

# **Sugar & Ethanol India Conference**

"Tales of the Global Sugar Market"

Peter de Klerk Senior Economist International Sugar Organization

January 7<sup>th</sup> 2023





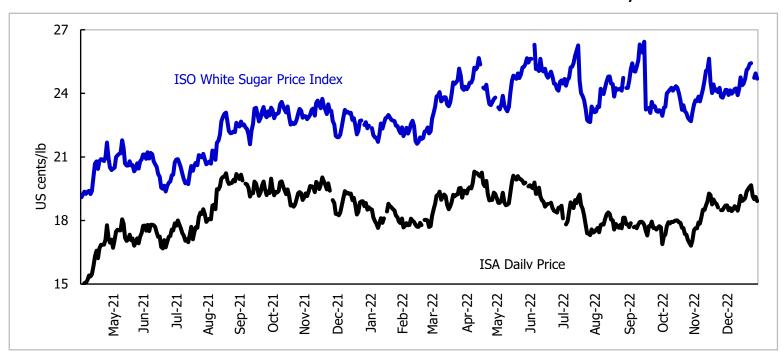
Fundamentals

India

Conclusion

### **Market Insight - Today**

ISO has maintained a neutral-to-bearish view since May 2022



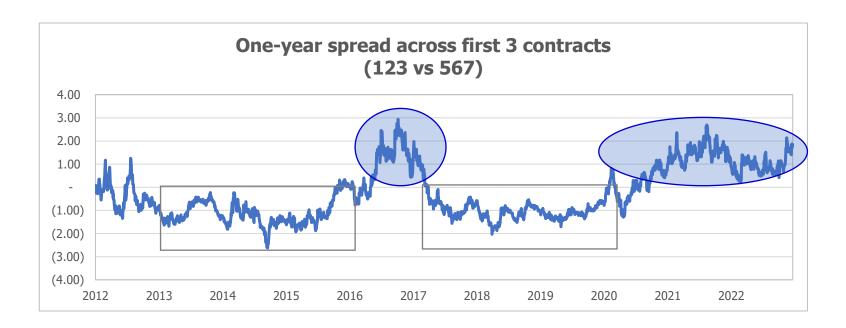


Fundamentals

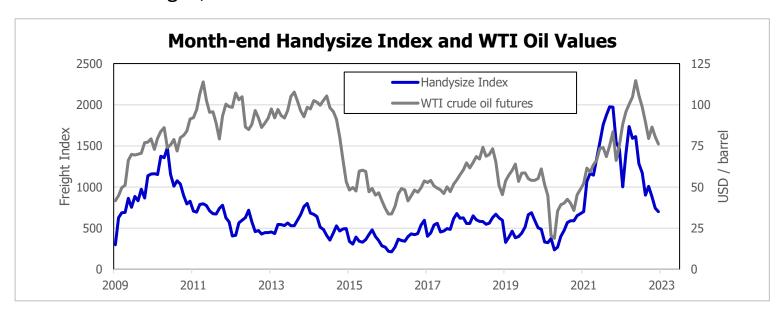
India

Conclusion

- ISO has maintained a neutral-to-bearish view since May 2022
- Contract expiries have been at premiums to the deferred contracts



- ISO has maintained a neutral-to-bearish view on market since May
- Contract expiries have been at premiums to the deferred contracts
- Freight continues to be costly, but charter rates are down 50% from Oct21 highs, fuel costs are also lower

