

HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER 2011

BIRLA SUGAR

SNAP SHOTS

No News

OTHER PLAYERS

Shree Renuka Sugars expects government to approve 3-4 mt sugar export by SY-end

The government has allowed 1 mt of sugar exports from November 23 onward. Exports were approved under open general license (OGL). Existing stock holding limits have been removed. However, the industry expected 3 mt tones exports to be allowed.

Two sugar mills in KP running under capacity

The sugar mills of Peshawar valley are running under capacity as the growers are reluctant in supplying sugarcane due to severe cold and row over the price of the commodity with mills.

The case of Khazana Sugar Mills (KSM) is also not different and that is also run in intervals. An official of the mills confirmed that due to the lack of sufficient supply the crushing was stopped. He said that they are looking for sufficient supply of the commodity to run the mill.

INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

Govt allots 19.07 lakh t sugar for Dec sales

The government has allocated 19.07 lakh tonnes of sugar for sale in the open market and ration shops during December, slightly less than last month.

The Food Ministry has decided to make available 19.07 lakh tonnes of sugar in December, out of which 17 lakh tonnes is meant for the open market (non-levy sugar) and the remaining 2.07 lakh tonnes (levy sugar) is to be distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

India's sugar consumption to exceed production by 2020

By, 2020-21, Sugar consumption in India is forecast to rise 31.3 million tons, while the production is estimated to be around 26.4 million tons, according to Narendra Murkumbi, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA).

During 2010-11, India's production stood at 24.4 million tons and consumption was 21.7 million tons.

According to ISMA, the increased usage brought about by the lifestyle changes due to the present surplus sugar production, reported The Wall Street Journal.

Sugar prices up by Rs3-4 per kg, may rise further

The prices of sugar are set to increase following Uttar Pradesh (UP) government's decision to hike rates for sugarcanes to Rs240 per quintal from Rs205-Rs210 per quintal. Its effect can be seen in the markets sugar prices at retail level moving up by about Rs3-Rs4 per kg. UP is the second largest sugar producing state in India.

Currently the ex-mill price in UP is around Rs29 per kg. In Mumbai's Vashi market, the prices are currently trading at Rs2-3 higher as compared to a month ago. Yesterday, in the Vashi's wholesale market, M-grade sugar was quoted at Rs33 per Kg and S-grade was Rs32 per Kg.

Zero duty sugar imports extended till March

Sugar may not turn bitter for the time being, as the Finance Ministry on Thursday extended zero duty on imports for another four months till March 2012.

Faced with high inflation, the government first allowed sugar import at zero duty in the beginning of this calendar year till March, but extended it repeatedly. Without such a notification, the import duty on sugar would be 60 per cent.

There are various estimates for sugar output for sugar year 2011-12. The Agricultural Ministry has estimated that production would be between 255 and 260 lakh tonnes, while the Food Ministry has estimated it at 246 million tonnes.

Sugar output up by 17% in Oct-Nov: ISMA

India's sugar output rose by 17 per cent to 2.16 million tonne in the first two months of the 2011-2012 seasons, even though crushing operations were delayed in Maharashtra, industry body ISMA said today.

India, the world's second-largest sugar producer and biggest consumer, had produced 1.84 million tonne of the sweetener in the same period last year.

The sugar season runs from October to September.

India Allows One Million Tons Sugar Exports

India has issued a formal order allowing exports of 1.0 million metric tons of sugar for which a ministerial panel had given permission last month, a statement on the Ministry of Food's website showed.

Mills exporting from their own output would have to submit their applications within 30 days, while those opting to export after sourcing sugar from others would need to apply within 45 days, the statement said.

Low global prices dent sugar export hopes

Suddenly, all the work done by the sugar industry in lobbying the government to allow more exports and in crushing extra cane has been made irrelevant by the market. For, global prices have been on a steep slide.

Just a short while after the central government said it allowed the industry to ship abroad a million tonnes under Open General Licence, global prices have dropped from \$750 a tonne to \$613 a tonne in the last three months.

Sugar mills' case put on fast track

The Allahabad High Court has agreed to give a daily hearing in the petition filed against the Uttar Pradesh government's methodology in fixing the sugarcane prices to be paid to growers by sugar mills.

The petition was filed by the Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma) in mid-November, challenging the 20 per cent rise allowed by the state government. The state had fixed the State Advised Price (SAP), the statutory minimum amount to be paid to farmers for cane procurement, at Rs 240 a quintal for the early variety and Rs 250 a quintal for the late variety – a substantial rise from Rs 205 a quintal and Rs 210 a quintal, respectively, from last year.

Rates cut 'eases pressure' on sugar growers

Sugar lobby group Canegrowers says the Reserve Bank's (RBA) interest rates cut will have a positive impact on the cane industry.

The RBA has cut interest rates by 0.25 of a percentage point but the big four banks have yet to announce whether they will pass on any of the cut.

The Australian dollar dropped sharply on news of the rate cut.

Sugar mills running under capacity in Peshawar

The sugar mills of Peshawar are running under capacity, as the growers are hesitant to supply sugarcane amid controversy over the price of commodity with sugar millers.

Talking to Business Recorder, Talih Mand Khan, an official of Khazana Sugar Mills (KSM), Peshawar confirmed that the mill is running under capacity due to the lower supply of sugarcane.

It has a worth to mention here that no crushing season was observed in Peshawar last year due to the lack of sufficient supply of sugarcane to the mills and the situation this year is once again looking the same.

