

HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH 2011

BIRLA SUGAR

SNAP SHOTS

Oudh Sugar Mill- Oudh Sugar Mills Ltd has informed BSE that the proposal of the Company for restructuring its debts under CDR mechanism has been approved by the CDR Empowered Group at its meeting held on February 09, 2011. The Company has since received the Letter of Approval (LOA) dated March 09, 2011 from the CDR EG. A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company has been convened on March 28, 2011 to consider and approve the aforesaid debt restructuring proposal.

OTHER PLAYERS

Aska sugar factory aims for 83 per cent higher crushing- The Aska Cooperative Sugar Industries Limited (ACSIL), the oldest sugar factory in Orissa in the cooperative sector, aims to crush around 1.5 lakh tonnes of sugarcane in the next crushing season, nearly 83 per cent higher than this year's achievement. The factory crushed 81,923 tonnes of sugarcane this year in 53 days as against the previous year's 43,606 tonnes in 34 days, sources said.

The factory's sugarcane crushing operations began from December 23, 2010 and ended on February 18 this year.

Ravalgaon Sugar- Ravalgaon Sugar Farm Ltd has informed BSE that the Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting held on January 25, 2011, has approved the resolution regarding re-appointment of Mr. H. B. Doshi as the Chairman and Managing Director of the Company for a period of three years commencing from January 16, 2011 to January 15, 2014.

Balrampur buy- Balrampur Chini Mills Limited has bought back as on date 3,441,536 equity shares through the BSE and the NSE for approximately Rs 24 crore.

Simbhaoli Sugars to hive off businesses- Simbhaoli Sugars on Thursday announced the hiving off of its distillery division comprising potable alcohol and power businesses into wholly-owned subsidiaries. The company has also decided to transfer its existing business of power generation into a separate entity.

Sugar producers expect better results ahead- With government policies gradually turning favorable, sugar producers are expecting a turnaround in their fortunes in the next quarter. Official permission to export 500,000 tonnes of sugar and increase in stock limits are boosters announced by the government last week.

Sugar Trader ED&F Man Bets Big on Changing Diets- The 200-year-old commodity company, ED&F Man, is one of the world's largest sugar merchants. With a sugar refinery at Kandla port in collaboration with Simbhaoli Sugars, it has begun building assets in India. And this is just the start. As Eduardo Carmona, CEO of the company's sugar business tells ET, the really big bet is on changing diets of the Indian middle class.

Mawana launches branded sugar in Mumbai market- Targeting the hitherto untapped market for branded sugar, Mawana Sugars, today announced entering the Mumbai market by launching its first-of-its-kind speciality sugar under the brand 'Mawana Select'. "After establishing a strong foothold in the northern region, we plan to expand our business pan-India. The foray into the Mumbai market is a move in that direction," Mawana's Managing Director, Sunil Kakria, told reporters here. Presently, the total consumption of sugar in the country is around 23-million tonnes out of which the share of branded sugar is merely one per cent, the company's Vice- President (Retail), Surjya Meher, said. "Since the penetration of branded sugar is minuscule at present, we see a huge opportunity for the growth of our business as we are the leader in this category. We expect total sugar consumption to go up to 26-million tonnes over the next two-years.

Low recovery in UP, Maharashtra may depress sugar output- India's overall sugar output is unlikely to surpass 24 million tonnes during the current crushing season, due to a steep decline in recovery in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the country's leading producers. The country produced 18.8 mt of sugar last year.

The extended rainfall in October-November, dry weather after that and the short cold wave hit the quality of cane substantially. The sucrose content has declined drastically, resulting in factories crushing more cane for less sugar.

Rush to exhaust monthly quota weakens sugar- The spot price of M-grade sugar declined by Rs 5, while that of S-grade ruled steady on Tuesday, on account of need-based demand and selling pressure at the mill level to finish the monthly quota. *Naka* and tender rates were unchanged. Stockists remained on the sidelines as demand proved to be weak and less than the arrivals, resulting in higher stock build-up.

Punjab Cabinet approves Rs 46 cr for cooperative sugar mills- The Punjab Cabinet today approved the payment of Rs 46 crore to the liquidators of the Jagraon and Budladha Cooperative Sugar Mills to defray all the liabilities of these mills. In a meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal , the Cabinet also gave approval to the proposed Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for permanent employees of the closed cooperative sugar mills of Patiala, TarnTarn, Faridkot, Jagraon and Zira.

Mawana launches new sugar varieties- Mawana Sugars, one of the leading North-based sugar manufacturers, will launch six variety of high quality speciality sugar in Maharashtra. Mawana super white sugar will be priced Rs 80 a kg, Castor sugar targeted at cakes and pastry makers will come with a price tag of Rs 82 per 500 grams, the super fine icing sugar has been priced at Rs 38 per 200 grams, demerara sugar and cubes are priced Rs 85 per 500 grams each and white sugar cubes at Rs 59 per 500 grams. Mr Sunil Kakria, Managing Director, Mawana Sugars, said the branded sugar which constitutes just 3,00,000 tonnes of the total sugar production of 23 million tonnes an annum is growing nearly 200 per cent every year with consumer getting quality and health conscious. Over the next one year the company intends to spend about Rs 2-3 crore in marketing and educating consumers on the quality of its products. The company's shares on BSE were down three per cent at Rs 22 on Monday.

Sugar rules steady on limited demand- Spot sugar price ruled steady on Wednesday on limited demand. Naka and mill tender rates were also stagnant, with need-based buying. A holiday mood was prevailing in market due to the Indo-Pakistan World Cup cricket match. The sentiment was steady, as traders were expecting the quota for April . The announcement of monthly quota will decide the future direction for the market, said traders

INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

Sugar output set to miss 25.5 mt target- The government's hesitation in removing cap on sugar exports may get delayed with the sugar industry expected to revise production figure downward to 25 million tonne in 2010-11 against 25.5 million projected at the beginning of the season, largely due to late rains in Uttar Pradesh, the second largest producing state of the sweetener in the country. This despite the state recording a 15% rise in the total area under sugarcane cultivation in 2010-11 season.

After 54 years, states free to levy VAT on sugar and textiles- The Union government has allowed the states to impose tax on sugar and textiles for the first time in 54 years. In his Budget, the finance minister proposed to amend the Additional Duties of Excise (goods of special importance) Act, 1957, and decided to remove sugar and textile from its schedule. After this amendment, states are free to levy value added tax on these commodities after 54 years.

Sugar rises on fresh buying support- Sugar prices rose by Rs 50 per quintal in the national capital today on increased buying by retailers and bulk consumers. Market analysts said pickup in demand for the ongoing marriage season mainly pushed up sugar prices. Sugar mill delivery medium and second grade prices rose by Rs 50 each

to Rs 2,750-2,900 and Rs 2,725-2,875 per quintal, respectively. Sugar ready medium and second grade price also moved up by 40 each to Rs 2,980-3,100 and Rs 2,960-3,080 per quintal, respectively.

