

CEFS FACT SHEET ON AUSTRALIA



ABOUT AUSTRALIA



Fourth largest sugar exporter in the world



Average Production: **C. 4 MILLION TONNES** per year

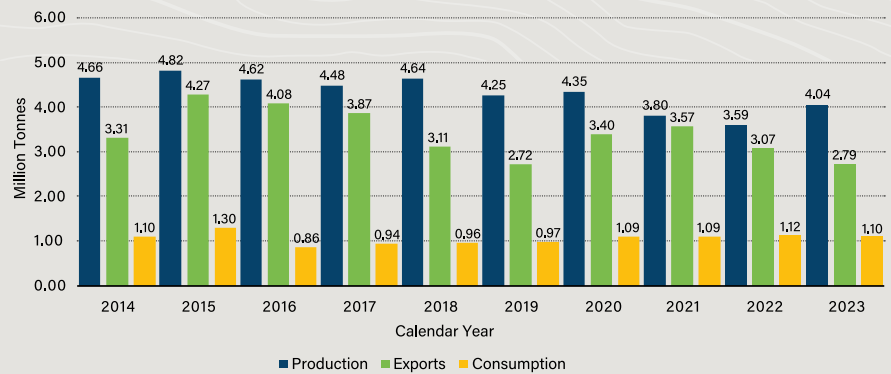


Figure 1: Australia's sugar production, exports and internal consumption 2014-2023. Source: International Sugar Organisation (2024).



70% of the production is exported

5% of the world sugar exports by volume

High degree of **agricultural competitiveness.**



Australia ranks among the most efficient and competitive sugar-producing countries in the world due to the low production costs, especially when compared with other major cane producers and the EU sugar industry.



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GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



Indirect support e.g. through agricultural infrastructure development programs and support to farmers impacted by commodity market fluctuations and regular climatic accidents.

Promotion of ethanol production via implementation of blending mandates in two states:

- (a) Queensland: 10-year Biofutures Roadmap launched in 2017 to develop bioenergy sector. Sugar cane and biofuels are at the core of this program.
- (b) New South Wales: Biofuels Act (2007) encouraging use of ethanol and of other biofuels.



Source: Meriot, 2022

SUSTAINABILITY



At least 30 active substances banned/prohibited in the EU are authorised for use on sugar cane in Australia.



Negative impacts on water quality, aquatic organisms, sediment, algal blooms and coral depletion owing to high nutrient use and runoff.



Bonsucro-certified sugar cane cultivation which allows the use of active substances banned in the European Union, such as neonicotinoids.

Source: S&P Global, WTO



Burning sugar cane still takes place in Australia, polluting the air and damaging the health of local populations and workers due to the presence of toxic components released in the combustion process.