



# International Sugar Organization

1 Canada Square  
Canary Wharf  
London E14 5AA

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Press Release(20)11  
(English only)**

**9 March 2020**

### **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.

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#### **Sugaronline – Ebriefing 05-03-2020**

##### **ITALY: Latest FAO Index shows 4.5% rise in sugar prices**

World food prices fell overall in February, after four months of increases, although sugar prices saw a 4.5% month-on-month rise, the United Nations food agency said March 3, reports Sugaronline.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar, averaged 180.5 points, down 1.0% from January.

This was driven by a sharp fall in the export prices of vegetable oils and, to a lesser extent, meat and grains, which offset a continued rise in dairy and sugar prices.

For sugar, the Sugar Price Index averaged 209.7 points, up 9.0 points (or 4.5%) from January, its fifth consecutive monthly increase and the highest level since May 2017.

The latest sugar increase mostly reflected the prospects of lower production in India, the world's second largest sugar producer, as well as in Thailand due to protracted drought, the report said.

Strong global import demand, notably from Indonesia, the world's largest sugar importer, also provided support to prices. However, the continuous weakness of the Brazilian currency against the United States dollar limited the rise.

The FAO index measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar.

##### **SWITZERLAND: Nestle's 3 million tree target**

Food giant Nestle SA is to plant at least three million trees in Mexico and Brazil in the next 18 months as it works to achieve a target of carbon neutrality by 2050, according to Reuters.

Laurent Freixe, Nestle's chief executive for the Americas, said the project would be a starting point for further efforts to protect the environment in countries such as Mexico, where the company sources sugar as well as coffee, cocoa and dairy products.

In September, Nestle signed a United Nations-backed pledge aimed at limiting global temperature rise and said it would adjust its business to prioritise renewable energy, alternative packaging materials and carbon absorption.

At a cost of US\$1 to US\$15 per tree, the first phase of Nestle's reforestation project could cost as much as US\$45 million for planting alone.

**FoodNavigator.com – 5 March 2020**

**'Incremental steps to be more eco-friendly': NadaMoo! unveils sugarcane-based packaging**

05-Mar-2020 By Niamh Michail

Plant-based ice cream maker NadaMoo! is launching a new-look pint carton made from a more sustainably sourced sugarcane-based bioplastic.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2020/03/05/incremental-steps-to-be-more-eco-friendly-nadamoo!-unveils-sugarcane-based-packaging>

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**Sugaronline – Ebriefing 05-03-2020**

**SINGAPORE: Marketing crackdown on sugary drinks**

Singapore is putting in place new regulations to encourage lower-sugar drinks choices, according to Mothership.

Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Law and Health, Edwin Tong announced two new regulatory measures for pre-packaged beverages, including a nutrient-summary label called the "Nutri-Grade" on March 5.

The colour-coded "Nutri-Grade" label will grade pre-packaged beverages from Grade A to D, according to the sugar and saturated fats levels.

Companies are banned from advertising high-sugar Grade D beverages on all media platforms.

Beverages are being targeted as they contribute to more than half of Singaporeans' sugar intake, Tong said. The new regulations will be published at the end of 2020, coming into effect a year later.

The "Nutri-Grade" label and advertising measures will eventually apply to freshly prepared beverages as well.

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**Sugaronline – Ebriefing 03-03-2020**

**INDONESIA: Mitr Phol Sugar takes 100% in Far East Agri**

Asian sugar producer Mitr Phol Sugar is buying out the Indonesian sugar joint venture Far East Agri from owner Olam International, according to Business Times.

Agri-food giant Olam has agreed to sell its remaining 50% in the joint venture for between US\$82.5 million and US\$85 million.

Mitr Phol Sugar had in December 2017 invested US\$100 million to take up a 50% stake in Far East Agri, which owns Dharmapala Usaha Sukses, a sugar refining company in Indonesia.

The latest proposed sale is in line with Olam's six-year strategic plan announced in 2019, the company said on March 3. The plan focuses on businesses with sustainable growth potential, and divesting or restructuring de-prioritised assets and businesses.

The deal is expected to complete by the end of March 2020.

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**FoodNavigator.com – 5 March 2020**

**From indirect supply to reforestation: The challenges and opportunities to halt cocoa deforestation**

06-Mar-2020 By Katy Askew

Cocoa production continues to drive deforestation. While the chocolate industry has largely lined up behind zero deforestation commitments, the complexities of indirect supply chains remain a significant challenge.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2020/03/06/cocoa-deforestation-and-the-chocolate-industry-challenges-and-opportunities>

**How many women do Unilever, Danone, Nestlé and PepsiCo employ in managerial positions?**

06-Mar-2020 By Flora Southey

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2020, FoodNavigator asks some of the biggest food and drink companies how many women they currently employ – and aspire to employ – in managerial positions.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2020/03/06/how-many-women-do-unilever-danone-nestle-and-pepsico-employ-in-managerial-positions>

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