reformulation does not include artificial sweeteners or stevia, a spokesperson confirmed to just-drinks.

Soft drinks makers made widespread sugar cuts to their brands in the country in 2016 after the UK government announced a sugar-tax, however it is unusual for an alcohol producer to take out sugar from its recipes. Alcohol was unaffected by the sugar tax levy, which came into force in April last year.

PAKISTAN: Government intends to devise long-term sugar policy
Pakistan's government intends to devise a long-term sugar policy to ensure consistency and stability amongst sugar producers, manufacturers and the general public, according to Urdu Point news website.

The adviser to country's Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industries & Production and Investment, Abdul Razaq Dawood, made this statement on June 20 during a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board in Islamabad.

The meeting discussed the availability and pricing of sugar, among other issues.
Dawood expressed satisfaction over the current figures of sugar availability and said that the upcoming season would hopefully not incur any stress on the consumers.
He stressed upon the importance of providing relief to the general public by not increasing prices of sugar unreasonably as it is an everyday household commodity.

The representative of State Bank of Pakistan informed the participants at the meeting that it has approved the export quota of 500,000 metric tonnes of sugar for Pakistan.

SAUDI ARABIA: 50% levy on sugary drinks in December

The Saudi tax authority has announced the implementation of a selective levy on sugary drinks from Dec. 1, 2019, in line with the 2017 Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) regulations, according to the Arab News website.

The implementation of the 50% levy on sugary drinks, which include sweetened beverages, soft and energy drinks, will be policed by the General Authority of Zakat and Tax (GAZT). GAZT said health reports had highlighted the negative effects of consuming sugary drinks, noting that consumers were more likely to be exposed to diseases and weight gain.

Meanwhile, GAZT said some drinks would be exempted from the new selective tax.
The drinks to be exempted include milk-based products (75% at least), milk, infant formula, as well as drinks that contain natural sugar, such as fruit juices and those for medical purposes.

Sugar Online – Ebriefing – 20 June 2019

US: F.D.A. updates guidelines on added sugar labelling

The Food and Drug Administration has updated its guidelines for the declaration of added sugar labelling, in response to concerns from single-ingredient sugar and syrup producer, according to the Baking Business website.

The new F.D.A guidelines, last updated three years ago, are also in response to The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and comments about draft guidelines released in February of last year.

The F.D.A. said it will allow the use of a "†" symbol which will lead consumers to a statement that provides information about the gram amount of added sugars on products.
The F.D.A. said, "The updated guidelines are meant to reduce the potential for consumers to misinterpret single-ingredient sugars and syrups as having additional sugars added to them and to comply with the new legislative requirements."

Sugar Online – Ebriefing 24 June 2019

MALAYSIA: Manufacturers, consumers impacted by sugar tax

Fears are mounting that implementation of the sugar tax on sweetened packaged beverages beginning July 2019 is expected to force a decline in the retail volume of sugared drinks, according to the International Supermarket News website.

In November 2018 the Malaysian government announced its plans to implement a sugar tax of 40 sen (US$ 9.6) on sweetened packaged beverages beginning July 2019.

The introduction of the sugar tax will trigger the price of sweetened packaged beverages, which is also likely lead in consumers reducing their consumption, impacting the performance of soft drinks in 2019.

Meanwhile, beverage manufacturers have made plans to reduce sugar content as well as launch smaller pack sizes prior to the implementation of the tax in July.

It is expected that by 2023 the retail volume of cola carbonates could decline by more than nine million litres, while the volume for sports drinks could slump by 21 million litres due the introduction of the sugar tax.

ECRUU Ethanol News Monitor - 24 June 2019

COLOMBIA - Ethanol output low because of US imports: Fedebiocombustibles

Colombia has six ethanol plants attached to sugar mills and a standalone Ecopetrol plant capable of producing 600 million L/year, although they make only 450 million/year because of the competition from US imports, according to the head of the National Federation of Biofuels (Fedebiocombustibles). He argued that the 9% duty imposed by the government was not enough and called for a 22% duty. (La Opinion)