



Global Alliance – Media Release

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Australia, Brazil and Guatemala join forces in WTO action

Meeting in Cairns, Global Sugar Alliance members are united in their support of calls to establish a World Trade Organisation (WTO) Panel to investigate and rule on India's harmful sugar subsidies.

The action, being pursued by Global Sugar Alliance members Australia, Brazil and Guatemala, is the next step in bringing India to account for its trade-distorting sugar policies. It is a serious and important escalation of the concerns, first raised by Australia and Brazil in 2018, about the impact of India's sugar policies at both a national and state level.

The adverse impacts of India's sugar policies have been felt around the world. The dumping of subsidised sugar on the global market has driven down prices, reduced incomes and put jobs at risk in the world's most efficient sugar industries.

"India, like all WTO members, agreed to abide by a set of international rules and commitments that enable world trade and disallow unfair and trade-distorting subsidies," Global Sugar Alliance Chairman, and QSL Managing Director, Greg Beashel said. "It is time to bring India to account."

"India's sugarcane prices must be linked to the sugar prices and its excessive export subsidies eliminated. The first important steps could be to divert India's excess sugar to ethanol production and to ensure any remaining supports comply with its WTO commitments", added Eduardo Leão de Sousa, Executive Director of Brazil's sugarcane industry association, UNICA.

Guatemalan Sugar Association International Trader, Leopoldo Bolaños, said Guatemala was left with "no option" but to join the WTO action.

"We simply had to add join our Australian and Brazilian friends in taking this WTO action. Our industries are suffering significant injury as a direct result of India's subsidies," he said.

The action by Australia, Brazil and Guatemala has the overwhelming support of our fellow Global Sugar Alliance members.

"The Thai sugar industry is fully supportive of the action" said Vibul Panitvong, Chairman of the Executive Board, Thai Sugar Millers Corporation. "We are working with our government, asking it to support Australia, Brazil and Guatemala in this important WTO initiative."

It's a position echoed by Canadian Sugar Institute President, Sandra Marsden.

"The action is necessary because India is ignoring its WTO obligations. We are encouraging the Canadian Government to join as a third party, once a Panel is established," Ms Marsden said.

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About us:

The Global Sugar Alliance priority is to secure a world in which sugar can be traded freely across regional and global markets. This means reducing border protection, remove trade distorting domestic supports and eliminating export subsidies.

The Global Sugar Alliance brings together 85% of the world cane sugar exports. The Global Sugar Alliance members (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, India, Guatemala, South Africa and Thailand) are active advocates to improve the world sugar trading environment. Members work closely together to ensure the fair and equal treatment of sugar and ethanol. We work closely with our governments to remove restrictions that prevent consumers and sugar users, wherever they are located from accessing the most competitively produced sugar and ethanol in the world.