

UPDATE: 21 February 2023

Kia ora

Our thoughts are with all the people, growers, businesses and communities across New Zealand affected by the recent weather events. As the water recedes and the impact of the event is laid bare in individual people’s stories, one thing is certain, recovery will take time.

We haven’t included any news items in this edition on the cyclone as the situation is changing on a daily basis and there are other news sources and webpages such as on [Horticulture NZ](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/flood-support/) and the [Ministry for Primary Industries](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/adverse-events/cyclone-gabrielle-recovery-advice-support-and-funding-available/) that have been set up to provide a central source of information.

You will however find other news items from New Zealand and overseas 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

* Brazil has been updated to include additional requirements in the sections 2.9 Wood Packaging, 3.3 Nursery stock and 3.4 Seed, grains and nuts; updated conditions for *Daucus carota* under section 4.4.1 Seeds, Grains and Nuts for Sowing; and removed *Setaria pumila* from Appendix 1: List of Quarantine Pests absent from Brazil. [ICPR Brazil](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/625)
* Taiwan has been updated with additional declarations for *Cydonia spp., Prunus avium,* *Prunus domestica, Prunus dulcis, Prunus persica, Prunus salicina* and *Pyrus spp*. under section 4.4.1 Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. [ICPR Taiwan](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/694)
* Great Britain. MPI has issued a reminder that  Plant and Forestry ICPRs were updated in December 2022 after MPI received confirmation from The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on requirements for phytosanitary certificates. [F45/22: Update to Great Britain Importing Country Phytosanitary Requirements](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/54553-F4522-Update-to-Great-Britain-Importing-Country-Phytosanitary-Requirements%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).

## Consultations

#### 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 has been extended to the 03 March 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).

#### Food and Beverage Industry Transformation Plan

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is developing a Food and Beverage Industry Transformation Plan (ITP). MPI released the draft Food and Beverage Industry Transformation Plan (ITP) on 1 December 2022 and consultation on the plan is open until 5pm on 5 March 2023. You can find more information about the draft document and provide feedback at one of the scheduled events or by completing an on-line survey on the MPI [website.](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/about-mpi/our-work/fit-for-a-better-world-accelerating-our-economic-potential/food-and-beverage-industry-transformation-plan/#consultation)

## 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 so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country.



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# NEW ZEALAND NEWS

## Government News

#### New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) has updated its grower guidance for harvesting produce affected by flood waters.

This guidance is for commercial produce growers following flooding events. This guidance has been developed by New Zealand Food Safety based on international guidance, scientific evidence, and best practice. The guidance applies to produce affected by flood waters (immersion or contact), not product directly damaged by rainfall. Produce that has been damaged by rain and has not come into contact with any flood water should be safe to consume. [Guidance document](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/55618-Guidance-for-harvesting-flood-affected-produce-for-human-consumption-15-February-2023)

#### MFAT: The United Kingdom suspended import duties on a list of specified products from 1 January 2023.

These apply to listed imports from all countries, and temporarily removes the UK’s standard tariff that would otherwise be applicable. While there is no fixed time period, typically such duty suspensions remain in place for around two years. The list, following a consultation process in mid-2021, covers around 130 tariff lines, most of which are industrial products (organic chemicals, plastics, metals, etc.), but the list also covers Manuka honey (temporarily removing a UK tariff of 16%), vegetable seeds, dried garlic and onions, and citrus juice concentrates.