Karnataka Government to privatise loss making co-op sugar mills- As many as 21 sugar factories under co-operative sector in Karnataka were suffering losses and State Government has planned to lease them out these units to the private sector, Karnataka Legislative Council was informed here today. Replying to Congress Member R V Venkatesh during Question Hour, Horticulture and Sugar Minister S A Ravindranath, said at the end of March 2010, as many as 21 sugar factories in co-operative sector were running under loss and the government had taken measures for the revival of ten of them by leasing them out to private sector.

Some Indian sugar mills run out of cane- Nine sugar mills in India's biggest cane producing state have shut down early due to crop shortage, industry officials said, with any slowdown in output jeopardising plans for 500,000 tonnes of unrestricted exports.

INM for maximizing sugarcane yield

In many sugarcane growing areas, the productivity of the soils has declined due to intensive cropping and lack of proper soil fertility management practices. The soil productivity can be restored through rationalized integrated nutrient management (INM) involving organic manures, fertilisers and biofertilisers. Some of the following INM practices are recommended.

Sugar gains as mills abstain from selling - Sugar prices at mill level have shot up by Rs 15-20 on Thursday as mills abstained from selling at lower prices on expectation of higher demand. Up country and local stockists buying kept sentiment positive at the producing level, but in the local market, spot prices were steady with range-bound price movement because of need-based thin buying by retailers. At the Vashi wholesale terminal market, spot prices for good quality sugar increased by Rs 5 a quintal. Naka rates under lifting pressure, ruled weak. Arrivals and dispatches were higher as the market was closed on Wednesday for Shivratri.

Sugar industry appeals again for exports- Sugar industry has made a fresh plea for allowing exports under open general licence (OGL), especially when the international prices have surged from \$690 a tonne to \$760 a tonne in one week. Representatives of Indian Sugar Mills Association and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, who did not want to be identified, told Business Standard “The government does not want to take any risk and thus currently is in the midst of collection of state wide sugar production figures. There are reports that India may not achieve sugar output target of 25 million tonnes but will be able to reach between 22.5 million tonnes and 24.5 million tonnes. The next meeting of empowered group of ministers is yet to be fixed.

India sugar tumbles on production estimates- Sugar spot prices as well as futures ended marginally lower by 0.44% and 0.18% as markets are flooded with huge stocks of levy quota.

The Central Government has decided to make available 18.86 lakh tons of sugar for the month of March,2011 which includes, levy sugar - 2.02 lakh tons , non-levy normal

sugar quota -13 lakh tons, White/refined sugar processed out of imported raw sugar- 0.34 lakh tonnes and unsold non levy quota of February- 3.5 lakh tonnes.

Sugar surplus in its latest release on 28th Feb, 2011- India's sugar production is revised downward to 25 million tonnes (mt) for the 2010-11 season against 25.5 million tonnes estimated earlier due to lower recovery rates in Uttar Pradesh. Sugar output in Uttar Pradesh is lowered to 6.4 mt from 7 mt due to late rains, while in Maharashtra, the country's biggest sugar producer; it is kept unchanged at 9.4 million tonnes. Domestic consumption for 2010-11 is projected at around 22 million tones.

Cane growers insist on price uniformity- Sugarcane growers have decided to re-launch agitation in front of Vidhan Soudha in Bangalore from March 7, seeking fulfilment of their demands. President of Sugarcane Growers Association Kuruburu Shanthkumar told reporters here on Tuesday that the government had failed to address the problems of cane growers. The BJP-led government in the state has been indifferent to the problems faced by cane growers and is continuing its step-motherly attitude towards them, alleged Shantkumar.

Sugar may be taxed by state- Pranab Mukherjee seems to have doled out a sugar-coated tax pill for sugar as well as fabric in the finance budget that was announced on Monday. The finance minister removed the two commodities from schedule of additional excise duty (AED). However, what appears to be freeing them from this duty is actually paving way for imposing another at a higher rate.

Spot sugar eases on limited offtake- Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market witnessed a mixed trend as price were weak at spot level on need-based demand but higher at naka level a selling pressure eased. Mill tender rates were unchanged on usual demand support. The market is waiting for a positive direction as mills are not keen to sell at lower price, said traders. A leading broker said on Friday that spot rates were down by Rs 3-5 on limited fresh buying. Naka rates were up by Rs 10. Upcountry and local stockist buying was at usual level. Arrivals in the market were higher than dispatches. Inventories with stockists are limited, so once the demand picks up every one will rush to cover.

Sugar tumbles on ample supply - Sugar spot prices ended lower by 0.16% and 0.46% on adequate supplies, after the government released higher non-levy quota for March. However, futures settled marginally lower by 0.22% due to profit taking. The Central Government has decided to make available 18.86 lakh tons of sugar for the month of March,2011 which includes, levy sugar - 2.02 lakh tons , non-levy normal sugar quota - 13 lakh tons, White/refined sugar processed out of imported raw sugar- 0.34 lakh tonnes and unsold non levy quota of February- 3.5 lakh tonnes.

UP can emerge global sugar sector player: Assocham- The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) has said Uttar Pradesh had the potential to emerge as a big player in the global sugar market if the state government and state sugar industry made concerted efforts. It has recommended steps like increasing the plant capacity of the sugar mills and harnessing modern technology to boost cane and sugar production.

Dull demand proves bitter for sugar- Spot sugar prices ruled weak on Monday on the Vashi wholesale market on lack of demand and higher arrivals. In the ready market, prices declined by Rs 4-5 a quintal in the evening. At the naka level, price ruled firm by Rs 5-7 in the absence of selling at the resale level. Mills kept their rates unchanged on fresh buying support from stockists and upcountry buyers.

India sugar drops on selling pressure- The bearish trend in the sugar futures market extended on Monday on continued selling pressure. Poor buying interest from end-users in the physical market amid higher supplies added bearish trend to the market. The expected summer season demand has not yet emerged thus weighing on the market. Market is reacting to the bumper sugar production expectation and continued government restriction on its trade. Spot markets witnessed subdued trading on poor off-take of the produce from end-users.

Simbhaoli Sugar anticipates turnaround in coming quarters- Simbhaoli Sugars reported net loss of Rs.16.98 crore in the October-December quarter compared with a net profit of Rs 43.78 crore in the same period a year ago.

Sugar scam: Bail plea of two accused rejected by court- A local court here today rejected the anticipatory bail plea of two accused in a sugar scam unearthed by Jammu and Kashmir police earlier this year. Paramdeep Singh and Jagbeer Singh, residents of Jammu region, had applied for bail as investigations had revealed their involvement in siphoning of sugar worth crores of rupees, which was meant for public distribution through the open market.

Raids continue in sugar scam- The Special Investigation Team of police probing the multi-crore rupees sugar scam continued raids across Jammu city on Monday. The bail applications of five persons, allegedly involved in selling sugar meant for public distribution in open market in league with Food Corporation of India and Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution department officials, were rejected by a court here. The FCI and CAPD have instituted parallel inquiries to probe the matter, besides suspending six employees.