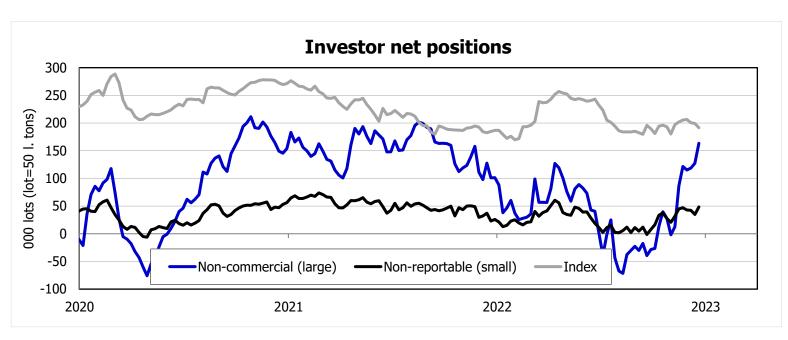




Fundamentals India Conclusion

- ISO has maintained a neutral-to-bearish view on market since May
- Contract expiries have been at premiums to the deferred contracts
- Freight continues to be costly, but charter rates are down 50% from Oct21 highs, fuel costs are also lower
- USD strength, through Federal Reserve policy and safe-haven status, is driving up domestic cost profiles
- Producers are struggling with high input costs and competition for arable land





- Speculators liquidated stale-longs in third quarter 2022, now reestablishing long interest in sugar
  - +ve = Liquidity; offset bigger producer hedge
  - -ve = target stress (margin, pricing); algos dominate

# **Production and Consumption**

#### **Units: mln tonnes**

2022/23

= +6.185

(+5.256)

(+2.768)

2021/22

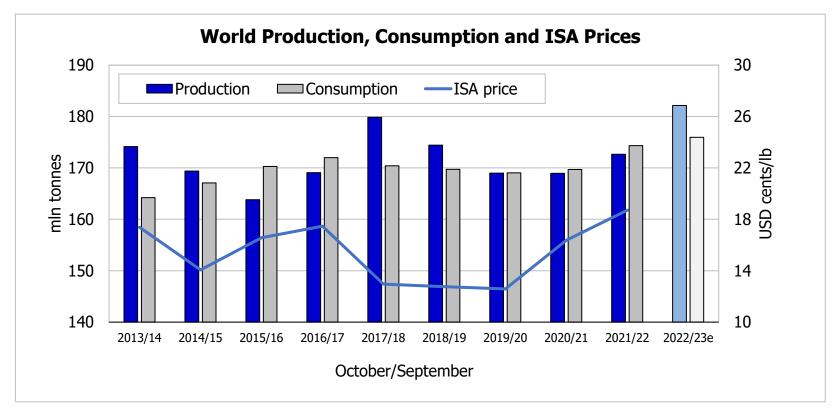
= -1.665

(-1.246)

(+0.237)

(-2.552),

(-3.829)



- 2021/22 balance impacted by delayed S. Hemisphere harvests
- 2022/23 outlook is bearish, but no allowance for negative news