These tariff reductions are separate to those agreed in the NZ-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The FTA is anticipated to enter into force in the first half of 2023. [Full article here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-global/weekly-global-economic-round-up-7-february-2023)

#### Guidance on single-use plastic products banned or phased out from July 2023

Detailed information on the 1 July 2023 plastic bans is now live on the Ministry for the Environment’s website. This information is intended for businesses, industry and the general public. While this includes non-compostable produce labels, the regulations do not apply to labels used on produce intended for export.  [Guidance here](https://5aday.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6da879b6faf5dc2e07794a680&id=2ab6760042&e=0ff94fdc1c)

## Industry news

#### Fresh Produce Safety Centre announces new Executive Officer

The Fresh Produce Safety Centre Australia & New Zealand (FPSC-ANZ) recently announced the appointment of a new Executive Officer to lead the organisation. Marguerite Delbet has been appointed to the position to lead the organisation as of 14 February 2023 and will work from New Zealand. “It will be a great opportunity to strengthen the vital connection between fresh produce organisations in Australia & New Zealand”, said chairman of the FPSC Andreas Klieber. [Full article here](https://fpsc-anz.com/2023/02/20/fpsc-announces-new-executive-officer/)

#### IFPA A-NZ appoints interim CEO

The International Fresh Produce Association Australia-New Zealand (IFPA A-NZ) has appointed Ben Hoodless as its interim chief executive. Current chief executive Darren Keating announced his resignation late last year, with 23 February to be his last day. Hoodless, who previously served as chairman of IFPA A-NZ, will fill the role while the recruitment process for a new chief executive is undertaken. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/ifpa-a-nz-appoints-interim-ceo/248297.article)

#### Potatoes New Zealand CEO resigns

Potatoes New Zealand Incorporated have issued a statement about the resignation of their CEO, stating: "We are writing to inform you of the resignation of PNZ’s Chief Executive, Chris Claridge. Chris has been in his role for seven years and has significantly changed the way the organisation operates. In this time, he has brought a number of operational and technical services inhouse and there has been a significant increase of levy money dedicated to research and development."

"The chair and board appreciate the achievements of the organisation during Chris’ tenure and wish him well for his next endeavours. He will stay on as chief executive until the end of April." [Full article here](https://potatoesnz.co.nz/news-info/message-from-pnz-chair-pnz-ceo-resigns/)

#### New Zealand-Vietnam partnership delivers new dragon fruit varieties

The first new varieties from a joint New Zealand–Vietnam dragon fruit breeding programme are set to be launched to the global marketplace. Plant & Food Research in New Zealand and the Southern Horticultural Research Institute (SOFRI) in Vietnam have been working together since 2013 to breed new varieties of dragon fruit with excellent grower and consumer characteristics. VentureFruit, T&G Global’s IP management and commercialisation company, has joined the collaboration with exclusive global commercialisation rights to the first three varieties from the programme.

VentureFruit’s general manager, Morgan Rogers said the launch of the new varieties was an example of the close horticultural ties between New Zealand and Vietnam. “These new varieties demonstrate a strategic and innovative approach between all partners involved to create new dragon fruit genetics that taste better and deliver huge grower benefits in terms of canker tolerance. We are looking forward to working with local Vietnamese growers and sharing the knowledge and techniques developed by SOFRI and Plant & Food Research on growing systems,” said Rogers. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/new-zealand-vietnam-partnership-delivers-new-dragon-fruit-varieties/248282.article)

#### World Avocado Congress keynote speaker proposes: ‘the golden age is over’

Members of the global avocado community attending the World Avocado Congress NZ 2023 can expect to be challenged by Eric Imbert, an international researcher; agri-economics and food technologies engineer, and the latest addition to the keynote speaker line-up.

“The golden age is over and the world avocado market is changing fast,” says Imbert, who is the lead researcher for CIRAD, the French agricultural research centre working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions. “Avocado is an incredible fruit; we have strong scientific evidence of its health benefits. The growth potential of the market remains very strong, however, production is developing too quickly now. It’s essential we deliver this message to all stakeholders of the world avocado industry, who are often small or medium size growers.”

The congress, taking place in Auckland New Zealand from 2-5 April 2023 will address the changing world of avocado production and consider how sustainable the global industry is across environment, people and economics. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9502811/world-avocado-congress-keynote-speaker-proposes-the-golden-age-is-over/)

#### Asia-Pacific business leaders call for action on climate and economic inclusion

Members of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) met in Auckland, New Zealand last week to develop a work plan that calls on policymakers to leverage trade and economic policies to address the region’s sustainability and economic inclusion challenges.

