

UPDATE: 09 May 2023

Kia ora

This update includes a number of reports, discussion documents and reviews that consider some longer term issues for our sector from future consumer preferences and climate change to gene technology and digital trade as well as opportunities to rethink them. You’ll find links to these well as our regular items of regulatory notifications, consultations, national and international news, and upcoming events below.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

## ICPR changes

The following ICPRs have been updated in the last three weeks

* Korea has been updated with changes to the Pest lists in Appendix 1. [ICPR Korea](https://cbaff.outreach.co.nz/redirect/YTo3OntzOjM6InVybCI7czo0NToiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubXBpLmdvdnQubnovZG1zZG9jdW1lbnQvNjU5LUtvcmVhIjtzOjQ6InR5cGUiO3M6NDoiaHJlZiI7czo3OiJtZXNzYWdlIjtzOjU6Ijg2NTMyIjtzOjc6ImFjY291bnQiO3M6NToiY2JhZmYiO3M6ODoiY2F0ZWdvcnkiO3M6NDoiNTIxNSI7czo3OiJzZW50X2F0IjtpOjE2ODI0ODUwODg7czoxMDoibm90aWZpYWJsZSI7aToxO30.?oid=10784)
* Taiwan has been updated with changes to *Pyrus spp.* under section 3.1.1 Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and section 4.4.1 Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. [ICPR Taiwan](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/694)
* Canada has been updated with an additional declaration for *Buxus spp*. under section 5.2.4 Box wood/plant and *Avena spp.* under section 5.3.1 [ICPR Canada](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/628-Canada)

If you need any further clarification, contact your Independent Verification Agency in the first instance.

## 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.



## Consultations

#### Proposals to amend the New Zealand (Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds) Food Notice

MPI is seeking feedback on the proposed changes to the New Zealand Food Notice: Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds: 6 proposals for new or amended maximum residue levels in Schedule 1and 4 new entries to Schedule 3 (veterinary medicines for which no maximum residue level applies). Consultation is open until 16 June 2023. You can find more information about the proposed changes and how to provide a submission on the MPI [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposals-to-amend-the-new-zealand-maximum-residue-levels-for-agricultural-compounds-food-notice-8/?utm_source=notification-email).

#### Proposals for the National Organic Standard

MPI is seeking feedback on the draft National Organic Standard. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has worked alongside a number of technical experts across the organics sector to develop draft proposals for the National Organic Standard. These draft proposals contain the technical rules that will regulate the production and processing of organic food, beverages, and plant and animal products. Consultation is open until 19 May 2023. You can find more information about the proposed standard and how to provide a submission on the MPI [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposals-for-the-national-organic-standard/?utm_source=notification-email)

#### Digital trade review

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with MartinJenkins, is currently conducting a review of Aotearoa New Zealand’s engagement in digital trade.

Digital trade covers rules affecting trade and commerce enabled by technology and includes both trade in goods and services. An effective digital trade policy can streamline the movement and transaction of goods and services across borders, by reducing administration and enabling paperless customs clearances, for example.

This review will cover our existing trade policy settings and look for gaps and opportunities for improvement, to protect what’s important, while continuing to open doors for our exporters into new markets. You can find more information on the review and how to participate in the workshops on the MFAT [website](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/nz-trade-policy/trade-for-all-agenda/digital-trade-review/)

# NEW ZEALAND NEWS

## Opinion piece:

#### Nadine's update: Fit for Purpose

In this week’s update, Nadine Tunley discusses the importance of the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme, the government’s current review of the scheme, and HortNZ’s concerns about what is at stake if the review is rushed and doesn’t address the needs of each party involved in the scheme. [Full article here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/fit-for-purpose/)

## Government News:

#### NZ-UK FTA to enter into force early by end of the month

New Zealand and the United Kingdom have agreed to bring forward the entry into force of their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to 31 May 2023, unlocking unprecedented access to the UK market by the end of the month, Prime Minister Chris Hipkins has announced. “This is a gold-standard FTA, reflecting the close relationship between our two countries. The market access outcomes are among the very best New Zealand has secured in any trade deal,” Chris Hipkins said.

Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O’Connor said the agreement is expected to boost New Zealand’s GDP by up to $1 billion, and expand New Zealand’s goods exports to the UK by over 50 percent. “From day one 99.5 per cent of current exports will enter the UK duty-free through a combination of tariff elimination and duty-free quotas,” Damien O’Connor said. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/nz-uk-fta-enter-force-early-end-month) [Horticulture NZ-UK FTA highlights here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/free-trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements-concluded-but-not-in-force/new-zealand-united-kingdom-free-trade-agreement/signature/)

## Industry news

#### Stats NZ: Napier apple export volumes down, but value remains stable

According to data released by Stats NZ, total exports of apples from the port of Napier in March 2023 were valued at $61 million, slightly up from March last year. $31 million worth of the apples were exported to China, $15 million to Viet Nam, and $8.8 million to Taiwan The quantity of apples exported from the port of Napier fell 17 percent, to 20,000 tons, in March 2023. The average quantity of apples exported from the port of Napier in March months, from 2018 to 2022, was 34,000 tons.

Over the past 12 months, 62 percent of New Zealand apple exports (by value) were from the port of Napier, 15 percent from port of Tauranga and 14 percent from the port of Nelson . [Full article here](https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/napier-apple-export-quantities-down-value-remains-stable/)

#### NZ citrus season begins

Wayne Hall, chair of peak industry body Citrus New Zealand, said a “good supply” of locally grown fruit is expected this year. “While damage was sustained on citrus orchards this year following Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle, our growers have worked hard to ensure the citrus crop is available and tasting great,” Hall said.

Limes and Satsuma mandarins are the first fruit of the season. The easy-peeling Satsuma harvest started in early April and makes up about 25 per cent of New Zealand’s citrus production of about 31,000. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/nz-citrus-season-begins/248881.article)

#### Chile and New Zealand seek closer fruit ties

A Chilean trade mission led by Asoex president Iván Marambio visited New Zealand recently to learn more about its fruit production and export processes and forge a closer collaboration between the two industries. The trip marks a significant step in moves to end in ending Chile’s long-running spat with New Zealand’s kiwifruit industry, which has accused of monopolistic practices.

Signalling the potential for cooperation between the two countries’ respective kiwifruit sectors, Marambio said: “Although we compete, there are instances in which we can work together, such as in promoting kiwifruit consumption…as well as quality, conditions and new varieties”.

The two sectors have agreed to come up with a joint working plan before the next meeting of the International Kiwifruit Organisation, which will take place later this year in Chile. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/chile-and-new-zealand-seek-closer-fruit-ties/248907.article)

#### New Flagship Stores Aim To Boost Zespri’s Success in China

The 2023 Zespri New Zealand kiwifruit season has now been officially launched at produce wholesale markets in Jiaxing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Shenyang and other key cities under the collaboration of Joy Wing Mau, Zespri, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, and industry members from around the country. The concurrent opening of two official Zespri flagship stores in Jiaxing and Guangzhou, jointly established by Joy Wing Mau, Zespri and their marketing partners, represents a new turning point in the strategic partnership among the parties. Joy Wing Mau has declared its continued dedication to enhancing domestic supply chain services, allocating resources to support Zespri’s penetration into the Chinese market and supporting sustainable brand development. [Full article here](https://www.producereport.com/article/new-flagship-stores-aim-boost-zespris-success-china)

#### NZ research to help Philippine mangoes

Plant & Food Research has announced a new partnership that will see the New Zealand research institute help the Philippine mango industry enhance its export value. In recent years Philippine fresh mango exports have decreased in value due to violations of maximum pesticide residue limits on arrival in countries like Japan and Korea. This has reduced the profitability of growers in the key growing region of Mindanao.  Plant & Food Research has signed a US$150,000 two-year contract with the local government – the Municipality of Midsayap – to help the Philippines deal with pesticide residue and compliance with other agricultural practices.

“It’s another great example of the people and science of Plant & Food Research contributing globally by improving environmental sustainability and boosting household incomes.” Said Suzie Newman, head of international development at Plant & Food Research. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/nz-research-to-help-philippine-mangoes/248915.article)

#### Geopolitical dilemma for New Zealand exporters

New Zealand runs the risk of being caught up in the economic war between China and the US, according to Rabobank's head of global economics and research, Jan Lambregts.

