

# El Salvador – Sugar miller installs iris-based time tracking system for workers

One of El Salvador's biggest sugar mills has been outfitted with a biometric time and attendance tracking system iCAM7100, developed by Iris ID. The sugar mill is deploying its iris-based identification technology at the Ingenio Azucarero Injiboa sugar mill in San Vicente.

Using the iCAM7100 time and attendance solution, the sugar mill registers all permanent and temporary employees during harvest time.

One of the major issues for the miller has been that during peak production its many employees can end up working multiple shifts around the clock, day and night. As such, employee administration could be very complex and

time-consuming, with increased risk of fraudulent work records being produced as well.

The mill's administrative, technical and security personnel also use the system.

The mill officials chose iCAM7100 after comparing other biometric technologies including face recognition, fingerprint recognition and hand geometry, according to Faucy Brand, CEO for El Salvador-based ScreenCheck, the security integrator that helped to install the system.

"The mill needed a system offering speed, high accuracy, reliable performance and secure operations in very demanding environment," said Brand.

"Mill officials are very satisfied with the Iris ID iCAM7100 as it

has been the only technology proven to work with the entire company employee population."

Upon installing the Iris ID solution, the mill's employees were registered quickly without experiencing any issues, said Joel Moran, head of information systems development for Ingenio Azucarero Injiboa.

Iris ID's iCAM7000 system can authenticate mill employees in under a second, all without the use of timecards or badges.

During the identification process, the iCAM7100's communication panel displays the time and date, as well as the employee's ID number, facilitating effective communication with management.

The system eliminates

potential errors related to manually calculating employee hours, while preventing costly "buddy punching" as it identifies workers based on their unique iris biometric characteristics, said Mohammed Murad, global business development and sales for Iris ID.

"The iCAM7100 is a practical and precise time and attendance solution for operations ranging from sugar mills to clean rooms," Murad said. "The system reduces payroll and administrative costs and eliminates time fraud. It also provides a high return on investment by eliminating the cost associated with administering and managing access cards."

# Germany - Nordzucker suffers loss in revenues in Q1 2015/16 driven by low sugar prices

Nordzucker again reported a steep drop in revenues and earnings for the first three months of the financial year 2015/16 (Mar/Feb). Revenues in the reporting period fell to EUR373.8 mln and were thus 25% below the previous year's figure of EUR500.8 mln. The company attributed the fall primarily to the continued low prices for quota sugar.

Nordzucker has closed the quarter with a loss of EUR6.9 mln compared with a net profit of EUR23.5 mln in the year-ago period.

Nordzucker still assumes that it is unlikely to report positive earnings at the end of the current financial year. Negative factors such as the high levels of sugar stocks and tougher competition

will leave their mark on the current financial year, it said. A reduction in the area under cultivation and the incipient price increases across Europe will only have an impact in the medium term.

Sowing largely began early in the group this year, but the subsequent weather conditions meant that in many regions it went on for a long time. As

a result, the initial growing conditions were not as ideal as in the previous year. Around 4,000 ha in Germany had to be resown due to siltation. Thereafter, the temperatures in almost all regions were too low, delaying the development of young beet. Overall, the 2015/16 harvest is expected to be below average, albeit with large regional variation.

# Netherlands - 2015/16 sugar yield forecast at 13.5 t/ha

Suiker Unie said that 2015 is currently shaping up as a year that may bring average yields.

The average sowing date was April 4, or more than one week later than in 2014. The spring was relatively cold, dry and sunny. Northern areas

were colder than normal while in the south it was significantly drier than average. It was also considerably sunnier than usual but this did not have a positive effect on the beet growth until June as the initial development phase

is mainly dependent on the temperature. The growing point date was not reached until June 23, two weeks later than last year.

In late June and early July high temperatures caused a drought, especially in the south

where irrigation was applied.

All in all, it is expected that the national average sugar yield per ha may reach 13.5 tonnes, 11% lower than last year and also fractionally below the five-year average of 13.6 tonnes.