Crushing of sugarcane to continue for 2 more months- With around 265 lakh tonne sugarcane still to be crushed in the state, the state government is expecting to continue the ongoing crushing season by another two-and-a-half months. This year, the state had estimated that about 810 lakh tonne sugarcane will be available for crushing, of which 265 lakh tonne has been crushed so far by 162 sugar factories in the state. In the previous year, few sugar factories did not crush excess sugarcane, despite government order not to stop the season till all the cane in the jurisdiction was crushed, which resulted into farmers incurring losses.

Won't take hasty decision on permitting sugar exports: Govt- Food Minister K V Thomas today said the government will not take any "hasty decision" on allowing sugar exports, as its first priority is to protect the interests of consumers. The retail price of sugar has declined to Rs 32/kg now from Rs 48/kg in January in most parts of the country.

Sugar plunges on selling by mills- Sugar prices at Vashi market continued to decline on the fifth consecutive day on absence of fresh demand; and mills started selling at lower rates. Desperate selling by mills on Friday in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh resulted in price decline of Rs 10-15 a quintal at mill level.

Sugar steady as mills desist from selling- Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market ruled steady on Tuesday, after a fortnight of bearish mood in the market. At present, price-level mills are unwilling to sell to avoid losses. On the other hand, better demand for *Holi* and summer supported the market. Local demand is need-based though. Prices may move up once buying by stockists improves, said traders.

India raises cane buy price, output may rise- India has raised the price sugar mills must pay to cane growers from the next season starting October, government sources said on Tuesday, and boosting sugar output prospects in the world's biggest consumer of the sweetener. The possibility of higher output is also likely to boost the government's confidence about stocks and prompt it to allow unrestricted exports of 500,000 tonnes of sugar which has been awaiting clearance for about two months.

Sugar price may shoot up once again- The price of sugar could shoot up once again, this time on account of the government, with the Finance Bill proposing to omit the commodity from the Schedule of Additional Duties of excise (goods and Special Importance) Act, 1957. The change, which will come into effect on enactment of the Finance Bill, will empower state governments to impose VAT on sugar at a maximum 5% rate, in addition to the existing excise duty. Currently, that stands at Rs 38/qtl for levy sugar and Rs 71/qtl for free sale sugar, the level at which it has remained since 2006.

India sugar trades up on seasonal demand - The sugar futures traded on a positive note for second consecutive day on Monday on buying interest. Traders and investors bought sugar futures anticipating revival in demand for the produce in the near-term from beverage and ice-cream industry. Market has discounted the factor of higher sale quota fixed for March month. Spot markets witnessed a moderate buying from bulk buyers to meet the festive season demand.

Ashok Chavan retains control over sugar mill- Former chief minister Ashok Chavan got some much-needed relief on Thursday as he managed to retain control over a co-operative sugar factory set up by his father, the late S B Chavan. For former chief minister Ashok Chavan, it was a biggest ever solace, particularly after his unceremonious exit, when he retained control over a cooperative sugar factory set up by his father late S B Chavan, well over two decades ago.

Sugar ends higher on active buying- Sugar futures prices recovered and settled marginally higher by 0.22% on Saturday owing to improved buying at lower levels. Also, reports of hike in the cane purchase price by 4.2% for the season 2011-12 that begin

October 2011 added support to the prices. India has raised the price sugar mills must pay to purchase cane from farmers to 145 rupees (\$3.20) per 100 kilograms in the next season that begins from Oct. 1, government sources said on Tuesday. In the current season to September, the cane purchase price had been fixed at 139.12 rupees per 100 kgs.

India sugar tumbles on production estimates - The sugar futures on Indian exchanges traded in a very thin range with negative bias on Saturday. Higher supply of the produce and poor off-take from end users in the cash market had a negative impact on the market.

Sugar remains steady on adequate stocks- Sugar prices hovered around previous levels in the national capital today on restricted buying against sufficient stocks position. Market analysts said restricted buying against adequate stocks position kept sugar prices unaltered.

Uncertainty on exports keeps sugar down- Sugar prices at Vashi market declined by Rs 8-10 at naka and mill levels due to absence of any announcement regarding exports by the Government. In the spot market, demand and supply position was at par and volume was at usual level. Undertone of the physical market was weak, said traders.

Govt may allow export of 2 lt sugar- The Union Government is likely to allow sugar exports of up to two lakh tonnes as production this year is set to exceed the domestic demand, official sources said today. An empowered group of ministers (EGOM) on Food, headed by the Finance Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, is scheduled to meet tomorrow to discuss allowing sugar exports under the Open General Licence (OGL).

Sugar stocks turn sweet on export approval hopes - Sugar stocks rallied by over 9 per cent in early trade on the BSE today after the Agriculture Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, sought permission to allow sugar exports immediately in order to help the industry pay cane growers.

Export window negligible for sugar producers - Stock prices of leading sugar producers such as Shree Renuka Sugars, Balrampur Chini Mills and Bajaj Hindusthan were up by between 1 and 3 per cent on Wednesday, after the Empowered Group of Ministers allowed sugar producers to export 5 lakh tonnes of sugar, lifting a clampdown on exports.

Sugar rises on export decision- The Centre's nod for five lakh tonnes sugar export under open general license on Tuesday late evening lifted sugar prices. State-level mills increased tender rates by Rs 20 a quintal. Accordingly, *naka* and spot rates also gained sharply. Prices jumped nearly Rs 20-25 at all levels even as the physical remained closed on Wednesday because of *Anna Patil Punyatithi*. Morale was bullish, in line with the mill offerings, said traders.

Markets firm; sugar stocks zoom- After opening higher, the markets continued the positive run. The Sensex was at 17,970 higher by 131 points and the Nifty added 36 points to 5401. The sugar stocks were on an upward spiral as the EGoM headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee would decide on the issue of increasing the exports of sugar later today.

Centre increases sugar stockholding limit to 500 tns- To encourage procurement from sugar mills, the government has increased the stockholding limit for a trader to 500 tonnes from 200 tonnes. The decision was taken at a meeting of the empowered group of ministers (eGoM) which met on Tuesday. The eGoM has also extended the order, which authorises states to impose stock limit on sugar, by six months, starting April 1. The increased stock holding will enable traders to procure more sugar from millers and replenish their pipelines which have virtually been dry for the last few months.

Sugar slips on sluggish demand- Sugar prices declined modestly at the Vashi wholesale sugar market here today due to reduced offtake from retailers and bulk consumers, amid adequate stock position.

Small sugar quality (S-30) fell by Rs 10/11 per quintal to Rs 2,786/2,825 from last weekend's closing level of Rs 2,796/2,836.

Medium sugar (M-30) also moved down by Rs 1/8 per quintal to Rs 2,828/2,911 as against Rs 2,836/2,912 on Saturday.

The following are today's closing rates per quintal, with the previous rates in brackets:

Small sugar (S-30) quality Rs 2,786/2,825 (Rs 2,796/ 2,836) and medium sugar (M-30) quality Rs 2,828/2,911 (Rs 2,836/2,912).

