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Kia ora

While the weather continues to cause devastation in parts of New Zealand, and stats from the past year make for grim reading, there are also some encouraging signs with positive forecasts for the coming season in some sectors and a change of focus towards strategies and actions to grow our food sector. You’ll find news items and links for these as well as our regular items of regulatory notifications and upcoming events below.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

## ICPR changes

The following ICPRs have been updated in the last two weeks

* New Caledonia has updated section 2.2 Import Permits and sections 3.4.3 and 4.4.4 Seeds, Grains and Nuts for processing. [ICPR New Caledonia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/670-New-Caledonia)
* Great Britain has been updated to add treatment options for *Cyathea* spp. and *Dicksonia squarrosa* under section 4.3.2 Cuttings. [ICPR Great Britain](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/39653-Great-Britain)
* Australia has added Khapra beetle (Trogoderma) requirements under section 3.3 Quarantine pests. [ICPR Australia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/621-Australia)

## Consulations

#### Long-term insights briefing: Exploring demand opportunities in 2050 for New Zealand’s food sector

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) wants your feedback about its first long-term insights briefing. The title is *The future of Aotearoa New Zealand's food sector: Exploring demand opportunities in the year 2050.* The briefing explores the potential future of our largest export sector and the exciting opportunities that could be pursued now to capture them by 2050. Consultation is open until the 24 Feb 2023. You can find more information about the briefing document and how to provide a submission on the MPI [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/exploring-demand-opportunities-in-2050-for-aotearoa-new-zealands-food-sector/?utm_source=notification-email).

## WTO and TBT Notifications

Please find attached the most recent WTO and TBT notifications from countries that are considering changes to their plant import requirements for specific products. If you have any concerns about the notifications being presented, please contact [Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz) so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country.



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# NEW ZEALAND NEWS

## Opinion piece

#### Nadine's update: ****Industry action plan launched in Gisborne today****

In this week’s update, Nadine Tunley reflects on the recently launched Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan, and the need to continue to work together as we implement the plan. [Full article here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/industry-action-plan-launched-in-gisborne-today/)

## Government News

#### Advancing our relationship in India

Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta travelled to India this week as she continues to reconnect Aotearoa New Zealand to the world.

The visit will begin in New Delhi where the Foreign Minister will meet with the Vice President Hon Jagdeep Dhankar and her Indian Government counterparts, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda. She will also travel to Mumbai to promote New Zealand’s education, trade, and tourism interests in India’s commercial and industrial capital. “Reconnecting New Zealand remains a key priority as we look to strengthen our economic resilience and progress ties with our international partners,” Nanaia Mahuta said. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/advancing-our-relationship-india)

#### Government and horticulture sector target $12b in exports by 2035

A recently-launched new Government and industry strategy “The Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan” has its sights on growing the value of New Zealand’s horticultural production to $12 billion by 2035, Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor said. “Our food and fibre exports are vital to New Zealand’s economic security. We’re focussed on long-term strategies that build on the year-on-year record revenue earned by our farmers and growers,” Damien O’Connor said. “By accelerating growth and sustainability in our horticulture sector we can support businesses to grow, create new jobs, lift exports and provide greater domestic food supply.

Horticulture New Zealand chief executive Nadine Tunley said the strategy deliberately focuses on outcomes and actions across the value chain where partners can collaborate to generate the most benefits. “The Plan’s outcomes are supported by a series of actions that will work together to grow the overall sustainability and value of Aotearoa’s horticulture sector,” Tunley said. [Full article here.](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-and-horticulture-sector-target-12b-exports-2035) [Link to strategy](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/about-us/aotearoa-horticulture-action-plan/)

## Industry news

#### Value drops for NZ horticulture exports in 2022

New Zealand food exports grew by over NZ$8bn in 2022, but there was a decline in trade value for some of the country’s key fresh produce lines.

Figures from Stats NZ reveal the value of New Zealand’s fresh fruit export trade over the 2022 calendar year (12 months ending 31 December 2022) declined by NZ$90m (US$58m), compared to 2021. Kiwifruit led the fall in fruit export value, with sales down NZ$141m (5.1 per cent) year-on-year. Of this, green kiwifruit sales fell NZ$220m (24 per cent) in value to NZ$707.5m. Gold kiwifruit sales rose NZ$80m year-on-year to NZ$1.93bn. Avocado sales fell by NZ$31m (28 per cent) year-on-year in 2022.

