



International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AA

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 28-02-2020

SOUTH AFRICA: Decision not to increase sugar tax welcomed

The South African Cane Growers' Association has welcomed Finance Minister Tito Mboweni's decision not to increase the sugar tax in his 2020 Budget, according to The South African.

Rex Talmage, chairman, said that the Health Promotion Levy, known as the sugar tax, had already resulted in 9,000 jobs being lost in the cane growing sector alone. A tax increase would have resulted in thousands more jobs being lost in mostly poor rural communities, he claimed.

"While we are pleased that the national government did not give into to reckless calls by lobby groups such as the Healthy Living Alliance (HEALA) to increase the sugar tax further, the tax still poses a serious risk to jobs in the sugar industry," Talmage said.

US: Study says sugar tax in Philadelphia didn't reduce consumption significantly

Researchers from Drexel University found that the sugar tax on sweetened drinks in Philadelphia didn't reduce consumption of those beverages significantly compared to neighboring cities where there is no tax, according to The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Amy Auchincloss, an associate professor at Drexel's Dornsife School of Public Health, said that "we're seeing that raising the price of sugary beverages may not impact consumers who don't drink a lot of soda."

Researchers found that 39% of Philadelphians reported drinking fewer sugary beverages, compared to 34% in other cities. This difference is not considered statistically significant by the researchers.

The researchers surveyed residents during a 30-day period when the tax was first implemented, and again a year later.

Philadelphia's 1.5-cent-per-ounce tax on sugary drinks was first implemented in 2016 aimed at reducing consumption and improving residents' health.

BELIZE: Santander Sugar begins activities for the season

Belize's Santander Sugar Group has started activities for the season about a month later than other processors in the country, according to Belize Breaking News.

The company plans to harvest 600,00 metric tonnes of sugarcane in the 130 days of the harvest. Santander Sugar has implemented mechanized farming and harvesting in 22,000 acres of fields. The company – which produces sugar, molasses and electricity – is struggling to find markets to sell, according to the report.

FoodNavigator.com – 27 February 2020

Country Archer answers 'call to arms' by biltong makers with launch of Zero Sugar Beef Jerky, new look

27-Feb-2020 By Elizabeth Crawford

With a subtle name change from Country Archer Jerky Co. to Country Archer Provisions, the meat snack brand is opening the door for expansion into new categories, while at the same time reinforcing its stronghold in jerky with the introduction of a new line of Zero Sugar Beef Jerky.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2020/02/27/country-archer-answers-call-to-arms-by-biltong-makers-with-launch-of-zero-sugar-beef-jerky-new-look>

Industry must act to banish the 'curse' of plastic sachets, say campaigners

27-Feb-2020 By Oliver Morrison

Food companies are coming under pressure to take responsibility for the problem of plastic sachet pollution.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2020/02/27/industry-must-act-to-banish-the-curse-of-plastic-sachets-say-campaigners>

FoodNavigator.com – 28 February 2020

Why Brexit Britain may boost regenerative agriculture

28-Feb-2020 By Oliver Morrison

Any drop in food standards post-Brexit could increase demand for fresh produce from transparent supply chains, says Rich Osborn, founder of Fresh Range.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2020/02/28/why-brexit-britain-may-boost-regenerative-agric>

Sugaronline – Ebriefing 27-02-2020

UK: Nichols working to reduce impact of sugar-tax in the Middle East

UK-based Nichols has said it has a mitigation plan to limit the impact of sugar-taxes on prices of its soft drink Vimto in Saudi Arabia and in the United Arab Emirates, according to Just-Drinks.

Vimto is popular in the Middle East during Ramadan, and Nichols said that the brand's cordial version contributed to Vimto's best-ever sales performance in the region in 2019.

Sugar-taxes on soft drinks in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are still expected to impact sales of the soft drink during Ramadan, the company said.

The excise taxes were expected to increase the prices of soft drinks in general by as much as 50% in the region.