Sugar prices to surge on low output in UP- With the Centre finally allowing sugar export of 5 lakh tonne and the possibility of yet another such tranche being given a nod in the future, experts fear that sugar prices will shoot up and there would also be scarcity of the sweetener in the country. Especially so with the country's second largest sugar producing state, Uttar Pradesh is set to close the current crushing season far below the 7 million tonne estimated at the beginning of the season. This figure was

later tapered down to 6 million tonne, but with sugarcane stocks fast depleting and over 50 sugar factories out of the total 125 in the state already closed for this season, officials in the sugarcane department feel that the final sugar production figure in the state will stand close to 5.6 million tonne.

Exports to give sugar mills Rs 200 a quintal more- Sugar mills, which were allowed on Tuesday to export 5 lakh tonne of sweetener, are expecting sales realisation from overseas sales to be about R200 per quintal higher as compared to domestic rates. The government had yesterday allowed sugar mills to export up to 5,00,000 tonne of sugar under Open General Licence (OGL) as output is likely to exceed demand by about 2.5 million tonne.

Sugar rises on enhanced stock limit- Sugar prices at *naka* and mill levels quoted higher by Rs 5 on Thursday, as sentiment improved after the Centre's nod for exporting five lakh tonnes of sugar under the open general licence and extension of stock limit by six months, with stock holding limit for traders increased to 500 tonnes from 200 tonnes.

UP mills to buy sugar from Maharashtra for exports- Within days of the union government lifting the ban on sugar exports, mills in Uttar Pradesh are getting into purchase deals with factories in Maharashtra, which produce sugar at lowest cost and are closer to sea ports, to ship the sweetener. Falling domestic sugar prices amidst a surplus production and mounting arrears to farmers have pushed mills to lobby with the government to allow shipments. Uttar Pradesh being a landlocked state, sugar producers have to bear the cost of transporting the consignments to ports.

Sugar futures succumbs on profit booking- Amid profit booking by speculators after yesterday's gains, sugar futures prices fell by Rs 0.50 per cent to Rs 2,771 per quintal today. Adequate stocks in the spot markets following increased supplies also put some pressure on the sweetener at futures trade. At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange , sugar for delivery in April fell by Rs 14, or 0.50 per cent, to Rs 2,771 per quintal, with an open interest of 37,350 lots.

Further Indian sugar exports to ease supply tension- A decision by India to approve 500,000 tonnes of unrestricted sugar exports, which triggered a fall in futures prices on Tuesday, will set the stage for further exports and relieve global supply tensions. India, the world's number 2 sugar producers after Brazil, said on Tuesday it would

allow 500,000 tonnes of sugar exports, the first unrestricted overseas sales of the sweetener in three years.

Sugar stocks may see some upside movement: CK Narayan

Is there a trade in the sugar space? - Yes and no. It is a mixed answer but it is yes because I see global sugar prices trading somewhere near support around 26-27 cents and there should be an upside moment. It is no because it is too politically sensitive and you need to be a government watcher all the time.

Betting on sugar? cover your ears- The one thing you don't want to be these days is a sugar factory owner. It isn't a business for the fainthearted. Almost right through the on-going 2010-11 season, sugar has been sold at below cost of production. The current wholesale price of 27 per kilo doesn't cover the cost of raw material sugarcane, transportation and processing. But there is little likelihood of prices rising. When 22 million tonne is needed and 25 million tonne is produced, how can they?

Sugar ends down on ample supply- Despite of export announcement, Sugar spot prices as well as futures are trading steady as the markets are flooded with huge stocks from levy quota. Futures ended 0.47% lower on Saturday due to long liquidation by the market participants. However, the decline in the prices may be for short term. Overall, we expect prices to remain firm on export announcement along with the downward revision of UP's Sugar output.

Food min to notify sugar export via OGL this week- The food ministry will notify the government's decision to allow export of 5,00,000 tonne of sugar this week, a senior official has said. Last week, an empowered group of ministers (eGoM) on food, headed by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee, allowed sugar exports under the Open General Licence (OGL) as the domestic production is all set to exceed demand.

Delay in sugar export decision will cause Rs 250-cr forex loss- The Government may have got the timing wrong in respect of five lakh tonnes sugar export announced recently. The delay in taking a positive decision will cost the country up to Rs 250 crore by way of loss of foreign exchange earnings via lower prices. The final decision has come at least two months too late. From their peak levels, world sugar prices have declined during the last several weeks by about 20 per cent. This forces India as an exporter to realise lower export prices, an invisible loss the country will suffer.

Sugar turns sour on selling pressure- Sugar prices for S-grade declined by Rs 5-10 a quintal on selling pressure at mill-level due to month end and need-based demand from traders/stockists on Monday. On the Vashi wholesale market, arrivals exceeding demand increased inventories significantly. The sentiment was weak due to thin demand and selling of resale delivery order at a price Rs 5/10 lower than mills' offering, said traders.

Punjab sugar output touches 2.95 mn quintals- The increase in the sugarcane area in Punjab and better recovery percentage has yielded its results, as the sugar output in the state has increased dramatically over the last year. According to the data, sugar output in the state touched 2.95 million quintals in the current crushing season as compared to 1.82 million quintals during the corresponding period last year.

Sugar industry petitions Centre for early exports- The sugar industry has petitioned the central government to formally issue the trade notice allowing exports of 5,00,000 tonnes of the sweetener at the earliest. The Centre had taken the decision to allow exports under the open general license on March 22 but is yet to formally announce the same. Industry insiders say it takes about three to four weeks from the day of the notification for exports to start and exports have already been delayed by almost three months.

Sugar futures fall on weak spot demand- Amid weak trend at spot market on low demand, sugar continued to show weakness in futures trade today with prices falling by over one per cent to Rs 2,868 per quintal. Expectations that the government may release higher free-sale quota for next month also kept pressure on the sugar prices at the futures trade.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR INDUSTRY

Tanzania: Power Cuts Affect Price of Sugar- Arusha Sugarcane farmers at Kiru Valley in Babati District, Manyara Region have attributed the hiking of sugar prices to the ongoing power crisis.

Angola: Japan to Support Industrial Projects in the Country- Luanda The Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has expressed the intention of financing the construction of the fertilisers factory in Soyo district, Angola's northern Zaire province.

South Africa's Sugar Harvest May Be Smallest Since 1995- South Africa's sugar production will be 1.911 million metric tons for the season ending in March, the smallest crop since 1995, the South African Sugar Association said.

Dubai sugar refinery restarts operations- Dubai's Al Khaleej sugar refinery, one of the the largest sugar refineries the world, restarted operations on Feb. 28 after a month-long shutdown, said the refinery's general manager.

Sugar power plant project goes into receivership- A joint venture co-generation project in northern NSW between Delta Energy and the NSW Sugar Milling Co-op's subsidiary Sunshine Renewable Energy has been placed in receivership.

Monsanto Wins Reversal of Order to Destroy Genetically Engineered Sugar Beets- In a partial win for global biotech seed maker Monsanto Co (MON.N), a U.S. appeals court reversed a lower court's order that called for the destruction of young genetically modified sugar beet plants, according to a ruling released on Friday.

Thailand sets record sugar volume for 2011 home market- Thailand, the world's second-biggest sugar exporter, will set aside 2.8 million tonnes from its sugar output for domestic consumption in 2011, the highest ever, a senior official said on Tuesday.