He says this is all part of the new era of disruption of which geopolitics is playing a major part. The situation has changed from the time when the world was hypo-globalised and where everyone was chasing a buck and trade was much freer.

"Now you could argue the world is re-globalising - especially with the cold economic war between China and the US and everyone else is being caught up in this including New Zealand," he says. The problem, says Lambregts, is that it's becoming increasingly difficult for countries to remain neutral in this economic war. He notes for example Australia is inextricably tied to the US. He says both American and China are trying to forces countries to take sides and for NZ that is a problem given our high dependence on that market for our primary exports. [Full article here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/geopolitical-dilemma-for-kiwi-exporters?ct=t(RNG_26_APRIL_2023_COPY_01))

## Reports & Insights

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: European Union: The Green Deal Industrial Plan Revealed

The EU has unveiled a “Green Deal Industrial Plan ”that sets out a longer-term strategy to boost the competitiveness of Europe's net-zero industry and support a fast transition to climate neutrality (which it aims to achieve by 2050). The plan aims to simplify regulations and provide more flexibility for EU Member States to subsidise their industries. An increase in subsidy levels for European producers in sectors deemed critical to the green transition risks undermining the competitiveness for New Zealand and other foreign exporters without similar government support. [Full report here](https://govt.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee12ff73e0bbcb23b01a60631&id=c5ef7f4b73&e=f1812fde89)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: United States Reforms Ocean Shipping Laws

In response to supply chain challenges stemming from the pandemic, the US made its first overhaul of ocean shipping laws in more than two decades in June last year, with the intention of lowering costs for consumers by addressing “ocean carriers’ high prices and unfair practices”. Some of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act’s key rules are yet to take effect, but could yet have an impact for New Zealand exporters. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/united-states-reforms-ocean-shipping-laws-april-2023/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=ce2957e17b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_04_24_01_02_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-8d4ed8285a-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

#### MPI Long-term Insights Briefing: ‘The Future of Aotearoa New Zealand’s Food Sector - Exploring Global Demand Opportunities in the Year 2050.’

MPI recently released the final version of this Long-term Insights Briefing that explores how demographic change and global trends are influencing future global consumer preferences out to 2050. This was looked at using three lenses: What are future consumer core needs (the non-negotiables) likely to be; How might consumer preferences change; and Where are our future consumers likely to come from. The answers to these questions present a wide range of opportunities for New Zealand. The briefing explores what this might mean for New Zealand going forward and what we might need to do to capture the opportunities. [Full report here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/56350-The-Future-of-Aotearoa-New-Zealands-Food-Sector-Exploring-Global-Demand-Opportunities-in-the-Year-2050)

#### B3: Global Change and New Zealand Biosecurity

New, invasive plant-destroying insects, weeds and diseases will increasingly challenge New Zealand’s borders as a warming climate and other global ‘megatrends’ make the nation’s plants and ecosystems more vulnerable according to a recent report by Better Border Biosecurity (B3).

According to B3 project leader Nicolas Meurisse, New Zealand is already experiencing the negative impacts of established invasive species and future changes in land use and agricultural practices will exacerbate some of these impacts. Other trends such as climate change and globally increasing pest emergences and movements will also challenge our ability to prevent future invasions.

B3 is a national biosecurity collaboration that links world-class scientists with government agencies, industry and iwi to strengthen New Zealand’s defenses together. [Full report here](https://www.b3nz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/B3-Global-Change-and-New-Zealand-Biosecurity-Report-May-2023-1.pdf)

#### INZBC: India & New Zealand, A Relationship Ready For Its Next Phase

The India New Zealand Business Council recently releases a discussion document titled “India & New Zealand, A Relationship Ready For Its Next Phase”,submitted to the government. It presents an assessment of the current state of India-New Zealand trade relations, and what the New Zealand-India business community has identified as key steps in progressing the trade relationship. [Full report here](https://issuu.com/inzbc/docs/inzbc_report_aw_version_z_low270423)