Sugar prices fall as millers worry

The bitter-sweet duel between sugar mills and government authorities, which started in May this year, is far from over.

Just when one thought that the millers finally had it their way, the ECC decision to postpone acceptance of the offers received in the TCP gallop tender of November 4th threw a spanner in the works.

Over a month has passed since the flotation of the tender by the Trading Corporation of Pakistan for the sugar procurement of 200,000 tons from PSMA-member mills.

Non-SAP states announce lower sugar cane prices

While mill owners are agitating over the increased state administered prices (SAPs) of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh, mills and cooperatives in major non-SAP states like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh can heave a sigh of relief, with the relatively lower cane purchase prices announced by these governments.

While the government of Andhra Pradesh has announced a price of Rs 2,000 per tonne for the mills and co-operatives to pay the farmers for cane purchase in 2011-12, Karnataka has decided a price of Rs 1,800 per tonne and Maharashtra has come up with a three-tier pricing mechanism, ranging from Rs 1,800-2,050 per tonne .

UP sugar mills have lost Rs 220 cr on weak prices

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, the second largest producing state, have accrued an overall loss of Rs 220 crore due to a widening difference between cost of production and the prevailing ex-factory selling price.

Total output by mills in UP have been reported at 850,000 tonnes so far, after crushing 10.3 mt of early-variety cane. Average recovery this season (of sugar, from cane) has been 8.2 per cent. The loss was aggravated by a 10 per cent mandatory levy quota on each mill at Rs 18 a kg, nearly half the production cost.

'Farmers suffer more losses than sugar mills'

Farmer groups have rubbished claims made by UP sugar mills that they have accrued losses exceeding Rs 220 crore, owing to the differences between cost of production and the prevailing ex-factory selling price.

Last week, officials of the Indian Sugar Mills Association had said that average recovery of sugar from cane was about 8.2 per cent. So far, sugar mills have reportedly processed 8.5 lakh tonnes of sugar after crushing 10.3 metric tonnes of cane. According to ISMA, the substantial rise in the State Advisory Price (SAP) was the only reason for the loss.

Sugar surplus may be exported

The Viet Nam Sugar and Sugarcane Association (VSSA) have submitted a proposal to the Government to allow local producers to export sugar surpluses.

After 10 years of producing sugar to meet domestic demand, this would mark the first time the industry has a surplus to export.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has discussed the proposal with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, according to VSSA President Nguyen Thanh Long.

High cane payments, transport cost to hit Maharashtra sugar mills

Sugar factories in Maharashtra fear a major financial crisis, as they have to pay a cane price of Rs 2,300-2,500 a tonne to growers, in line with their counterparts in Uttar Pradesh. This was the result of a recent settlement between millers and grower unions that were insisting on payment of first advance above the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of Rs 1,470 a tonne. According to the agreement, mills have to pay Rs 1,850 to Rs 2,050 for a tonne of cane. However, the actual payment is much more.

Farmers demand removal of controls on sugar

The Karnataka unit of the Consortium of Indian Farmers' Associations and the Karnataka Sugarcane Growers' Association has urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to remove all controls on sugar as an immediate step to help farmers in distress.

The leaders of the consortium and president of the association Kurubur Shanthakumar met Dr. Singh in New Delhi on Monday. They drew his attention to the continued exploitation of farmers in the absence of a policy on remunerative prices for agricultural produce in the country. They said that farmers were facing severe financial hardship due to the increased cost of cultivation and lack of remunerative prices for their crops.

0.2mn tons of sugar tender: TCP to ask 32 mills for extension in bids' validity

Following the decision of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has decided to approach 32 mills for extension of bids' validity for sugar buying.

Cooperative Sugar mills in Haryana have achieved 7.62 per cent recovery of sugar

Cooperative Sugar mills in Haryana have achieved 7.62 % recovery of sugar as against the same as 7.46 % by the sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh till date.

Giving details of the sugarcane crushed by the various sugar mills, he said that a maximum of 11.50 lakh quintals of sugarcane had been crushed by cooperative sugar mill Shahbad and the Panipat sugar mill stood at second position by crushing 4.72 lakh

quintals of sugarcane. These two sugar mills had produced 84,000 quintals and 35,725 quintals of sugar respectively.

Sugar exporters worried over thin orders, falling prices

Lack of export orders from key buyers such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka coupled with a decline in global prices are compounding the woes of Indian sugar factories. This is even as cane crushing gains momentum and millers, faced with liquidity issues; struggle to sell sugar in the domestic market.

The white sugar futures in London that traded at \$710.5 a tonne for March 2012 contract in September are now hovering around \$608, decline of 15 per cent in past four months. Similarly, the May 2012 contracts that ruled at \$698 in September are now hovering at \$601.

FoodMin issues order for export of 37,000 tonnes of sugar

The Food Ministry has issued permits for the export of nearly 37,000 tonnes of sugar so far out of the one million tonnes that the government has allowed for overseas shipment in the ongoing 2011-12 marketing year.

Last month, an Empowered Group of Ministers on Food headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee had approved the export of one million tonnes of sugar under Open General Licences (OGL) in the 2011-12 marketing year (October- September). The Food Ministry notified the decision on December 2.