ISO lowers view on world sugar surplus- AN expected global sugar surplus in 2010/11 has virtually disappeared as adverse weather has hurt crop prospects in several countries including Australia, the International Sugar Organisation (ISO) said on Monday.

British Sugar suffers 20m loss- BRITISH Sugar has suffered losses of around 20 million, according to a trading statement from parent company Associated British Foods.

Turbine Trouble Again? - The Belize Sugar Industry is on a hair trigger tonight after reports emerged today stating that one turbine is back, but it's not working.

Plans for idle land- TAVUA landowners have been urged to utilise vacant land for sugarcane farming.

SRA studies reserve sugar bid- Sugar Regulatory Administrator Ma. Regina Martin, in response to a call to allocate 15 percent of the countrys sugar production as C or reserve sugar, yesterday said she was studying all the options carefully.

Tanzania: New Sugar Body 'To End Shortages in the Region'- A new body has been launched to develop the sugar industry in East Africa as part of efforts to deal with the serious shortage of the essential commodity

National agencies aid sugar farmers- The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) is working with different government agencies to improve the produce of the countrys sugar farmers.

Maharashtra's sugar industry sour as policy issues remain unresolved- The Union budget has left the sugar industry embittered as it has failed to address many crucial policy issues of the sector, which provides annual revenue of about Rs4,381crore to the Union government.

Federal Government invested over half a Billion dollars in capital projects between 2004 and 2010 discloses Minister Skerritt- Federal Government of St. Kitts and Nevis pumped just over half a million dollars in actual capital investment over the past seven years, Minister of Tourism and International Transport, Sen. the Hon. Richard Ricky Skerritt has disclosed.

Sugar industry has never found a favourable space in Budgets- It was evident that the most threatening issue for the government is food inflation and the FMs Budget presentation made a determined effort at bringing in a new dynamism in the rural economy. The inclusion of warehouses and cold storage chains as part of the infrastructure sector is most welcome, as this will make it eligible for inclusion in the viability gap funding scheme and facilitate soft credit terms from banks. Excise duty on air-conditioning for cold storage is completely exempted; however, the major issue faced by promoters of these chains is the non-availability of quality power and the high costs of captive power generation. Some support for this would have boosted public-private partnerships in this sector.

Kenya: NEMA Refuses to License New Miwani Sugar Factory- The national environmental watchdog has declined to approve the construction of a multi-billion sugar factory on the outskirts of Kisumu citing a dispute over land ownership.

Appeals court overturns sugar beet injunction- Iowa Environmental groups failed to show that seed plants for sugar beets genetically modified to withstand the popular weed killer Roundup would cause irreparable harm, a federal appeals court said Friday in overturning an injunction that called for the destruction of the plants.

Monsanto wins case over modified sugar beets- A federal appeals court in San Francisco handed a victory Friday to Monsanto Co. and the U.S. Department of Agriculture when it reversed a ruling calling for the destruction of genetically modified sugar beet seedlings planted last year

Monsanto Wins Reversal of Order to Destroy Sugar Beet Plants- Monsanto Co. and the U.S. Agriculture Department won reversal of a judges order to destroy genetically modified sugar beet seedlings planted last year, a federal appeals court in San Francisco ruled today.

Sugar cane researchers 'hang up their lab coats'- The Sugar Research and Development Corporation recently announced funding of eight new capacity-building projects aimed at providing members of the sugarcane industry with professional development opportunities.

Orissa: Aska Cooperative scales new heights- Aska Cooperative Sugar Industries Limited (ACSIL) has produced around 66,700 quintal sugar during the current crushing season, around 28,605 quintals more than the previous year.

Al-Jaz: Plan for Execution of 13 Sugar Plants Projects in Pipeline- The Sugar Council headed by Dr Awad Al-Jaz has put forward 13 projects for the construction of sugar projects in the country to be completed in a phasing plan. The plan aims at achieving surplus for export.

Over 500 former sugar workers get assistance- Approximately 561 former sugar workers in Trelawny were presented with grant funding certificates, under the Government of Jamaica/European Union (EU) displaced sugar workers Economic Mitigation Programme on Wednesday February 23.

Ukraine in next two years could give up importing sugar, says Yanukovich- Ukraine in the next one or two years will be able to satisfy domestic demand for sugar with its own products and manage without imports, President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich has said.

India to finance Ethiopian sugar sector revamp

India has agreed to chip in for revamping the sugar industry in Ethiopia. Export-Import Bank of India has extended line of credit (LOC) of \$91 million to the government of Ethiopia, which is the fourth tranche of the total credit commitment of \$640 million for financing sugar industry rehabilitation in Ethiopia.

The agreement to this effect was signed recently. Exim Bank has earlier extended three LOCs, aggregating \$ 501.54 million to finance sugar industry rehabilitation in Ethiopia.

Exim Bank will reimburse 100 per cent of contract value to the Indian exporters, linked to the progress of the projects. The LOC will be used for financing at least 75 per cent of total contract value through sourcing of goods and services from India. Ethiopia, located in Eastern Africa, has also been the recipient of an earlier LOC of \$65 million extended for setting up an Electricity Transmission and Distribution Project in Ethiopia.

Tanzania: Hiked Sugar Price Irks Local Producer- A 50 kilogram bag of sugar is sold at 75,000/- by Kagera Sugar Company Limited in Bukoba town which translates to 1,500/- per kilogram hence retailers should sell it at not more than 1,700/- as Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda directed.

Tanzania: Give Me List of Sugar Profiteers, Pinda Orders- Bukoba Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has given Kagera Regional Commissioner Mohamed Babu seven days to present him with the names of traders buying sugar directly from the Kagera factory so that he could know why they sold the commodity at "unacceptably high" prices.

Nigeria: Dangote Invests \$1 Billion in Senegal- The senior adviser to the Senegalese president on foreign investment, Serigne Mbacke says Dangote Group has over one billion dollar (N150 billion) investment in cement manufacturing and sugarcane refinery in Senegal.

South Africa Agribusiness Report Q1 2011- This quarter sees revisions to our production forecasts for corn, wheat and sugar, and to our consumption forecast for poultry. Although corn production was lower than predicted - a phenomenon which was attributed to lower per hectare yields - 2009/10 was still a bumper harvest year. The fall in wheat production reflects an ongoing disincentive for farmers to produce, while

Nation to develop sugar projects with over 75 billion birr within five years- The sugar production in our country has some ups and downs. Consumers say that they couldn't get what they want due to either supply shortage or distribution problems. Walta Information and Public Relations Center has approached Ato Shemelis Kebede the Deputy Director General of Sugar Corporation to elaborate these issues.

India to finance Ethiopian sugar sector revamp - India has agreed to chip in for revamping the sugar industry in Ethiopia. Export-Import Bank of India has extended line of credit (LOC) of \$91 million to the government of Ethiopia, which is the fourth tranche of the total credit commitment of \$640 million for financing sugar industry rehabilitation in Ethiopia.