Under the 2023 theme of Equity. Sustainability. Opportunity.,ABAC will commission reports and develop recommendations to APEC Leaders that identify ways forward-looking trade and investment policies can be leveraged to tackle climate change, living standards and digital transformation, among other challenges.

New Zealand Prime Minister, Chris Hipkins opened the ABAC meeting, stressing as he did the value of close partnerships with business to tackle shared challenges. New Zealand Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta, and Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O’Connor, also engaged with council members during the three-day meeting. [Full article here](https://www.apec.org/press/news-releases/2023/asia-pacific-business-leaders-call-for-action-on-climate-and-economic-inclusion)

## Reports & Insights

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Prospects for China’s economy in 2023

China recorded 3% GDP growth in 2022, falling short of the growth target of 5.5% set by the Chinese Central Government. The result was a consequence of a year beset by large-scale COVID-related disruptions. While 2022 saw weaker than forecasted economic performance, the year of the Rabbit (2023) is predicted to bring economy recovery. Analysts estimate GDP growth for 2023 of between 4-6% which would be consistent with China’s pre-pandemic trend lines. On 31 January the IMF released an updated 2023 GDP growth prediction for China of 5.2%(up from an earlier prediction of 4.4%).

This report includes coverage of: Government measures to assist the economic recovery and restore confidence; The easing of regulatory restrictions on the tech sector, The slow rise of household consumption; China's shrinking and aging population and long-term implications for the economy [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-asia/china-market-update-out-with-the-tiger-and-in-with-the-rabbit-prospects-for-chinas-economy-in-2023/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=fee68412b7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_02_10_01_44&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-fee68412b7-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

## Upcoming events and webinars:

* IFPA A-NZ Webinar “Microbiological Testing of Fresh Produce’ , 21 March 2023, 10am AEDT, Free. [Full details here](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/microbiological-testing-of-fresh-produce-webinar-tickets-536628328777?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_eid=ba99fc8413&mc_cid=25e71795f6)
* 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. Free [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)
* Hort Connections 2023, 5-7 June 2023, Adelaide Convention Centre, Australia [Full details here](https://hortconnections.com.au/program/)
* 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

## 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.

**China: Post-COVID Food and Agricultural Situation**

As the PRC dismantles it’s zero-COVID policy measures, there is great optimism about the economy and, particularly, the Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional (HRI) sector. Stakeholders expect a rebound in travel to fuel recovery in hotels, restaurants, and other outlets. PRC agricultural production, processing, and transportation logistics were resilient during the pandemic, but full economic recovery will be slowed by structural headwinds and cautious consumers. PRC food and agricultural imports – critical to the food security balance sheet – remain strong and are expected to grow faster than the rate of GDP. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Post-COVID%20Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Situation_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2023-0022)

**New Zealand Grain and Feed Market Situation**

New Zealand grain and feed import volumes in 2022 rose to the highest level ever, importing 3.7 million metric tons (MMT), up 13 percent from the previous year. National grain and feed demand continues to outstrip domestic supply by nearly double, with New Zealand producing 2.1 MMT in 2022, but consuming an estimated 5.8 MMT. Dairy farming continues to dominate as the largest consumer, accounting for about 75 percent, followed by poultry (12 percent) and then human consumption (nine percent). For human consumption, and processing, New Zealand produces milling wheat, oats, and malting barley, but also still imports milling wheat sourced from Australia. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=New%20Zealand%20Grain%20and%20Feed%20Market%20Situation_Wellington_New%20Zealand_NZ2023-0003)

**Japan 253rd Food Safety Group**

Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) proposed revisions to Japan’s maximum residue levels for 9 agricultural chemicals including Iprodione, Metobromuron, Paraquat dichloride (Paraquat), and Pyridachlometyl for various agricultural commodities. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Japan%20253rd%20Food%20Safety%20Group_Tokyo_Japan_JA2023-0011)

## In The News:

#### Australia Flower industry pushes to get country-of-origin labelling back on the table for imported blooms

At least half of the fresh-cut flowers sold in Australia are imported, and up to 10 million roses are flown into the country for Valentine's Day. Flower Industry Australia chief executive Anna Jabour said if imported food can have a label showing where it's made or produced, then flowers should too. "So it was really a kick in the guts when they weren't. "So we are making representations to the new government because we would like to see that decision reviewed."