Partly offsetting these falls was a rise in apple sales, up NZ$55m (6.6 per cent) to NZ$889m. Cherry exports also rose in value. “It was a tough season overall for fruit,” said Alasdair Allen, international trade manager of Stats NZ. “Kiwifruit diseases, labour shortages, and unseasonable weather patterns all played a role in the figures we’re seeing, characterised by lower quantities.”

Vegetable export sales also declined, down by NZ$17m on 2021. Leading the fall was squash, down NZ$19m (22 per cent), and onions, down NZ$16m (11 per cent). Partly offsetting these falls was a rise in potatoes, up NZ$7.5m (40 per cent) year-on-year. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/value-drops-for-nz-fruit-exports-in-2022/248183.article)

#### Kiwifruit growers say confidence in Zespri 'dented' over lack of pay

A kiwifruit growers organisation has written an open letter to Zespri asking for an explanation over the lack of February progress payments for producers of green kiwifruit. In an update to growers on 20 January, Zespri said growers would not get progress payments as fruit quality issues had resulted in additional costs.

In the letter the New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers (NZKGI) executive committee asked Zespri how it could get the orchard gate return (OGR) forecast so wrong. "The 20 January announcement was an extreme deviation from the November OGR forecast. Furthermore, the NZKGI executive committee question how much of the variation should have been known at the Zespri board meeting in December. "Confidence in Zespri's ability to forecast has been dented," the letter reads. Chairman Mark Mayston said there was a high level of concern about Zespri's systems which allowed for the situation to happen. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/483513/kiwifruit-growers-say-confidence-in-zespri-dented-over-lack-of-pay).

#### Industry expects good quality and size for export crop with growth of new varieties to continue

The New Zealand Apple industry is expecting a solid 2023 export crop characterised by good quality and size. According to forecasts from peak industry body New Zealand Apples & Pears Incorporated (NZAPI) on the eve of the harvest, further growth in the production of trademarked varieties is also expected. “We are estimating export volumes to be similar to last year’s, at an estimated 20.4m TCEs,” said NAZPI chief executive Terry Meikle. [Full article here.](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/positive-outlook-for-nz-apple-crop/248198.article)

#### Fresh veg face contamination risk from floodwaters

United Fresh New Zealand says consumers should be prepared for fresh vegetable shortages in the coming weeks as floodwaters throughout the upper North Island impact food safety.

United Fresh Food Safety Representative, Anne-Marie Arts, says excess rainfall will affect the quality and shelf life of many crops. “Flooding exposes fresh produce to microbial risk. If floodwaters come in contact with the edible part of the crop, it is considered to be contaminated and will not be harvested,” she says. “After the flooding subsides, growers will not harvest the affected crops and will have special protocols for disposing the affected plant matter. Replanting the land will not occur for some time until it is dry and considered suitable. These delays might result in supply gaps of some varieties,” says Arts.

Crops that might be suitable to pick will now be quarantined until they are declared safe to eat by microbial testing.  [Full article here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/fresh-veg-face-contamination-risk-from-floodwaters?ct=t(RNG_31_JANUARY_2023_COPY_01)). [Resources here](https://fpsc-anz.com/2022/03/09/resources-on-floods-and-food-safety-2022/)

#### Lemon supplies in New Zealand supermarkets in short supply

A number of fruit and vegetables are becoming harder to get their hands on because to shipping delays for imported products. For instance, lemons are in short supply in supermarkets throughout New Zealand because of shipping delays for the out of season fruit, while heavy rains affected the early domestic summer crop. According to a Countdown spokesperson, lemons were largely out of season and “the summer lemon crops we do have has been heavily impacted by the recent rain. Lemons are a bit more scarce on the shelves than we would like at the moment”. [Full article here.](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/131079449/lemon-supplies-in-supermarkets-have-been-squeezed-over-summer)

## Reports & Insights

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: UK to simplify paperwork for Traders.

As part of post-Brexit efforts to foster economic growth and boost competitiveness, the UK is taking steps to reform its trade rules. The Electronic Trade Documents Bill, currently going through the UK Parliament, is seeking to reduce the transaction costs of international trade by allowing for the legal recognition of electronic versions of trade documents, such as bills of lading and bills of exchange. The Bill is expected to pass in 2023.