Sugar board downscales output estimate due to bad weather

THE SUGAR Regulatory Administration (SRA) has downscaled its sugar output estimate for the current crop year as bad weather is seen to have an impact on production, an official said last week, noting though that the country's exports will not be affected.

The new crop estimate is lower than the SRA's previous forecast of 2.4 million MT for the current crop year.

The sugar crop year starts in September and ends in August.

Sugar millers: carrying the pains of growers

The incessant saga regarding official sugar procurement continues.

The sugarcane growers are worried that they are not getting fair price for their crop as the prices of sugar, which the mills take into account during sugarcane purchases, have come down lately owing to excess stocks and anticipation of high sugar production this season.

With exports banned and bulk sovereign buying the only viable option, sugar mills would eventually have to sell to the government.

Sugar output rises despite delay in cane crushing in Maharashtra

Sugar production in India has risen around 19% so far despite a slow start in cane crushing in the biggest producing state of Maharashtra, allaying apprehension that output in the world's second-largest producer may dip below forecast due to lower-than-expected yield.

Production rose to 4.58 million tonnes until December 15 since the marketing year began on October 1, compared with 3.86 million tonnes a year before, according to the data released by the Indian Sugar Mills Association.

Sugar output to remain high: Isma

Although mills started crushing late this year, production increased 19 per cent.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma), has kept the output forecast unchanged, despite several adversities faced by crushing firms across the country.

Output till December 15 was reported at 4.58 mt, a rise of 19 per cent from 3.86 mt in the same period last season. Higher output, however, can be attributed to more mills remaining operational this year.

As against 445 mills reported functional last year till December 15, as many as 452 were crushing by the same time this season.

Sugar turns sour for mills

Maharashtra sugar mills have incurred a loss of Rs 30 crore in the first month of the crushing season due to rising mismatch between the cost of production and ex-mill realisation from rapidly falling sugar prices. The Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories in Maharashtra, a representative body of 200 mills, has projected a loss of Rs 1,000 crore by the end of the crushing season.

Sugar to Remain Under pressure On Strong Production In The Current Year

Sugar futures are likely to witness stockiest selling at higher levels on the back of strong sugar production so far in the current year along with dearth of export demand in domestic market.

As per latest update from ISMA, India's sugar output was augmented by 19 % to 45.84 million tonnes till the December 15. This was mainly due to strong production in Maharashtra. Data revealed that sugar production in Maharashtra jumped 7.26% to 17.50 million tonnes till December 15, 2011, while in UttarPradesh , the total production augmented by 4.30 lakh tonnes from the last year to 12.85 lakh tonnes.

Sugar exports can fetch \$300m if curbs removed

The removal of restrictions on export of half of the projected sugar surplus (about 0.5 million tons) from the current harvest is estimated to fetch \$300 million, lift pressure on its domestic prices and enable the millers to lift the new bumper cane crop and pay off banks and growers.

The sugar industry, which started the current harvest with a carryover stock of 0.6 million tons, expects to produce 4.8 million tons sugar by the end of the season in April, creating a surplus of one to 1.2 million tons.

More sugar exports likely after mills fill quota

India, the world's second-largest sugar producer, will consider more overseas sales after mills exhaust a quota of one million metric tons allowed last month, Food Secretary BC Gupta said.

The country will maintain enough stockpiles to meet demand for three months, Gupta said in an interview at his office in New Delhi on Wednesday. Sugar production may total 24.6 million tons in the year that began on Oct. 1, compared with estimated demand of 22.5 million tons, he said.

The surplus available for exports may total about 2 million tons, he said.

Sugar industry takes satellite route to map cane area

India has joined the ranks of major sugar producers such as Brazil and Thailand in leveraging remote sensing technology to estimate the cane area.

The first pan-India satellite survey jointly commissioned by Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Ltd (NFCSF) has pegged the cane area for 2011-12 crop year starting October at 51.82 lakh

hectares (lh). This is about 5 per cent more than 2010-11 crop area of 49.44 lh and marginally higher than the traditional estimates for the current year.

The sugar industry had earlier estimated 2011-12 cane area at 50.79 lh, while the Agriculture Ministry had pegged it at 50.93 lh and the Food Ministry at 50.25 lh.

UP polls may delay further sugar export approval

The model code of conduct that came into effect on Saturday with the announcement of poll schedule in Uttar Pradesh and four other states may delay Government's approval for further sugar exports.

This may put the millers in a spot as cane arrears are expected to start building up from middle of January, by which time their existing credit drawal limits would have been exhausted.

No aid to sugar mills in Maharashtra

State government refuses financial help to mills seeking fixed cane purchase tax, export grant.

We can't give you financial help, the Maharashtra government has told the state's ailing sugar industry. For, it has said, similar demands would then come from farmers in dry regions. The sugar industry, unable to cope with the mismatch between the cost of production and ex-mill one zation, pressed for a sugarcane purchase tax at Rs 40 per one (on weight basis), instead of three per cent of the cane price (including harvesting and transportation charges). Plus, a Rs 1,000 per one export grant.

Jaggery output hit as farmers divert cane to sugar mills for better price

Sugar mills are paying a higher amount to cane farmers and this has hampered jaggery production this year. But demand for jaggery is topping supply due to the upcoming Sankranti and Pongal festivals in January, resulting in an increase in jaggery prices across the country.

Along with the less availability of cane for jaggery units, labour shortage and power cuts have affected jaggery production in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

A very high cane price in Uttar Pradesh has diverted cane to sugar mills and jaggery production in the state has declined so much that it is buying the traditional sweetener from Madhya Pradesh.