Jamaica sugar exports get passing grade- United States authorities have given the 7,270.42 metric tonnes of sugar sent from Jamaica in January a passing grade for its polarisation (the measurement of sucrose content), but has penalised the Sugar Industry Authority (SIA) for three other quality infractions that were detected during tests on the shipment.

Aquino bares economic vision- IN HIS speech before the business community of Negros Occidental Friday, President Benigno Aquino III expressed his pleasure to be back in the province for the first time since the May 2010 elections.

FSC delist a 'crucial' State move- THE delisting of the Fiji Sugar Corporation from the South Pacific Stock Exchange is a strategic move by the Government.

Sugar cane industry faces shortfall penalties- The damage from heavy rain, flooding and Cyclone Yasi to Queensland's sugar cane crops has left growers unable to meet export contracts.

Mauritius Sugar Output Recovery Lags; Output to Decline- Mauritius's sugar crop won't make up the delay in growth caused by earlier drought even after adequate rainfall last month, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute said.

It is shocking that Guyana produced less sugar than Jamaica and Belize in Jan 2011- Sugar has become very bitter under the PPP. But I never expected it to become this bitter. The PPP's dismantling of a vital industry was officially recorded and verified in the article Jamaica tops Caribbean sugar output in January (SN, March 4). In January 2011, Jamaica produced 22,872 tonnes, Belize 18,283 tonnes and Guyana delivered a shocking 9,806 tonnes. Imagine Belize produced almost double the amount of sugar produced by Guyana. This is the most disturbing legacy of the PPP because the PPP always claimed that it was the master of sugar.

FSC focuses on improving sugar industry- The Fiji Sugar Corporation is focusing on the overall improvement of the sugar industry - under the responsibility of its executive chairman Abdul Khan.

FSC targets 2011 improvement- Fixing the problems identified by engineers after the 2010 crushing season is the main priority right now for the Fiji Sugar Corporation

Great Plains Quarterly includes article about workers who helped build sugar beet industry- The winter issue Great Plains Quarterly includes articles about Cheyenne and Mennonite sewing circles and about beet field laborers in the North Platte Valley.

Nigeria: Senegal Confirms Dangote's Novel Investment- The Government of Senegal has confirmed that Dangote Group is the first wholly owned African Company to invest massively in the country.

Sugar row could turn sweet- Australia's only listed sugar producer, Maryborough Sugar Factory, believes it will gain from a bitter \$100 million dispute between its rival sugar millers and canegrowers, arguing the row will make them a more attractive partner in their plans to consolidate milling operations across Queensland.

Sugar production estimate lowered- The Philippines has cut slightly its raw sugar output estimate for the current crop year but officials said yesterday there was still no need for imports given ample stocks.

Bad weather spoils Guatemala's sugar prospects- Guatemala, one of the world's top sugar exporters, will produce less sugar than originally forecast this year after bad weather hit cane flowering, the national sugar association said on Monday.

FSC to stand alone- The Fiji Sugar Corporation is on the verge of operating without any reliance on government.

Bacaoco: The million peso 'misunderstanding'- When President Aquino visited Bacolod last Friday, he brought his economic managers to interact with leaders of the business, private and government sectors of the province. A sidelight of the visit was the separate interaction among the economic managers exclusively with the media.

Uganda: ERA in Tariff Dispute With Sugar Millers- The Uganda Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) has set the renewed energy feed-in tariff, as a row deepens with sugar millers demanding for it to be higher.

World-Herald editorial: Sugar beet debate- Sugar beet farmers in western Nebraska and across the country have a small victory: A U.S. appeals court will allow seeds for the 2012 genetically modified sugar beet crop to grow undisturbed. A U.S. district court ruling had ordered the seedlings destroyed.

Croc shock at sugar mill- Heavy rain and flooding in North Queensland have led to a reptilian visitor at a sugar mill.

Mumias calls for increased sugar production- Mumias Sugar Company (MSC) has said the country should strive to narrow down the 320,000 metric tonnes annual sugar shortfall before the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) safeguards expire.

BP in \$680m Brazilian bioethanol deal- Please respect FT.com's ts&cs and copyright policy which allow you to: share links; copy content for personal use; & redistribute limited extracts. Email ftsales.support@ft.com to buy additional rights or use this link to reference the article - <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/63fc17aa-4be7-11e0-9705-00144feab49a.html#ixzz1GYEuyPXV> BP is paying \$680m to acquire majority control of a Brazilian bioethanol and sugar producer in the latest move by the UK oil group to expand its operations in emerging markets.

Sugar Industry Back On Track- Only one turbine is functioning at Belcogen, but the Belize Sugar Industry resumed operations at 10:00 on Sunday morning, March 7, and all indications are that the sugar production is back on track.

Protests put projects worth Rs 40,000 crore on hold- Protests by local people and environmental organisations have put on hold projects worth over Rs 40,000 crore in north coastal Andhra Pradesh

Panel members differ on ethanol blending cap- Five of the eight members of the expert panel on ethanol pricing headed by Planning Commission member Saumitra Chaudhuri have not signed the final report submitted to the petroleum ministry. The absence of consensus among the committee members undermines the suggestion of a

cap on the use of ethanol for the ethanol blending programme (EBP) The petroleum ministry will now forward the report to the cabinet with its observations .

Sugar's bittersweet legacy- Marked by obscene wealth and desperate privation, the sugar trade has driven the world's economy for centuries

Sugar dispute worth millions- An ongoing dispute between Queensland Sugar Limited and its milling companies and canegrowers could reap multi-million dollar benefits for the Maryborough Sugar Factory.

ARCADIA BIOSCIENCES AND SESVANDERHAVE TO DEVELOP WATER EFFICIENT

SUGAR BEETS- Arcadia Biosciences, Inc, an agricultural technology company focused on developing technologies and products that benefit the environment and human health, and SESVanderHave, a leading sugar beet breeding and marketing company, today announced that they have signed an agreement to develop Water Efficient (WE) sugar beets.

Ukrsugar: sugar beet acreage to reach 570,000 ha- In 2011 sugar beet acreage in Ukraine will be approximately 570,000 hectares. This forecast was made by Ukrsugar director general Mykola Yarchuk during the Agribusiness in Ukraine forum, organized by the Adam Smith Institute

Sugar reform- Government has restated its commitment to the Fiji Sugar Corporation and the sugar industry despite a recent International Monetary Fund report recommending that it divest its shares in the corporation.

Program rewards green farming- Farmers will be supported in their efforts to keep chemicals and nutrients on farms and out of waterways, thanks to a new program launched in Mackay today.

Southern Africa: non-tariff trade barriers springing up - Zambian trade consultant John Kasanga cites countless examples of non-tariff barriers across the region: Zambia protects its sugar industry from cheaper imports from Zimbabwe by demanding that all imported sugar be fortified with vitamin A.

Group urges donation of seized smuggled sugar to Japan - PhilippinesSmuggled sugar confiscated at the Manila International Port may be sent as part of the Philippines' assistance to Japan, which is reeling from the devastation caused by the massive March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Zimbabwe: Sugarcane Farmers, Tongaat Hulett Clash- Sugarcane farmers in Chiredzi are up in arms with sugar processor Tongaat Hulett, which they accuse of undermining their viability.