As New Zealand exporters navigate the additional opportunities available in the context of the New Zealand-UK free trade agreement, New Zealand exporters should be aware of the planned changes to UK border changes. [Full report here](https://govt.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee12ff73e0bbcb23b01a60631&id=d36b2f17da&e=f1812fde89)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: The Philippines bounces back

The Philippine economy continues to rebound from the pandemic thanks to strong domestic activity and the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. This is despite accelerating inflation and a depreciated Peso. Growth for 2022 is now expected to reach 7.2% before slowing to an average of 5.7% per annum from 2023 to 2025. This buoyancy is reflected in the Philippines’ two-way trade with the rest of the world, which was up 12.3% in the year to October compared to the same period in the previous year. In that period New Zealand’s merchandise exports to the Philippines were also up 31% ($202m NZD), with strong growth in dairy and meat. But several key New Zealand exports remain below pre-pandemic levels: wood, paper, fruit, and seafood. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-asia/philippines-economy-bouncing-back-quickly-q3-update-january-2023/)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Monitoring Global Supply Chains: October 2022 - January 2023

MFAT’s network of Posts and the Trade Recovery & Resilience Unit have been monitoring global supply chain disruptions and developments since June 2020. This report provides an update on global trends, including apparent stabilisation of sea freight, as well as improvements to air connectivity. It also canvasses significant regional developments, including changes to COVID management policies in China, industrial action affecting ports and railways in a number of markets, and a new Ukrainian grain initiative that aims to address shortages in Africa. [Full report here.](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/supply-chain-reports/mfat-monitoring-global-supply-chains-october-2022-january-2023/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=2673a2db64-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_09_29_08_10_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e0c1c37bb-2673a2db64-576754957)

## Upcoming events:

* ICC Future Trade Forum 2023, 28-31 March 2023, Singapore. [Full details here](https://futuretradeforum.org/)
* World Avocado Congress 2023, 2-5 April 2023, Auckland. [Full details here.](https://www.wacnz2023.com/)
* Value Project and NZTE Webinar series “Winning the Green Premium”, Horticulture sector: 18 April 2023, 9–10am. [Full details here](https://ourlandandwater.hubspotpagebuilder.com/greenpremium?utm_medium=email&_hsmi=244240286&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_UD9sg9lvRLk7_GFZTikzw9H3VGi2-13tbGr9zl_iuhNwQuZqkKnZrNfLlAjiDhAtovLXXa6bvpcmY_R72Cp9eweGArg&utm_content=244240286&utm_source=hs_email)
* 2023 Horticulture Conference / RSE Conference, 1- 4 August 2023, Te Pae Convention Centre, Christchurch. [Full details here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/events/).
* Asia Fruit Logistica, 6-8 September 2023, AsiaWorld Expo, Hong Kong[. Full details here](https://www.asiafruitlogistica.com/)
* CBAFF Conference 2023, 13-15 September, 2023, Wellington

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## In The News:

#### Australia Aims To Export 40% of Cherry Output by 2025

Data from Hort Innovation show that Australia exported approximately 5,000 metric tons of fresh cherries in the 2020/21 season, accounting for 23% of total production. Hong Kong was the largest export destination during this period, receiving 24% of the total export volume.

To build on this trend, Australian cherry growers are striving to send 40% of their total production to overseas markets by 2025 through a new export program worth 1.2 million Australian dollars (US$858,000). The country’s cherry industry, composed of around 200 producers, is reportedly all set for this new stage of development. The program, initiated by Cherry Growers Australia with industry partners, will be carried out by Hort Innovation using industry levies and funds from the Australian government. The program is set to include over 50 activities aimed at strengthening export capacity among Australian cherry growers, minimizing trade risks along the supply chain and enhancing the reputation of Australian cherries. [Full article here](https://www.producereport.com/article/australia-aims-export-40-cherry-output-2025)

#### Japanese fruit imports drop

Japanese fruit imports have dropped to their lowest levels in five years with rising production and freight costs and a weak yen contributing to a challenging environment for importers. According to data from the Japanese Ministry of Finance, Japan imported 1.63m tonnes in 2022, down from 1.77 in 2021 and lower than 1.66m tonnes in 2018. The average value of imported fruit per kilogram rose to ¥172 in 2022 from ¥154 in 2021, an increase of 12 per cent. This was the highest recorded price in over ten years.