Fall in sugar prices

Some essential items consolidated their previous gain on the wholesale commodity market during the previous week but supply position remained fairly comfortable owing to steady arrivals from upcountry trading centres.

Sugar remained in the news throughout the week followed by reports of failure of talks between the sugar mills association and the government to procure the commodity through official channels to stabilise its prices on the open market.

Maharashtra sugarcane acreage likely to decline in 2012-13 due to water shortage

Maharashtra government fears a decline in sugarcane acreage in 2012-13 sugar seasons. The state machinery expects that the farmers will be less inclined to keep the ratoon crop due to scarcity of ground water this year.

The state government expects that the current sugar season of 2011-12 will get over by April-end as the per acre yield of the sugarcane crop has declined by about 10 tonne to 15 tonnes in different regions of the state.

Area zoning policies eat into profits of sugar producers

Problem felt more upcountry, where decline from cane yields is increasing.

Apart from high state-advised prices for sugarcane, the annual crop area zoning policies are making life difficult for big sugar producers like Bajaj Hindusthan, Balrampur Chini, Triveni Engineering and Birla in Uttar Pradesh.

Unlike in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the northern state lacks a long-term sugarcane area reservation policy, discouraging parties from investing in farm extension activities. This has led to a decline in yields.

Strong sugar prices lift figures

STRONGER sugar prices and continuing growth within the horticultural sector has contributed to the Bundaberg region's Gross Regional Product figures outperforming the state's overall gross product for the 2010/2011 financial year.

Figures compiled by economist Reuben Lawrence for Bundaberg Regional Council show the Bundaberg region's Gross Regional Product increased from \$3.3 billion in 2009/2010 to \$3.7 billion last financial year.

Sugar rates at lowest level of the year

While the end of the year is drawing to a close, wholesale and retail prices of sugar have plunged to the lowest rates of previous 12 months period, providing immense financial relief to a large number of the city's consumers.

It may be recalled here that sugar rates round the year kept hovering around Rs 65 to 80 per kilogramme (kg), but during the last one-month complete halt in its export to Afghanistan has brought down its prices to such a level that consumers have started praying for prolonged export ban on the sweetener.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR INDUSTRY

Sugar firm Banah plans 300 jobs, new Miami headquarters

Miami sugar company Banah International Group Inc. is expanding its operations and plans to hire an additional 300 people next year. Banah anticipates needing more space and employees as the company continues to push into the US retail market, Banah CEO Diego Leiva told Miami Today.

Revived sugar industry could create 5,000 jobs

REVIVING the Irish sugar industry could create thousands of jobs and cut millions from Ireland's import bill, a new report has found

CEO likens union contract to cancer in American Crystal Sugar lockout

Workers at American Crystal Sugar remain locked out after four months and a recording of company CEO Dave Berg speaking to shareholders on Nov. 7 demonstrates very clearly what the workers are up against.

Britvic CEO "confident" of no sugar tax on soft drinks

Britvic's CEO, Paul Moody, has said that he does not expect a tax on added sugar soft drinks in France to be replicated in the UK.

Revival of sugar industry is viable - report

A new study suggests there is a strong business case for the revival of the Irish sugar industry. The study says a new factory would directly employ around 200 with about 5,000 additional jobs on farms, agricultural contracting, haulage and in service industries.

Malaysian Sugar Consumption Exceeds WHO Recommended Intake

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- Sugar consumption among Malaysians is at a high rate, with the average of 51 grammes daily a cause for concern.

SUGAR CANE CROP SEASONS OPENS

Despite the challenges the Sugar Industry is faced with the 2011 / 2012 Sugar Cane Crop got off to a good start today as Corozal Farmers began delivery. John Gillett is BSI's Factory Manager.

Advanced Biofuels Industry Hunkers Down for Hard Times

Facing an uncertain future with biofuels policy under scrutiny, the advanced biofuels industry convened for a three day conference in San Francisco earlier this month. Jointly organized by Green Power Conferences and Biofuels Digest, the Advanced Biofuels Markets conference is one of the few industry events bringing together industry leaders from all shades of advanced biofuel interests - algae, cellulosic biofuels, advanced biodiesel, aviation biofuels, and others - as well as key public-sector stakeholders.

Sugar Demand Will Be Driven By Asia, Bunge's Coviello Says

Per capita consumption of sugar in China is 11 kilograms (24 pounds) and in India 21 kilograms, said Rob Coviello, executive director of the sugar product line at Bunge. That's below the 34 kilograms in developed countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, he said.

Govt expected to spend RM600 mil for sugar subsidy

RAUB: The government is expected to spend RM600 million to subsidize sugar following a hike in the price of the commodity in the world market.

Warna Sugar factory declares Rs 2,100 price per tonne for farmers

Kolhapur, Nov 28 : Tatyasaheb Kore Warna Cooperative Sugar Factory at Warnanagar, have today declared that it will pay Rs 2,100 per tonne as first advance instalment to sugarcane-growing farmers during this year's crushing season.

Mitr Phol unit earmarks Bt4.2 bn to expand bio-power output

Mitr Phol Bio-Power, a unit of Mitr Phol Sugar Corp, will next year spend Bt4.2 billion to expand its bio-power generation capacity in Loei and Khon Kaen by 111 megawatts.