S.Africa's Illovo says may opt to produce biofuels- South Africa's Illovo Sugar may opt to produce biofuel from sugarcane if it makes commercial sense, its managing director said late on Wednesday.

Swaziland Sugar Output May Rise 12% on Increased Land, Industry Group Says- Sugar output in Swaziland, Africa's third-biggest producer of the sweetener, may

increase 12 percent this year as more land is put under cultivation by small-scale farmers, the country's industry board said.

Kenya: Cane Earns Farmers a Sweet Sh.2.5 Billion- Strategically located on the fast-growing Bungoma County, Nzoia Sugar Company stands to reap the benefits of the devolved system of governance in the New Constitution.

Commission to set sugar price- The Commerce Commission is in the process of setting a price for sugar sold in the country, says chairman Dr Mahendra Reddy.

Cane farmers will not be neglected: PM- Sugar cane farmers will not be neglected and will receive the same treatment as workers of the Fiji Sugar Corporation says Prime Minister and Minister for Sugar Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama.

Fiji sugar is here to stay: Vaniqi- The Sugar industry has been around for more than 100 years and is here to stay says Sugar Ministry Permanent Secretary Manasa Vaniqi

Poor-performing sugar prices face further collapse- A jump in production may condemn sugar to maintaining its place as the worst-performing commodity, despite a revival in the price of the sweetener on Thursday on Brazil weather concerns.

House to debate sugar firms Privatisation Bill- The acting Managing Director of the Kenya Sugar Board Solomon Odera says Parliament will soon discuss the privatisation of sugar mills.

Kenya: Sugar Production Up by 30 Percent- Sugar production in Kenya has increased by 30 per cent over the last ten years, Kenya Sugar Board has said. Board acting CEO Solomon Odera said amount of sugar produced by the eight millers rose from 377,438 metric tonnes in 2001 to 523,652 metric tonnes in 2010 posting a 39 per cent growth.

Imperial Sugar: Catalysts Poised to Push Company Higher - The sweet spot for Imperial Sugar (IPSU) has arrived. It is time to back up the truck and harvest the abundance of low hanging fruit.

Tanzanian sugar production to be boosted by weather- Fine weather will boost Tanzania's 2010/11 (April to March) sugar output by 18% this year but imports will still be needed, the country's industry regulator on Wednesday.

Sugar mills expects to earn Rs 150-200/qtl more from exports - Sugar mills, which were allowed yesterday to export 5 lakh tonne of sweetener, are expecting sales realisation from overseas sales to be about Rs 200 per quintal higher as compared to domestic rates.

Sri Lanka Pelwatte Sugar parent trims stake- Sri Lanka's Master Divers (Pvt) Ltd, the parent of Pelwatte Sugar Industries said it had sold down 2.66 million shares at prices ranging from 37.10 to 40.10 rupees.

Additional payment for cane farmers- Cane farmers around the country will be paid out \$3.50 per tonne as the third cane payment for the 2010 crop.

Tourism may replace sugar as economic backbone- The Tourism Industry could surpass the Sugar Industry to become the backbone of Fiji's economy says the permanent secretary for Tourism, Elizabeth Powell.

Sudan officials visit Bundy- A team of Sudanese officials got their first taste of Bundaberg hospitality when they visited Walkers foundry to check progress on a \$25 million sugar mill machinery contract.

LBI sugar workers protest relocation to Enmore- Factory workers at the LBI sugar estate protested yesterday over their relocation to the Enmore estate and packaging plant.

Study: More sugar means more weight- In almost 30 years, greater sugar consumption by U.S. men and women corresponded to the same upward trend in body weight, researchers say.

Lead author Huifen Wang, a doctoral candidate in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, says the researchers' heart study included six surveys looking at subjects' diet, height and weight, conducted during the period of 1980 to 2009.

SRA steps up drive vs sugar smuggling- The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) is intensifying its campaign against sugar smuggling after prices in the world market fell below domestic prices.

Engineered Organisms for Making Cheap Sugar- One company's method for low-cost, high-yield sugar production could help biofuels compete with fossil fuels.

Swaziland sugar output seen up 25% in 5 years- Swaziland's sugar production is likely to jump by a quarter in the next five years, thanks to more land being put under cultivation, an industry group said on Friday. Mike Matsebula, chief executive of Swaziland Sugar Association, told Reuters at a conference on sugar in the Kenyan capital Nairobi the southern African producer of the sweetener will also raise production by about 11 percent this year.

Poland urges EU to up sugar production cap- Poland's farm minister urged the EU on Friday to raise the bloc's sugar production cap and said the Polish consumer protection body should investigate a recent rise in retail sugar prices

EC sugar measures for next year 'premature', says industry- EU food industry representatives have termed premature' the proposal by the European Commission (EC) to allow 650,000 tonnes of out of quota sugar exports from October.

Simbhaoli Sugar aims to up power generation capacity to 115 MWh- Uttar Pradesh-based Simbhaoli Sugars' board has approved a business restructuring plan under which it will spin off its alcohol and power businesses to subsidiary companies.

SCJ Holdings falters on sugar payments- SCJ Holdings Limited's failure to stick to a repayment schedule agreed with Jamaica Cane Product Sales (JCPS) has forced the

latter entity to secure a J\$500-million loan facility from National Commercial Bank to ensure that sufficient funding is available to complete the 2010-11 crop.

Harry J's control of Pelwatte Sugar main feature this week- The Colombo indices were stuck in the groove this week as opposed to the free falls earlier, but a few strategic moves were made. A major investment was businessman Harry Jayewardena entry through Melstacorp, a Distilleries subsidiary, into the sugar business by securing a 47% stake in Pelwatte Sugar Industries purchasing 32 million shares at Rs. 27.50 each. The share price of Distilleries however has not got disturbed.

Tanzania: Board to Control White Sugar Imports- The Tanzania Sugar Board (TSB) will evaluate the fast growing consumption rate of industrial sugar to block any attempt of diverting the commodity into the domestic market.

Association pegs South African sugar output down- South Africa's 2010/11 sugar output is estimated at 1.909m tonnes, slightly down from a previous forecast of 1.911m tonnes, the latest estimate by the South African Sugar Association (SASA) showed on Monday.

Sugar mills accept findings of independent review- Queensland sugar millers have accepted the outcome of an independent review into last year's \$105 million production shortfall.

Sugar woes- People should expect to pay high prices for the next few months to purchase imported sugar from shops and supermarkets for their daily needs.

Punjab sugar output touches 2.95 mn quintals- The increase in the sugarcane area in Punjab and better recovery percentage has yielded its results, as the sugar output in the state has increased dramatically over the last year. According to the data, sugar output in the state touched 2.95 million quintals in the current crushing season as compared to 1.82 million quintals during the corresponding period last year.

Mawana Sugars to double branded sugar output - Mawana Sugars plans to double its branded sugar output to 20,000 tonnes in FY12, a top official said on Monday.

Cane planters warn Commerce chief- Sugarcane planters are threatening to protest at the Commerce Ministry this week if the ministry goes ahead with its plan to seek 400 million baht from the Cane and Sugar Fund to compensate sugar producers for packaging costs in a move to encourage them to supply more one-kilogramme packages through modern-trade retailers.