Analysing the data for 2022 Jack Moriya, president major Japanese wholesaler and importer Tokyo Seika, said the market faced a number of compounding challenges. “Rise in import cost with the weak Japanese yen hits fresh fruit import. The increase in ocean freight, F.O.B. prices and the weak Japanese yen contributed high import cost. In essence, we had a negative trifecta in 2022,” said Moriya. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/japanese-fruit-imports-drop/248185.article)

#### Singapore unveils guidance relating to food sold online

A set of voluntary guidelines has been launched in Singapore dealing with food sold on the internet. Singapore Standard 687: 2022 ([Guidelines for food e-commerce](https://www.singaporestandardseshop.sg/Product/SSPdtDetail/801e910d-2fd7-4ce2-bd49-828ba6dc7e53)) provides guidance to e-commerce players on their roles and responsibilities to ensure the safety of food products sold via online platforms.

Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, said businesses, e-commerce platforms, and food delivery companies can gain clarity on best practices in food safety in the different stages of the supply chain. “For example, the standard provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, as well as their responsibilities in food traceability and recalls. The standard also aims to improve the online ordering experience for end consumers. When implemented, consumers will have access to more details on the food products they are purchasing online and be empowered to make more informed decisions,” she said.

Fu said e-commerce and delivery companies are playing an increasingly significant role in the food supply chain. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2023/01/singapore-unveils-guidance-relating-to-food-sold-online/)

#### New organic rules released by USDA impacts produce importers

Industry groups are celebrating the release of the new organic rules from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Development of the Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule (SOE) has been a lengthy process undertaken by USDA’s National Organic Program (NOP). The final rule is reported to establish additional requirements to help strengthen the integrity of the organic supply chain.

“Organic fresh produce is highly valued by many consumers, and we hope this new rule allows for continued growth of the organic fresh produce industry while maintaining consumer trust in the USDA organic seal,” VP of Regulatory Compliance & Global Food Safety Standards for IFPA, Emily Griep said in a press release. “IFPA is committed to working with the USDA NOP to help our members understand and comply with the requirements of the final rule, particularly organic produce importers who will be most impacted by the rule.” [Full article here.](http://sm1.multiview.com/t/gcH1AAgbaBPWRDK8QOMYwDQNeEWgaSCmT2JGoaaaaSCmBR2FQI7aa?n=ohli~25AuvggW.ii.tt~amp;j=ctZu~25y6jsUi.Wu.h5~amp;f=~7E~amp;3=)

#### UK farming expenses still stifling as agflation hits 18.7%

According to The Andersons Centre’s latest findings, agflation – the term coined to reflect inflation with regards to agricultural inputs – now stands at 18.7% annually. This is a lot higher than agricultural outputs (11.1%), which shows that UK agriculture continues to experience a cost-of-farming squeeze. The centre said that agflation continues to outpace general economic inflation (CPI) and food prices (CPI Food). Although agflation remains higher than food prices, it is declining. According to The Andersons Centre, agflation peaked in July 2022 at 26.3%. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9500396/uk-farming-expenses-still-stifling-as-agflation-hits-18-7/)

#### Fepex mulls the tougher regulation, climate change and digitalisation Spanish producers are facing

The new regulatory framework for the fruit and vegetable sector, climate change and digitalisation and technological innovation dominated discussion at the general assembly of Spanish fruit and vegetable exporter federation Fepex, which took place in on Tuesday.

They heard from Fepex director José María Pozancos how new laws in Spain on packaging, nutrition, the use of phytosanitary products and new information systems are causing concern for the regulatory burden they will impose on producers at an already difficult time. While Antonio Ruiz de Elvira, professor of applied physics at the University of Alcalá de Henares, explained how climate change is impacting production, noting that the Mediterranean region is likely to face increasingly intense and frequent floods in the future. To address this it will be necessary to implement a massive reforestation programme in mountains and hills of coastal areas, as well as to improve channelling for better distribution of rainfall. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/fepex-mulls-challenges-facing-spanish-fandv-sector/248217.article)

#### Fresh produce consumption remains under pressure in Europe

The outlook for consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables remains under pressure in the European Union. This is the conclusion of Freshfel Europe’s Consumption Monitor after a review of trends across Member States, covering 75 per cent of the EU population. ”Despite a very positive momentum for consumption growth, many barriers are severely impacting the move towards a healthier and more sustainable diet for European consumers,” Freshfel stated.