EC bids to offset sugar supply shortfall in EU next year

The European Commission is aiming to leverage the abundance' of the out-of-quota harvest in the EU to ensure an adequate sugar supply next year.

Sugar industry amends complaint against HFCS industry

Sugar growers have amended a lawsuit against the Corn Refiners Association (CRA), claiming that some members of the association have conspired to engage in false advertising an accusation the CRA denies.

Sugar millers support further liberalisation

The sugar-milling industry backed the Global Sugar Alliance's push for further liberalisation in the global sugar trade at the Doha Round in December, hoping to boost exports and global prices.

British Sugar jobs threat

The sugar supplier - which has factories in Wissington, near Downham Market, Cantley, near Great Yarmouth, Bury St Edmunds and Newark - said it was reviewing operations in the finished products area of the business.

Punjab sugar output to touch 3.07 mn quintals

Sugar output of Punjab in the current crushing season would be more or less same as compared to last year, despite increase in area. Agriculture experts are of the view that this year recovery of sugar from cane would be slightly lower due to less rainfall in the state, which is also one of the primary reasons for less output.

Sugar high coming to an end for producers

Traders have enjoyed something of a sugar high recently, as the sweet tooth of many emerging market economies has been a boon for sugar producers.

Guatemalan sugar cane harvest underway

Sugar is Guatemala's most important agricultural export, making the nation the fifth-largest sugar exporter in the world.

Dr. Estwick: Rum Industry And Agriculture Can Work Together

With the rum industry, like most other industries, faced with rising energy costs, a senior government minister has offered a suggestion which could provide higher earnings for the sector while saving valuable currency.

SA temperature rise above global average

Droughts in KwaZulu-Natal, for example, resulted in major sugar producers', including Tongaat-Hulett and Illovo Sugar, taking a knock in 2010, with recovery still filtering through in 2011. In 2010, the local sugar industry's production declined to below two-million tons of sugar for the first time in almost 20 years.

Sugar transporters to be checked

MANILA, Philippines A joint government-private sector campaign has been launched to arrest and prosecute sugar smugglers.

Tate and Lyle commits to 2012 sugar plan

Tate and Lyle have committed to work with the Fiji Sugar Corporation to draft a new technical support programme for the 2012 crop year.

Kenya: Mumias to Diversify to Ethanol and Water

In the wake of persistent sugar cane shortage and the ever decreasing area under the raw material in the country, Mumias Sugar has announced plans to diversify its operation to shield it from competitive pressures.

Henderson Sugar Refinery victims are remembered

When Clyde Soumas Sr. rang the doorbell at Judy Voiron Sintes' home in Bucktown, she was unable to hold back her tears. And when Sintes opened the door, Soumas also started to cry. Soumas and Sintes share a sad, yet special, connection from 63 years ago.

Fiji PM elected ISC Vice-Chair

Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama has been elected the Vice Chair of the International Sugar Council.

Ojode challenges Sony Sugar to stop moaning about competition in industry

Management of Sony Sugar Company has been told to embrace competition in the industry and to stop complaining about the operations of a new rival, Sukari industries Limited.

More Sugarcane Production Expected in Cuba

HAVANA TIMES, Dec. 3 The Cuban government wants to increase sugarcane production by 20 percent compared to the previous season. Two refineries have already initiated milling, which is scheduled to take place in 46 factories this year seven more than in 2010.

Cost of sugar is not too sweet for Pa. consumers

As someone who has spent his lifetime around candy my great grandparents founded Wolfgang Candy in York in 1921 I have witnessed tremendous change and growth not only within our company, but in our industry globally.

Dr. BC Gupta elected as chairman of ISO

PUNE: Dr. BC Gupta, secretary, ministry of food and public distribution, government of India, has been elected the chairman of International Sugar Organisation (ISO) for one year in 2012. The election was unanimous when all members present in the 40th Council meeting in London on 2nd December 2011 agreed to Dr Gupta's election, proposed by the European Commission.

Sugar CEO calls union workers a "cancer"

SOUTH FARGO, N.D. - As American Crystal Sugar's lockout of its 1,300 Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco, and Grain Miller (BCTGM) workers passed the 4-month mark, workers challenged the lockout at the firm's annual meeting - just after its CEO embittered them by comparing them to cancer.

Industrialized North drives developing countries to monoculture

Economic growth at any cost has driven many developing countries, especially in Latin America, to focus on the production of a limited variety of crops, frequently only one, driven by the demand from industrialized nations and risking their right to development and to food sovereignty and security, according to the Social Watch Report 2012, that will be launched in the middle of December in New York.

Sugar Prices to Climb in 2012 on Supply Concerns, Cosan Says

Sugar prices will rise next year as record production in Brazil and Russia isn't expected to exceed demand, said Cosan SA Industria & Comercio, which jointly controls the world's largest sugar-cane processor with Royal Dutch Shell Plc.

Brazil's Center South, the world's largest producing region, will have a record 34 million tons of sugar output next year, up from 30.8 million tons this year, Copersucar SA said Nov. 23. Output in Russia, the world's seventh-largest producer of the sweetener, will be a record 5 million tons of sugar this crop year, which runs from October 2011 to September 2012, German research firm F.O. Licht said Dec. 5.

Raw sugar for March delivery fell 4.8 percent to 23.01 cents a pound at 12:18 p.m. on ICE Futures U.S. in New York, heading for the biggest drop since Sept. 16.