#### WELL\_NZ: Modern genetic technology report

Te Puna Whakaaronui's new report seeks to provide clarity on the current state of genetic technology and associated regulations around the world. The report aims to provide a neutral information base to enable a shared, informed conversation across communities of interest in food and fibre production, science, iwi, catchment communities, industry and investors. It does not make recommendations or advise on a direction of travel, it is a presentation of baseline information. [Full report here](https://fitforabetterworld.org.nz/assets/Te-Puna-Whakaaronui-publications/WELL-NZ-Modern-genetic-technology-2023.pdf)

#### Upcoming events and webinars:

* Hort Connections 2023, 5-7 June 2023, Adelaide Convention Centre, Australia. [Full details here](https://hortconnections.com.au/program/)
* Simplified Trade System Summit, Australian Government, Simplified trade system implementation Taskforce, 26 June 2023, Melbourne. [Full details here](https://www.simplifiedtrade.gov.au/events/simplified-trade-system-summit)
* 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/).
* Fresh Produce Safety Conference, 10 August 2023, University of Sydney and online.
* 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
* Asian Seed Congress 2023, 20-24 November 2023, Christchurch. [Full details here.](https://web.apsaseed.org/asian-seed-congress)

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## GAIN reports:

Gain reports are from the “Global Agricultural Information Network” and are produced by the USDA. They are designed to provide timely information on the economy, products and issues in foreign countries that are likely to have an impact on United States agricultural production and trade. The information in them is written for USA exporters but the majority is equally relevant to New Zealand. For import regulations for a particular market, New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site.

**Top 10 US Food Trends in 2023**

U.S. consumers are health-conscious budgeteers who are attracted to convenience, innovations, brand collaborations, and customization in their food and beverages. Their behaviors have changed gradually due to concern for their health and the environment. In the past few months, concerns surrounding inflation and rising food prices have impacted consumers’ decisions and buying patterns. This report lists the top 10 food trends in the US to showcase its current industry and market climate. Since the US is a trendsetter in consumer goods and culinary evolution, especially to Asia-Pacific countries, these trends provide an insight into what consumers from other parts of the world might be interested in in the future. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Top%2010%20US%20Food%20Trends%20in%202023_Taipei%20ATO_Taiwan_TW2023-0019)

**Japan 255th Food Safety Group**

Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) proposed revisions to Japan’s maximum residue levels for 6 agricultural chemicals (Bifenthrin, Flutolanil, Inpyrfluxam, Picarbutrazox, Pyribencarb, Sethoxydim) for various agricultural commodities. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Japan%20255th%20Food%20Safety%20Group_Tokyo_Japan_JA2023-0039)

**China: National Food Safety Standard Restricting Excessive Packaging for Foods and Cosmetics**

In August 2021, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) released an updated National Food Safety Standard Restricting Excessive Packaging for Foods and Cosmetics (GB 23350-2021). The updated standard will enter into force on September 1, 2023. This report provides an unofficial translation of the standard as it relates to food products. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=National%20Food%20Safety%20Standard%20Restricting%20Excessive%20Packaging%20for%20Foods%20and%20Cosmetics_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2023-0073)

**EU Early Alert - Pesticide Review - March 2023**

The European Union (EU) follows a complex, rolling system of review for active ingredients and Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) in food. For agricultural inputs, U.S. farmers must know early in the process of review to prevent or mitigate the loss of, and/or access to, chemical inputs. The information in this document provides interested stakeholders with advance notice of those active ingredients under review, highlighting those substances undergoing new restrictions or may not be renewed. This is a quarterly update from February 2023 and includes a link to the consolidated version as well. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=EU%20Early%20Alert%20-%20Pesticide%20Review%20-%20March%202023_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42023-0012)

**FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual:** [Singapore](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Singapore_Singapore_SN2023-0002)

**Exporter Guide:** [Netherlands](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_The%20Hague_Netherlands_NL2022-0064).