#### **Production**

**Units: mln tonnes** 

2022/23

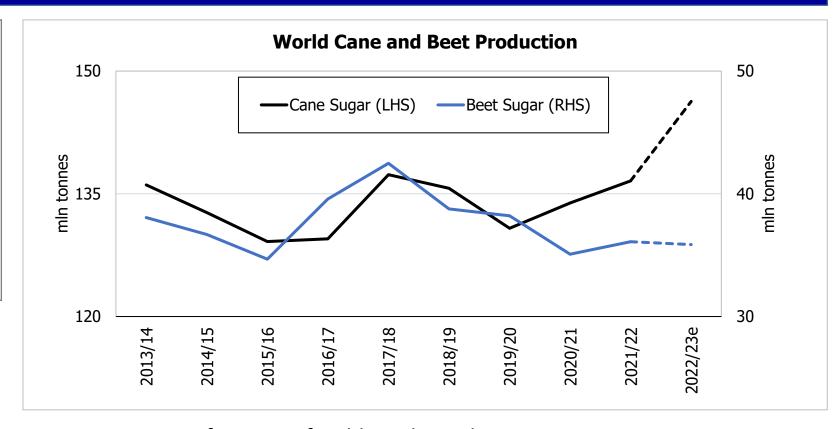
cane=146.289

beet = 35.853

2021/22

cane=136.570

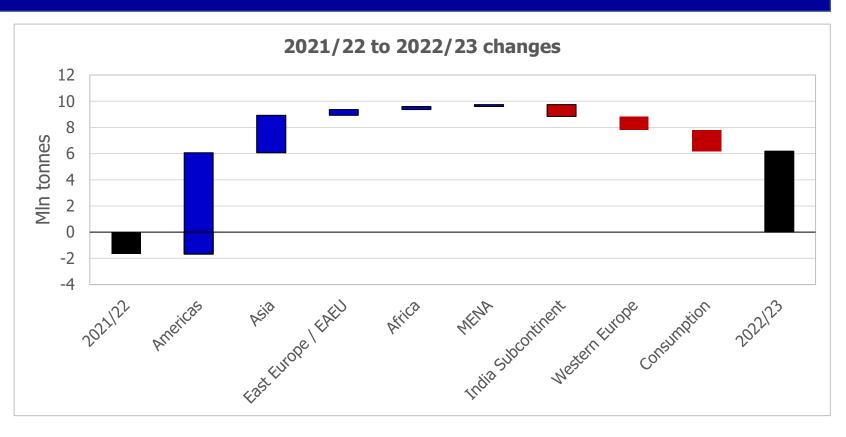
beet = 36.092



- Cane rise is a function of yields and weather
- Change in Brazil output profile is key (+7.833 mln tonnes)
- Beet result were perceived as positive following hot EU summer



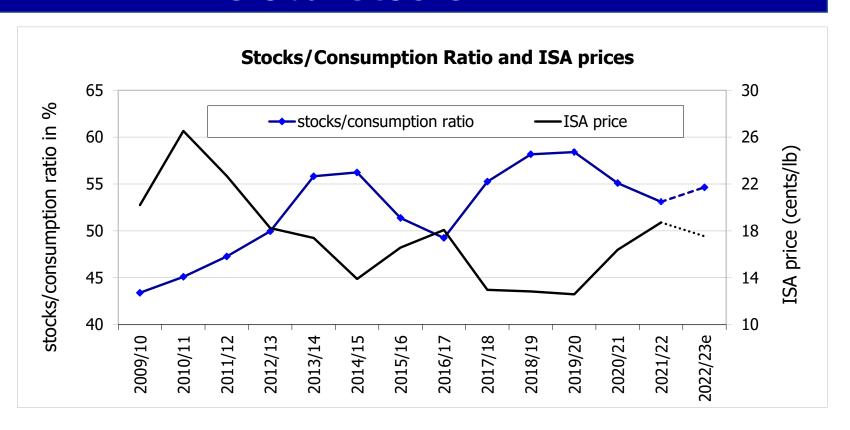
#### **Neutral to Bearish**



- Rise in Americas is almost exclusively in Brazil
- Change in Asia reflects a further increase in Thailand and recoveries in China and Australia



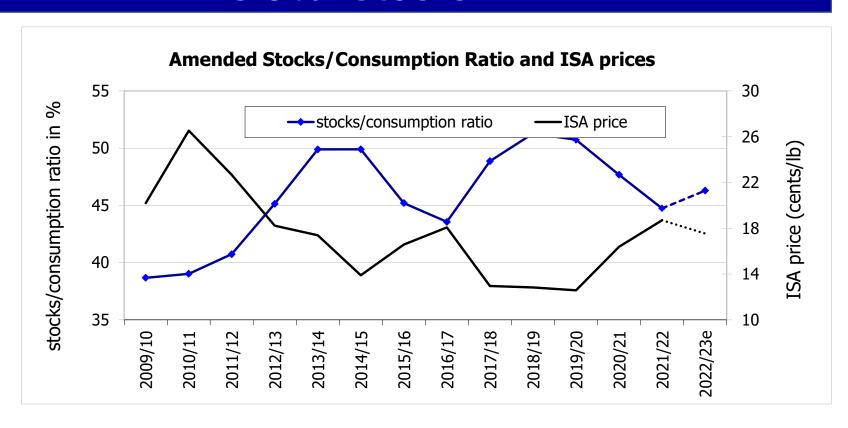
#### **Global Stocks**



- Attitudes towards stocks rather than stock levels have changed
- 2022/23 stock increase around half the current surplus
- Internal review of methodology ongoing



#### **Global Stocks**



- More in line with de-facto global situation
- Matches methodology in other commodities regarding losses
- 10% swing in ratio