European Union approves export of 7 lakh tonne sugar

LONDON: The European Union issued licenses to export 6,99,999 tonne of sugar in the 2011-12 season started in October, according to the European Commission, the bloc's regulatory arm. Applications were made to export 1.29 million tonne of the sweetener, according to a notice on the commission's website on Wednesday.

Sugar mills looting farmers

ISLAMABAD (APP) - Various sugar mills of Punjab are cutting weight of sugarcane in the name of non-variety of the crop and also offering lesser price to the farmers than the rates announced by the government for the year 2011-12, the farmers complained on Wednesday

KordaMentha attacked over sugar mill sale

CHINESE-OWNED Tully Sugar has slammed the administrator of the Proserpine sugar mill, KordaMentha, before a crucial creditors vote tomorrow, for failing to allow proper consideration of its \$128 million takeover bid. Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/kordamentha-attacked-over-sugar-mill-sale-20111207-1oj6i.html#ixzz1fv76NNOL>

Sugar beets crop of choice for experimental ethanol plant

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND One Canadian ethanol plant is experimenting with a new source of the environmentally-friendly fuel: sugar beets.

Current sugar price alarming: CONFED

The current low prices of sugar is very alarming, especially at this time when producers are at the peak of milling, Raymond Montinola, chairman of the Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations Negros Panay Chapter, said yesterday.

More concern over sugar research funding

Cane growers have attacked plans to overhaul the industry's research and development arm and centralise its funding.

International aid for sugar

MAJOR sugar producers have pledged assistance to Fiji's sugar industry from cane production through to processing.

Wilmar in sweet spot for Proserpine

A PROTRACTED battle between two Asian-based globalised agribusinesses for one of Australia's last grower-owned sugar mills may have taken a decisive turn yesterday ahead of a creditors meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Cargill replaces head of sugar business

"Cargill has replaced the head of its sugar business, the most senior departure yet in the wake of the announcement 2,000 people will leave the group due to the continued weak global economy. Jonathan Drake, who joined Cargill as a graduate trainee

Sugar prices to fall for 2012 amid volatility - Rabobank

Sugar prices for the coming year are forecast to fall by 12% as the market records a surplus for the first time in three years, according to financial service provider Rabobank.

Sugar beet harvest showing above average yields

This season's sugar beet campaign is making good progress, with above-average yields, as Robert Harris reports

Proserpine Creditors To Vote On Sugar Mill Ownership Friday

A majority of the beleaguered owners of the financially troubled Proserpine Cooperative Sugar Milling Association want an increasingly complex takeover tussle brought to an end at a creditors meeting scheduled for Friday, local cane farmer and director of the Canegrowers farmer lobby Peter Quod told Deal Journal Australia.

Farmers talk about revival of sugar beet

MORE THAN 500 farmers packed the Riverside Park hotel last week to discuss proposals for the revival of the Irish sugar industry. And suggestions that growers will need to invest 25,000 each towards the cost of building a factory to process the beet they grow did not put a damper on their interest.

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Sweet ride on the Sugar Train

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts -- To truly appreciate the beauty of this island, you have to venture "back o' de land" -- into the lush and picturesque countryside. And one of the best and most popular ways to explore this landscape, which has scarcely changed in the past century, is on the St. Kitts Scenic Rail Tour.

Is eating too much sugar making you hairy?

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Why Sugar Makes Us Sleepy (And Protein Wakes Us Up)

John Updike, in his short story *Plumbing*, summarized human nature thusly: We think we are what we think and see when in truth we are upright bags of tripe. This is a tragic fact that we spend most our lives trying to forget. Although we like to imagine ourselves as the driver our consciousness is in full control that belief is a lovely illusion. In reality, we are mere passengers aboard the body, strapped to a fleshy engine that is driving us.

Swaziland: Mswati's Very Bullish Year

For traditionalists, King Mswati III's troubled year, the rapid collapse of Swaziland's economy and the surge in pro-democracy protests has little to do with South Africa's revision of Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) disbursements late last year. It has its roots, instead, in an unfortunate variation in the mystic, and private, Incwala ceremony last December.

Kenya: Mkok Back At Kenya Sugar Board Helm

Suspended Kenya Sugar Board chief executive Rosemary Mkok has been reinstated after being out of office since November last year. Mkok resumed duty on Monday and has been engaged in meetings with the acting chief executive officer Solomon Odera and other departmental heads.

Cuba reorganizes sugar industry

A Central Enterprise Management Organization has been established to replace the Ministry of Sugar, which came to be involved in enterprise operations The 178 bodies within the sugar industry will be reduced to only 26 It has been reiterated that no worker will be left without support

Sugar employees gain job security

AUSTRALIAN sugar employees will have job security, and could even be given the chance to further their careers overseas, if Thai company Mitr Phol goes ahead with its takeover bid for MSF Sugar.

Sucrogen buys sugar mill for \$120m

One of Queensland's last sugar milling co-operatives, Proserpine Mill, near Mackay in the state's north, has been sold to foreign investors.

Sucrogen to proceed with purchase of Proserpine

CANBERRA (MarketWatch) -- Proserpine Cooperative Sugar Milling Association's creditors on Friday approved the company's purchase by Wilmar International Ltd.'s Sucrogen unit, cementing Sucrogen's place as Australia's leading sugar company.