The latest findings from the Freshfel Europe Consumption Monitor have revealed that the average consumption for fresh produce stood at 364g/capita/day in 2021, a figure that could decline by around 10 per cent in 2022 once the final data is known. Freshfel said that this was particularly worrying given it remained well below the minimum 400g recommendation of the World Health Organisation. ”These figures are driven by the low level of consumption by millennials and the youngest generations, which are tomorrow’s consumers,” the association explained. “Under the difficult economic conditions, the consumption among the low-income population is also of particular concern. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/fresh-produce-consumption-remains-under-pressure-in-europe/248192.article)

#### European Commission unveils new packaging regulations – to take effect from 2025

The European Commission has unveiled new packaging regulations that will take effect from 2025 and require all packaging used in the bloc to be recyclable by 2030. These requirements, which replace the bloc’s 1994 Packaging and Packaging Waste regulation, will also introduce a single recycling labeling system for the whole of the EU, recycled content targets for plastic packaging, and require that fresh produce labels be biodegradable.

Under the new system, all packaging will be appraised to ensure they have been designed to be recycled, with grades from A to E. Packaging scoring E will be banned from the common market from 2030, and grades A to D will be subject to extended producer responsibility (EPR) fees, introducing a financial incentive to manufacture easily recyclable packaging. The new regulation will introduce a new pictographic recycling label system that will help consumers to correctly recycle the packaging. Reusable packaging will also have to be labeled with a QR code, and deposit return schemes will be mandatory for plastic bottles and metal cans.

The European Commission said it expected the packaging sector to reach climate neutrality by 2050. [Full article here.](https://www.printweek.com/news/article/eu-closing-the-loop-on-packaging-from-2025)

#### GCFP calls for fresh produce supply to be safeguarded

The Global Coalition of Fresh Produce (GCFP) has released a report analysing the current global trading environment for fresh fruits and vegetables. Report calls on policymakers to implement measures protecting the supply of affordable fresh produce to consumers and ensuring the viability of the sector. The report argues that fruits and vegetables are a critical element of the shift towards healthy and sustainable diets, as well as an engine of economic growth and job creation the world over.

However, the GCFP has pointed out that a number of challenges are currently threatening the long-term economic viability of the fresh produce sector worldwide, and thereby economic stability, food security and health. These challenges include substantial increases in costs, inefficiencies and delays in transportation, labour shortages, dwindling consumer purchasing power and obstacles to international trade, among other factors. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/gcfp-calls-for-fresh-produce-supply-to-be-safeguarded/248170.article)

#### WHO urges food system changes to improve food safety

Food systems must be transformed urgently to improve food safety and health, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The current system is “failing” with foodborne diseases widespread, and unhealthy diets and malnutrition among the main causes of disease, according to the international agency. Food systems impact health through poor diets and food insecurity, animal-human disease transmission, increased antimicrobial resistance, unsafe and adulterated foods, environmental contamination, and occupational hazards.

WHO officials said the sector is vulnerable to climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine affecting access to, and prices of, food globally and the incidence of foodborne infections. “Increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and greater frequency of some extreme events affect crop and animal yields and the geographic distribution and persistence of foodborne pathogens, parasites and contaminants,” according to an official statement. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2023/01/who-urges-food-system-changes-to-improve-food-safety/)

#### Wave of new container vessels may help ease effects of inflation

The orderbook of new container ships — most of which are slated to be delivered between this year and 2027 — stands at more than 900 vessels, and those will have the equivalent of about a quarter of the existing carrying capacity.

A surge will pose a challenge from shipyards in China and South Korea, to the corporate marketeers who will have to come up with names for all those newly christened launches. In short: There’s too much container supply coming to meet the demand, threatening another spell of depressed ocean freight rates hangs in the balance if the shipping lines don’t take steps soon to reel in their capacity. [Full article here.](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2023-01-31/supply-chain-latest-container-shipping-is-heading-from-boom-to-bust)

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