World Association of
Beet and Cane Growers

NEWS FROM WABCG

OCTOBER 2026

EDITO

And here we go again! The sugar market is once again on a rollercoaster, shaken by oil prices and fluctuations in the Brazilian real against the US dollar. What a ride! For us growers, it is becoming increasingly difficult to anticipate sugar prices when so many external factors are at play.



Of course, these same factors also affect our production costs. And, as always, we continue to look for ways to keep them under control, trying to strike the right balance between minimising costs per hectare and protecting our expected yields.

This is precisely what will be at the heart of our discussions in London later this month: how can we optimise our production costs? How can we work together, share experiences and learn from each other to become more efficient?

More than 90 participants have already registered for our meeting at Church House on 30 November, and I am delighted! I am also very much looking forward to our field visit, reserved for WABCG members: more than 40 of us will have the pleasure of visiting our friend Michael Sly's farm, north of London. A big thank you to our colleagues at NFU Sugar for helping us organise what promises to be a memorable visit!

To all of you: good luck with your final preparations, have a safe journey to London, and see you very soon!

Owen Menkens, President
WABCG

NEWS FROM UNITED KINGDOM

The topic on everyone's minds this year has been the weather. This year was the hottest summer on record in the UK, with a significant lack of rainfall across the start and middle of summer also leading to 75% of England being in official drought status. These record-breaking conditions have led to a challenging growing season for sugar beet growers in the UK. Despite some rain at the end of the summer, the crop across the whole growing area has struggled to recover from significant heat and drought stress, and where regrowth has happened, this is expected to be at the detriment of sugar levels.



Dry and hot conditions have also further compounded emerging disease and pest pressures across the UK. Virus Yellows remains the single biggest single threat to the homegrown sugar industry in the UK, and modelling predicted exceptionally high aphid pressure this year, the highest since the loss of highly effective seed treatment controls in 2020. This led the industry to secure an emergency authorisation for a second application of Insyst SG on sugar beet in 2026. However, widespread drought stress has caused significant yellowing of





leaves across the sugar beet crop, making it difficult to distinguish whether symptoms are the result of Virus Yellows infection or not. Moreover, increased pressure from novel pests, such as beet moth and beet army worm, has exacerbated the situation further underlining the need for a proportionate, science-based regulatory approach to plant protection products.



Another issue that has dominated the minds of UK sugar beet growers this year has been the announcement by the UK's sole sugar beet buyer/processor, British Sugar, that they are proposing to cease their beet processing activities at their factory site in Cantley, Norfolk following the end of this year's campaign. Cantley is currently one of four processing factories in the UK and is the oldest beet processing factory in the country. NFU Sugar is seeking long-term assurances from British Sugar about their commitment to domestically grown sugar beet and is calling for their commitment that no growers will be financially disadvantaged by this proposal.

At the time of writing, we await the EU-UK Summit set to take place on the 20th November in Brussels, when a deal to dynamically align UK and EU rules on plant and animal health, organics and disease control is expected to be announced. For UK sugar growers the key impacts are likely to be changes to the plant protection regime, particularly as several key active ingredients used in the UK are no longer approved for use in the EU. Unpacking the impact of this announcement will dominate 2027 and beyond.

Looking ahead to next year, negotiations for the sugar beet contract for 2027/28 finally concluded in October. This was later than previous years as the arbitration process (outlined in the Inter-Professional Agreement (IPA)) was triggered by British Sugar in early August. Negotiations continued in parallel, leading to an agreement before the arbitration hearing. The contract details are available on the NFU Sugar webpages. The contract price is lower than previous years, reflecting market conditions around Europe, so the middle-dollar question is how much tonnage/area will be grown in the UK in 2027. The contracting window has just opened, so we'll know soon.

Lydia Ballamy, Adviser (Sugar Beet)
NFU-Sugar, United Kingdom

WABCG meetings

WABCG/ISO Consultation
30 November 2026
London, United Kingdom
(with a field visit on 29th November for WABCG members)
Not yet registered? Contact us!

WABCG Council
31 May to 3 June 2027
Mauritius

News from India

The Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune, India, is an Associated member of WABCG.

The Indian sugar industry has an opening stock of 8.81 million tonnes of sugar for the season 2025-26. The sugar production (white value) was 27.90 million tonnes in the season 2025-26 which was 6.86% more than the past season (26.11 million tonnes). This increase in production can be attributed to the increase in sugar production of major states viz. Maharashtra (22.00%), Karnataka (17.00%). The country's sugar production is likely to be 29.50 million tonnes (raw value) in forthcoming season 2026-27. The sugarcane production is expected to be 439.55 million tonnes during season 2025-26 as compared to previous season's production of 390.67 million tonnes.



Under the Ethanol Blending Program (EBP) of India, total 9870.00 million liters of ethanol were supplied to OMC for 2025-26 (Nov.- till Sept.) out of that contribution from sugar mills was 2820.00 million liters with 20.00% blending percentage. Around 1510.00 million liters has been produced from sugarcane juice, 1150.00 million liters from B heavy molasses, 160.00 million liters from C molasses, 700.00 million liters from damaged food grains, 4130.00 million liters from maize and 2220.00 million liters from subsidized rice.

Sambhaji Kadupatil, Director General,
Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune, India

Indian Sugar Scenario

(In Million tonnes)

Sugar	2025-26*	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Number of mills in operation	541	534	535	534	524
Opening stocks	8.81	11.95	10.02	11.81	14.60
Production	27.90	26.11	31.88	32.79	35.53
Imports	3.20	2.60	3.52	1.37	0.34
Consumption	28.00	28.25	29.86	27.85	27.22
Exports	3.40	3.60	3.60	8.10	11.43
Closing stocks	8.51	8.81	11.95	10.02	11.81
Stock % Consumption	30.38	31.18	40.02	35.98	43.39

***Estimate**

Source: ISO Quarterly Market Outlook (Nov. 2024, May 2025, Aug. 2026)