Wilmar Beats China's Cofco to Buy Australia's Proserpine Sugar After Vote

Wilmar International Ltd. (WIL), the world's largest palm oil processor, obtained a majority of creditor votes for its A\$120 million (\$122 million) purchase of Proserpine Sugar Mill, beating an approach from Cofco Ltd.

Lower sugar output eyed

AMID persistent reports of drop in sugar production, the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) is considering lowering the initial production estimate of 2.4 million metric tons (MT) to only 2.2 million MT.

Sugar Act to be filed next week

REPRESENTATIVE Albee Benitez (3rd district, Negros Occidental) said he will file the Sugar Act bill next week, hoping for its speedy approval in both the Lower House and the Senate.

Sugar prices fall as millers worry

The bitter-sweet duel between sugar mills and government authorities, which started in May this year, is far from over.

Mills continue crushing

Crushing continues at three sugar mills as the season is nearing its end. Sugar Cane Growers Council acting chief executive Sundresh Chetty says cane supply is constant at the mills.

Refiners Say EU Sugar Tender Plan Threatens Their Future

Dec. 8 (Bloomberg) -- European Union plans to import sugar at reduced duty still forces refiners to pay almost three times as much as the rest of the bloc's sweetener industry, threatening their viability, according to a refiners' group.

UP sugar mills have lost Rs 220 cr on weak prices

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, the second largest producing state, have accrued an overall loss of Rs 220 crore due to a widening difference between cost of production and the prevailing ex-factory selling price.

European Union approves export of 7 lakh tonne sugar

LONDON: The European Union issued licenses to export 6,99,999 tonne of sugar in the 2011-12 season started in October, according to the European Commission, the bloc's regulatory arm. Applications were made to export 1.29 million tonne of the sweetener, according to a notice on the commission's website on Wednesday.

Sugar mills looting farmers

ISLAMABAD (APP) - Various sugar mills of Punjab are cutting weight of sugarcane in the name of non-variety of the crop and also offering lesser price to the farmers than the rates announced by the government for the year 2011-12, the farmers complained on Wednesday

KordaMentha attacked over sugar mill sale

CHINESE-OWNED Tully Sugar has slammed the administrator of the Proserpine sugar mill, KordaMentha, before a crucial creditors vote tomorrow, for failing to allow proper consideration of its \$128 million takeover bid. Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/kordamentha-attacked-over-sugar-mill-sale-20111207-1oj6i.html#ixzz1fv76NNOL>

Sugar beets crop of choice for experimental ethanol plant

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND One Canadian ethanol plant is experimenting with a new source of the environmentally-friendly fuel: sugar beets.

Current sugar price alarming: CONFED

The current low prices of sugar is very alarming, especially at this time when producers are at the peak of milling, Raymond Montinola, chairman of the Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations Negros Panay Chapter, said yesterday.

More concern over sugar research funding

Cane growers have attacked plans to overhaul the industry's research and development arm and centralise its funding.

International aid for sugar

MAJOR sugar producers have pledged assistance to Fiji's sugar industry from cane production through to processing.

Wilmar in sweet spot for Proserpine

A PROTRACTED battle between two Asian-based globalised agribusinesses for one of Australia's last grower-owned sugar mills may have taken a decisive turn yesterday ahead of a creditors meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Cargill replaces head of sugar business

"Cargill has replaced the head of its sugar business, the most senior departure yet in the wake of the announcement 2,000 people will leave the group due to the continued weak global economy. Jonathan Drake, who joined Cargill as a graduate trainee

Sugar prices to fall for 2012 amid volatility - Rabobank

Sugar prices for the coming year are forecast to fall by 12% as the market records a surplus for the first time in three years, according to financial service provider Rabobank.

Sugar beet harvest showing above average yields

This season's sugar beet campaign is making good progress, with above-average yields, as Robert Harris reports

Proserpine Creditors To Vote On Sugar Mill Ownership Friday

A majority of the beleaguered owners of the financially troubled Proserpine Cooperative Sugar Milling Association want an increasingly complex takeover tussle brought to an end at a creditors meeting scheduled for Friday, local cane farmer and director of the Canegrowers farmer lobby Peter Quod told Deal Journal Australia.

Farmers talk about revival of sugar beet

MORE THAN 500 farmers packed the Riverside Park hotel last week to discuss proposals for the revival of the Irish sugar industry. And suggestions that growers will need to

invest 25,000 each towards the cost of building a factory to process the beet they grow did not put a damper on their interest.

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Sweet ride on the Sugar Train

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Kenya: Cane Farmers Reap Big As Rivalry Hots Up

It looks as though for Sony (South Nyanza) Sugar Company if it doesn't rain, it pours.

Kenya: Mumias Sugar Is Iso Re-Certified

Kenya's largest sugar producer Mumias has been awarded a new International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certificate by the Kenya Bureau of Standards.

Predawn fire out at Yonkers sugar refining factory

YONKERS City firefighters extinguished a roof fire at American Sugar Refining on the waterfront early this morning.

Perform or perish, AP Govt says to co-op sugar factories

HYDERABAD, DEC. 12: While private sugar factories in Andhra Pradesh are busy doing the math to arrive at a price to be offered for the crushing season that has just started, those in cooperative sector are struggling to get their numbers right to survive. The sector has been languishing so much that a good number of them depend on Government support to pay salaries, forget about running them.

Delayed start to crushing in Maharashtra coupled with lower yields across the country has prompted leading industry analyst Kingsman SA to pare its India sugar output forecast marginally down to 25.5 million tonnes for 2011-12 sugar year starting October.

