

Press release

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Campaign begins across the Nordzucker Group

Average yields and shorter processing times expected

Braunschweig, Germany, 14 September 2015

Nordzucker is about to start this year's beet campaign, with the Trenčianska Teplá plant in Slovakia the first in the Group to commence processing on 17 September. The German plants will follow suit from 22 September onwards. The campaign will then be up and running at all European plants by 2 October. Following significant delays in sowing across the Group coupled with a cool spring, the overall yield expectations are just about average.

All the Group's plants are in excellent shape for the upcoming campaign and are ready to extract sugar from the locally grown sugar beet. Key investments in the areas of energy and the environment, process optimization and market and customer focus were made in time for the campaign.

Targeted investments at each site

The Clauen, Nordstemmen, Schladen and Uelzen sites in Lower Saxony will begin processing on 22 September, with the Klein Wanzleben plant following suit on 29 September. In Nordstemmen, an upstream thick-juice campaign will also get under way today on 14 September in order to enable production in line with market needs.

Axel Aumüller, Chief Operating Officer, emphasizes the excellent condition of the plants, "We are making targeted investments in the preservation of our plants and are planning investments at our sites on a long-term basis. These investments primarily serve to optimize energy consumption and streamline workflows." In addition,

investments will be made in areas that increase product quality and safety.

Short campaign expected across Europe

Nordzucker expects far shorter campaigns this year across the Group. “In consultation with our farmers, we have decided to significantly reduce the area under cultivation for this growing year. This was absolutely necessary in order to take any further pressure off the market.” explains Chief Agricultural Officer, Dr Lars Gorissen. This is because of a sharp drop in prices over the last few months which was mainly due to the rise in global production of sugar and the resulting high stockpiles.

Furthermore, widespread delays in sowing coupled with a cool, wet spring set back beet growth in the majority of countries. In northern and eastern Germany, Nordzucker predicts that the harvest will be on a par with the average for the past five years. Alongside the conditions in spring, a sustained dry period in early summer also left its mark. In July and August, however, the beet more or less caught up on its growth deficit and developed very well. Following an average campaign period of 94 days, the campaigns at the German plants are expected to end before the end of the year.

Here are the start dates for the 2015 campaigns in all countries at a glance:

<i>Germany</i>	
Clauen	22 September
Nordstemmen	22 September
Schladen	22 September
Uelzen	22 September
Klein Wanzleben	29 September
<i>Denmark</i>	
Nakskov	1 October
Nykøbing	1 October
<i>Sweden</i>	
Örtofta	1 October
<i>Finland</i>	
Säkylä	29 September
<i>Lithuania</i>	
Kėdainiai	22 September
<i>Poland</i>	
Chełmża	1 October

Opalenica	2 October
Slovakia	
Trenčianska Teplá	17 September

Background

The **Nordzucker Group**, based in Braunschweig, is Europe's second-largest sugar producer. The Group also produces bioethanol and animal feed from sugar beet. 18 production and refinery facilities across Europe form the technical, logistical and geographic basis for continued success. The Group's 3,300 employees strive towards providing excellent products and services.