Sugar production in Mozambique totals 281,700 tons in 2010-Mozambique's sugar production in 2010 totalled 281,700 tons, reflecting a year on year rise of 12 percent, according to a report from Mozambican newspaper Noticias, citing sources from the Centre for Commercial Agriculture Promotion (Cepagri).

SRA steps up drive vs sugar smuggling- The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) is intensifying its campaign against sugar smuggling after prices in the world market fell below domestic prices.

Engineered Organisms for Making Cheap Sugar- One company's method for low-cost, high-yield sugar production could help biofuels compete with fossil fuels.

Poland urges EU to up sugar production cap- Poland's farm minister urged the EU on Friday to raise the bloc's sugar production cap and said the Polish consumer protection body should investigate a recent rise in retail sugar prices.

Sudan: New Halfa Sugar Factory Produces More Than 60,000 Tons of White Sugar-
The General Director of New Halfa Sugar Factory, Engineer Abdalla Khalid Hamad, affirmed that the sugar productivity in the current season is progressing according to the set plans.

Sugar ships still stuck at sea- After damage from the Christmas floods closed the Bundaberg Port, the weather is still delaying the export of sugar from the facility.

Sugar bodies co-operate on outcome of crippled season- Sugar bodies say that constructive dialogue between millers and QSL has allowed the Queensland sugar industry to agree an outcome to manage the production shortfall experienced during the last sugar harvest.

EU sugar changes dent Real Good Food sales- Food manufacturing and distribution business The Real Good Food Company plc reported sales down 7% to 200.1m from 215.6m in 2010, which it said was due to the impact of EU sugar regime reforms. Group EBITDA was flat at 5.6m. Profit before tax and significant items increased to 2.34m from 2.15m

Cuba struggles to meet sugar production target- Cuba's dilapidated sugar industry will struggle to produce 1m tonnes of raw sugar this season, with only around 800,000 tonnes harvested and less than a month of ideal yield weather remaining, according to official media.

Mexico Expects Record Sugar Exports To US From 2010-11 Harvest- Mexico's sugar exports are expected to reach a record high this season after a freeze in the U.S. damaged production there and Mexico's increasing consumption of high fructose corn syrup continues to displace its own demand for the natural sweetener.

LUGAR: Sweet deal for Big Sugar- The collapse of communism brought an end to many of the world's command-and-control economic systems and central planning by government bureaucrats. But a notable exception is the United States government's sugar program. A complicated system of marketing allotments, price supports, purchase guarantees, quotas and tariffs that only a Soviet apparatchik could love, the U.S. sugar program has actually lasted longer than the Soviet Union itself.

Who are the biggest polluters in South Florida?- Air pollution from power plants, factories and sugar mills plunged in South Florida over the past few years as manufacturing plants shut down, consumer demand fell and companies took steps to cut emissions of harmful chemicals.

Sugar recommendations to cost Jamaica \$100 million- The Jamaican Government will spend \$100 million over the next four years to carry out the recommendations of the Sugar Enquiry Commission.

Regulatory body to review electricity costing method- Cabinet has instructed the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) to review its approach to pricing electricity sold to the national grid, by private producers.

Low recovery in UP, Maharashtra may depress sugar output- India's overall sugar output is unlikely to surpass 24 million tonnes during the current crushing season, due to a steep decline in recovery in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the country's leading producers. The country produced 18.8 mt of sugar last year.

VIETNAM: SUGAR PRODUCTION SLOWS DUE TO GLUT, LOW PRICES- Some sugar producers are temporarily halting production due to a glut in supply and a sharp decline in market prices, the Vietnam Sugar and Sugar Cane Association said Monday.

Sugar Tripartite Council readies for nat'l congress- Members of the District Tripartite Council in the Sugar Industry in Region VI and the Department of Labor and Employment yesterday conducted a pre-congress meeting to discuss and propose

amendments on the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 6982 or the Sugar Amelioration Act of 1991.

Sugar industry will bounce back: SCGC- The Sugar Cane Growers Council believes there should be sufficient sugar for the local market before it is sold to international buyers.

Tanzania: Board to Control White Sugar Imports- The Tanzania Sugar Board (TSB) will evaluate the fast growing consumption rate of industrial sugar to block any attempt of diverting the commodity into the domestic market.

Association pegs South African sugar output down- South Africa's 2010/11 sugar output is estimated at 1.909m tonnes, slightly down from a previous forecast of 1.911m tonnes, the latest estimate by the South African Sugar Association (SASA) showed on Monday.

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Engineered Organisms for Making Cheap Sugar- One company's method for low-cost, high-yield sugar production could help biofuels compete with fossil fuels.

RM788 MILLION SPENT TO SUBSIDISE SUGAR LAST YEAR- The government spent RM788 million to subsidize 1.26 million metric tonnes of sugar last year, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Negros planters' exec: Sugar smuggling continues'Sugar producers in Negros Occidental province were surprised at the failure of Wednesday's bidding because there were no bidders for the previous week's sugar production.

Haryana cooperative sugar mills produce 18.20 lakh qts sugar- Cooperative Sugar Mills in Haryana have so far produced 18.20 lakh quintals of sugar by crushing 221.79 lakh quintals of sugarcane during the current crushing season.

Improved Irrigation Revives Holguin Sugar Industry- Edecio Ochoa Vzquez, 65, is a retired worker who dedicates important part of his time to assisting in the implementation of projects to restore water canals and farming infrastructure in areas of the Celia Snchez Basic Unit of Cooperative Production (UBPC), attached to the Urbano Noris Sugar Mill in the eastern Cuban province of Holguin.

Ethanol pricing report signed with dissent notes- The final report on the price of ethanol set by a committee of the Planning Commission has been signed with dissent notes from the ministries of food and oil and natural gas. The final report submitted to the members last week has decided the price of ethanol to be Rs 26.76 a litre, followed by a quarterly revision of the price based on a formula. The formula on pricing of ethanol, which is the first part of the report, has linked the price of ethanol to motor spirit gasoline, adjusted with excise payments.

that sector.

Ethanol 'holds the key' to future of sugar industry- Crude oil prices on a higher plateau should encourage sugar producers to diversify into ethanol production, helping to cushion the impact of an inevitable fall in the price of the sweetener, a global sugar body said.

Global ethanol production from all sources is expected to surge to 140 billion litres a year by 2015 from 90 billion now.

Although the bulk of global ethanol production is from corn, sugar cane is an important source of the liquid.

Ethanol holds the key' to future of sugar industry- Crude oil prices on a higher plateau should encourage sugar producers to diversify into ethanol production, helping to cushion the impact of an inevitable fall in the price of the sweetener, a global sugar body said.

\$25M Sudan ethanol project: first sugar shipments this week- In Germany (sic), a group of Sudanese officials, including Awad Ahmed Eljazz, Sudanese Industry Minister,

along with other representatives from both Sudan and India, toured the Walkers Foundry to see the progress on a \$25 million sugar mill machinery contract.