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Thousands of sugar cane workers die as wealthy nations stall on solutions

LA ISLA, Nicaragua Maudiel Martinez is 19 years old and has a shy smile, a tangle of curly black hair and a lean, muscular build shaped by years of work in the sugarcane fields. For most of his adolescence, he was healthy and strong and spent his days chopping tall stalks of cane with his machete.

Kenya: Sugar Millers and Distillers Lock Horns Over Molasses Output

Distillers are blaming the reduced supply of molasses on a slanted tax regime, saying sugar companies prefer selling the product to farmers and jaggery traders.

PHL to fill sugar export targets govt

Despite an initial report of a slowdown in sugar production for the crop-year 2011-2012, the Philippine government remains optimistic that sugar exports to foreign destinations will reach its target volume. Actually, our only export obligation is the US quota

Guv backs Sugar Act, hopes for improved sugar prices

NEGROS Occidental Governor Alfredo Maraon Jr. expressed support for the Sugar Act sponsored by Representative Albee Benitez (3rd district, Negros Occidental).

Sugar cos obtain stay on arrest of execs

Lucknow: Almost all sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh against whom the state government had lodged non-bailable FIRs under Section 3/7 of the IPC have obtained a

stay from the Allahabad High Court on the arrest of their top executives and officers who had been named in the FIRs.

ICE Sugar Committee Votes To Extend Trading Hours

NEW YORK (Dow Jones)--A 20-member sugar industry committee voted to extend trading hours of raw sugar futures on ICE Futures U.S., according to an e-mail seen by Dow Jones Newswires on Monday.

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Sugar-cane biofuel fouls air

Brazil has rapidly become the world's biggest producer of ethanol an alternative to petroleum-based fuel from sugar cane. The greenhouse-gas emissions created during sugar-cane ethanol production are lower than those associated with the creation of other biofuels, but a study shows that the process generates up to seven times more air pollutants than previously estimated from remote-sensing data.

Ahluwalia releases biography of sugar cooperative founder

New Delhi, Dec 14 (PTI) Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia today released biography of Vithalrao Vikhe Patil, founder of cooperative movement of sugar industry of India. The biography "The Pioneer", authored by Arun Sadhu, is the saga of Patil's untiring efforts towards changing the rural scene of Maharashtra by exploring cooperative movement as an ideal medium for social, educational and economic upliftment of the rural masses.

Tully accepts Sucrogen deal

TULLY Sugar this week accepted the Proserpine creditors' decision to support Sucrogen's offer to purchase its mill this week.

EU Sugar Crop to Set Record in 2011-12 on Germany, France, U.K.

Sugar production in the European Union will climb to a record in the 2011-12 season on bigger harvests in France, Germany and the U.K., according to French crop office FranceAgriMer.

Sugar is a building block for future successes

This is the time of year when sugar-cane trucks start to get on my nerves. It was worse in previous years, so maybe they have made some efforts that are paying off.

Mozambique: 540 Million Dollars for Irrigation

Maputo The Mozambican government will invest over the next ten years about 540 million US dollars in irrigation to boost agricultural production and productivity.

Mauritius 2011 sugar estimate lifted to 430,000 T

PORT LOUIS (Reuters) - Mauritius' Chamber of Agriculture revised its 2011 sugar production forecast upward by 4.9 percent to 430,000 tonnes on Tuesday on the back of improved sugar cane productivity.

Indonesia frets about sugar stocks as farmers protest imports

Dec 14 (Reuters) - Indonesia is concerned about domestic white sugar supplies between March and May next year when current stocks of 740,000 tonnes run out and the new crushing season has yet to start, a senior trade ministry official said on Wednesday.

Predicted price fall for sugar won't hit Irish plans

Campaigners for a return of sugar beet production in Ireland have insisted that a 12pc fall in global sugar prices next year would not affect the viability of any new Irish processing plan.

Farmers demand removal of controls on sugar

The Karnataka unit of the Consortium of Indian Farmers' Associations and the Karnataka Sugarcane Growers' Association has urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to remove all controls on sugar as an immediate step to help farmers in distress.

Sugar mills seek permission for export

SLAMABAD: Sugar manufacturers have sought permission of the government for export of 500,000 tons of the surplus commodity in order to stabilise the market.

Tribunal yet to decide on mill closure

The Sugar Industry Tribunal is yet to decide when the three sugar mills will cease crushing and farmers are advised to wait for instructions.

Profel warns EU sugar situation threatens competitiveness

Profel, the European fruit processing company group, has raised concerns about the high prices of sugar within the EU market in the 2010/11 marketing year and the impact these costs are having on their businesses.

Michigan Sugar to invest more than \$13 million in Bay City facility

MONITOR TOWNSHIP Michigan Sugar Co. growers have approved a multiyear plan to invest more than \$13 million in the cooperative's flagship processing plant in Monitor Township.

EU member states approve more sugar import licences

IMPORT licences into the EU for 36,000 tonnes of raw sugar cane for refining were approved by member states last week with a reduced custom duty of 263.50 (\$343) per tonne.

Imperial Sugar abandons Louisiana refinery venture

IMPERIAL Sugar has dropped out of a three-way refining venture in Louisiana, another sign of the great lengths it is going to in order to ensure its viability.

ETHANOL

Sugar beets crop of choice for experimental ethanol plant

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