## In The News:

#### South Korea: Colombian avocados detected with excessive level of pesticides

In 22 tons of Colombian avocados imported by a Korean agricultural product trade platform operator Tridge, 2.03 milligrams per kilogram of thiabendazole had been detected. This is much higher than the standard of 0.01 milligram per kilogram set by the Korean regulator. Thiabendazole, a fungicide and pesticide used to control a slew of fruit and vegetable diseases such as mold, blight, rot and stains, can cause gastrointestinal abnormalities or mild inhibitions in the central nervous system when consumed in excess by humans. The Ministry of Food said that it is currently retrieving all the avocados that had been declared unfit for sale, emphasizing that customers who bought the products must return them to the store. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9523301/south-korea-colombian-avocados-detected-with-excessive-level-of-pesticides/?utm_campaign=highlights)

#### French Kiwi Berries Permitted To Enter China

Fresh French kiwi berries have been granted market access to China, making France the first country approved to export the miniature fruit to China.

Kiwi berries from New Zealand have previously been imported into China, despite lacking official permission from China Customs. On March 11, 2016, however, China’s General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine issued a warning notice declaring the suspension of imports of the fruit from New Zealand. Recently, China’s General Administration of Customs announced via its website that fresh French kiwi berries meeting the stipulated phytosanitary requirements would be permissible for import into China, making France the first country formally approved to export the miniature fruit to China. [Full article here](https://www.producereport.com/article/french-kiwi-berries-permitted-enter-china)

#### South African avocados close in on China access

The South African avocado industry is confident of achieving long-time goal of access to China following assessment of export facilities. The industry welcomed the virtual assessment of avocado packing facilities and systems conducted by Chinese and South African officials the week starting 17 April. Derek Donkin – chief executive of Subtrop, the South African subtropical growers’ association – said official access is expected to follow soon. “We are delighted with progress and hope that the final signatures will now be added quickly to implement what will be a major breakthrough for South Africa,” said Donkin. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/south-african-avocados-close-in-on-china-access/248843.article)

#### Aldi completes living wage verification pilot on banana farms

The Aldi South Group together with Aldi Nord and other sectoral stakeholders, including Heartwood LLC, Banana Link, Dole, Grupo Iren and Banafem, have announced the successful completion of a pilot project to understand worker-led living wage verification in major banana production countries in Latin America.

The aim of the project was to train and guide workers and local trade unions to enable them to review and verify wage data. It covered three farms that supply the Aldi South Group indirectly via exporters, incorporating suppliers, traders, workers and trade unions. Felix Strauss, team lead corporate responsibility at Aldi Süd, commented: “Reliability of wage data is crucial to further advance the topic of living wages in supply chains and unions/workers play a key role in closing wage gaps. “I hope this will serve as a blueprint for scaling such approaches on banana farms and beyond.” [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/aldi-completes-living-wage-verification-pilot-on-banana-farms/248848.article)

#### FAO assesses the impact of gene editing on food safety

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has reviewed food safety issues related to gene editing and said while approaches may vary, many countries have found a way to include gene-edited foods in an existing regulatory category to manage such issues.

Gene editing is different from genetic modification where DNA from one species is introduced to another one. Gene-edited organisms produce changes that could be made slowly using traditional breeding methods. Gene editing is a group of techniques that can be used to breed new plant varieties, animal breeds, and microbial strains for agricultural purposes. It can potentially increase food production and contribute to sustainability and climate change resilience. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2023/04/fao-assesses-impact-of-gene-editing-on-food-safety/) [Full report here](https://www.fao.org/3/cc5136en/cc5136en.pdf)

#### EU: Pesticides in food: latest data published

The number of samples with pesticide residues above the legal limit has gone down in the European Union compared to the year before.

Almost 88,000 samples were collected in Europe in 2021. Overall, 96 percent of them fell within legally permitted levels. Almost 35,000 samples contained residues not exceeding legal limits. More than 2,000 samples triggered legal sanctions or enforcement action as they exceeded the Maximum Residue Level (MRL) after accounting for measurement uncertainty. This rate decreased from 5.1 percent in 2020 to 3.9 percent in 2021. Samples from non-EU countries showed a 5-fold MRL exceedance rate of 10.3 percent and a non-compliance rate of 6.4 percent compared with food produced within the EU.

The findings come from a report on pesticide residues in food published by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2023/04/efsa-publishes-2021-pesticides-in-food-findings/) [Full report here](https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.7939)

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