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PRESS STATEMENT

CEFS PUBLISHES ANNUAL STATISTICS ON EU BEET SUGAR SECTOR FOR 2021/22

Today CEFS (the European Association of Sugar Manufacturers) publishes its annual statistics report for the sugar marketing year 2021/22. The report provides key figures on the EU beet sugar sector, many of which are only collected by CEFS.

Overall, 2021/22 was a recovery year for the EU beet sugar following the effects of the beet yellows virus that previously affected top EU sugar producing countries.

CEFS Director-General Marie-Christine Ribera said: "Our sector has shown incredible resilience in the face of increased input costs, the decreasing availability of plant protection products and increased availability of third-country sugar on the EU market, while still recovering from the end of quotas. But we need support to ensure EU sugar production remains viable so we can continue to contribute to the EU's food security and provide employment in rural areas."

Despite increased energy costs caused by the post-Covid rebound in demand, EU sugar manufacturers ensured consistent supply. EU sugar production rose by 14.4% to 16.2 million tonnes produced in the 2021/22 campaign – the highest level since 2017/18.

However, this year's severe summer drought in many EU regions is expected to reduce production to around 15 million tonnes in 2022/23.

For the fourth consecutive year the total number of beet sugar factories in the EU fell, with the closure of two factories in Croatia and Romania bringing the number of operational factories during the 2021/22 campaign to 89. In 2022/23 88 factories were operational.

Beet sugar factories in the EU continue to provide highly skilled industrial and remunerative jobs in rural areas. During the 2021/22 campaign 24,000 workers were directly employed in sugar production. But employment in the sector has been decreasing. Since 2017/18, the first year after the end of production quotas, 4,600 fewer people are directly employed by the EU sugar sector.

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