# Indian sugar in a global context

- Global trade was in disarray following the pandemic and Suez blockage
  - Just in case vs Just in time
  - Freight costs regionalized markets
  - National policy restricted re-export trade
- Trade issues today are much closer to home
  - Truck strikes about pay and conditions
  - Import parity beyond domestic prices, partly due to strong USD
  - Foreign exchange availability
  - Consumer choices around food basket
- India's 3-way opportunity
  - Domestic market and public distribution objectives
  - Solidify foothold in export market (for chosen destinations)
  - Advance the ethanol programme



### **Export Challenges**

#### Thailand

- Projected to produce 12 mln tonnes from 110 mln tonnes of cane
- Q4 output = 15% compared to India's 35%
- Exports to rise by 3.2 mln tonnes on last season to 8 mln tonnes
- Flexibility to produce raws and whites remelt programme

#### Refiners

Regional re-exporting refiners - UAE, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia Other exporting refiners (with surplus containers) = Algeria, Morocco Advantages in white sugar logistics, fuel cost or feedstock

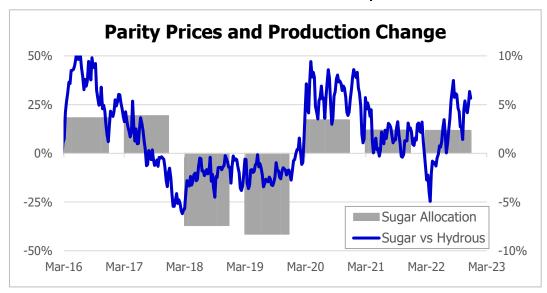
#### Buyers

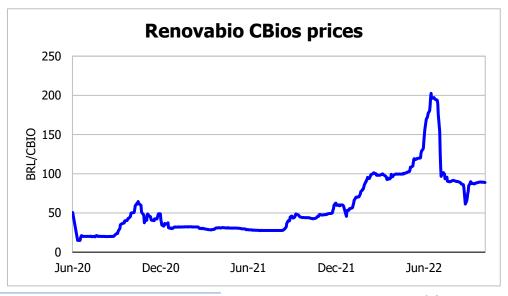
Higher prices in domestic currency Tighter foreign exchange situation Inflationary pressures



# **Thoughts on Ethanol**

- Sugarcane is the only primary feedstock
  - Spoiled grains, surplus rice are similar to UCO and spent starch
  - Single-stage fermentation process no hydrolysis
  - Low external energy sourcing makes it cost-effective and circular
- Lessons from Brazil
  - Market price underpinning requires blend flexibility
  - Secondary market for carbon credit / GHG benefits

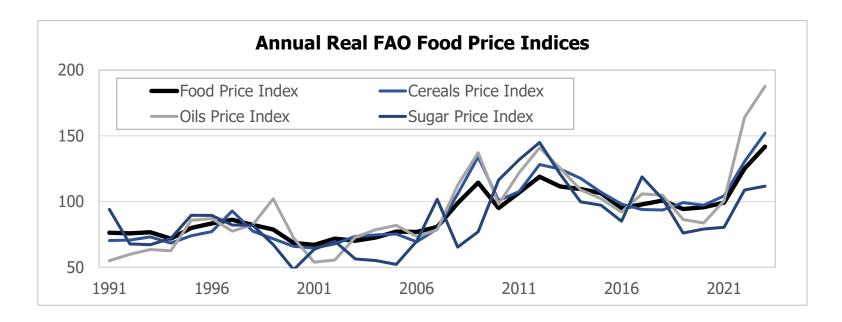






#### **Medium Term Outlook**

- La Nina cycle could impact outlook, projected surplus under review
- Production cost profile gives a base value to market
- Competition for land is increasing oils and cereals have risen more





Fundamentals India Conclusion

#### **Medium Term Outlook**

- La Nina cycle could impact outlook, projected surplus under review
- Production cost profile gives a base value to market
- Competition for land is increasing oils and cereals have risen more
- Speculators disrupted many markets in last 6 months, containment measures remain difficult to apply
- Sugarcane's high yield and other credentials not always recognized or promoted



# **Sugar & Ethanol India Conference**

#### Thank you

Peter de Klerk Senior Economist economics@isosugar.org