Last year a report from Deloitte Access Economics recommended against the proposal to extend country-of-origin labelling to flowers[. Full article here](https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-02-14/flower-labelling-push-as-imported-blooms-flood-market/101965870)

#### Rice is losing popularity in South Korea - being eclipsed by meats and vegetables

More Koreans are lowering their intake of the grain and increasing their consumption of fats and proteins. The trend is proven in numbers. Rice consumption per person fell 0.4 percent from 56.9 kilograms in 2021 to 56.7 kilograms for 2022, according to data from Statistics Korea released on Jan. 27. Although the decline may not seem significant, the tally differs when it narrows down to daily rice consumption, which was 155.5 grams. Consumption of meat has risen, and the demand for vegetables, as they are often paired up meat, is expected to increase as well.

KREI forecasts consumption of cabbage, garlic, radishes, chili and onions per person to rise 905.4 percent from 11.1 kilograms this year to 111.6 kilograms by 2032. [Full article here](https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/2023/02/09/business/economy/rice-meat-diet/20230209174001393.html)

#### China’s 2022 Fruit Import and Export Statistics Released

According to a recently released report from the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce and Animal By-Products, China’s fruit imports continued an upward trend in 2022 despite it being the toughest year for the fruit trade since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, China imported 7.33 million metric tons or $14.6 billion worth of fruit, representing year-on-year (YOY) increases of 4% and 8%, respectively. By contrast, China witnessed its fruit exports drop further in 2022, making it the third consecutive year of declines. In 2022, China’s fruit exports shrank by 8% and 15% in volume and value, respectively, compared with 2021, with figures reaching 3.26 million metric tons and $4.6 billion.

In descending order of import value, the top-performing fruit categories were fresh durians, fresh cherries, bananas, mangosteens and coconuts, while bananas, coconuts, fresh durians, fresh dragon fruit and fresh longans were the top five by volume.

The top 5 fruit exporters to China in 2022 by export value were Thailand ($6.28 billion, −3.8% YOY), Chile ($3.35 billion, +40.8% YOY), Vietnam ($1.27 billion, +42.7% YOY), the Philippines($0.67 billion, +3.1% YOY), New Zealand ($0.63 billion, −1.6% YOY). It is noteworthy that Thailand has now remained at the top spot for four consecutive years. [Full article here](https://www.producereport.com/article/chinas-2022-fruit-import-export-statistics-released)

#### Peru poised for big rise in avocado shipments

Peru is on course to export 624,000 tonnes of Hass avocados in 2023, according to ProHass. This is an increase of 12.5 per cent increase on last year’s total and almost double the 338,549 tonnes shipped in 2018. ProHass’s president, Carlos Paredes, said supply will have to be managed in a responsible way to ensure a profitable campaign. “What is important is that this volume is shipped at an orderly pace and that we avoid supply peaks concentrated in a few weeks,” he said.

Paredes noted that this 2023 is different from previous campaigns as the past couple of months has seen lower volumes from Spain, South Africa, Israel and other African countries, ensuring a relatively undersupplied market where Peruvian shipments get underway. Moreover, he said the focus should be on achieving a better spread of shipments between the different markets, with less volume concentrated on the European market and more to the US and Asia. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/peru-poised-for-big-rise-in-avocado-shipments/248308.article)

#### 123 tons of tainted Chilean cherries intercepted at Taiwanese border

Some 123 tons of Chilean cherries were denied entry into Taiwan after food safety tests showed they contained excess levels of pesticide residues, the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said recently. The nine shipments from Chile were found to contain residues of cyantraniliprole, a broad-spectrum insecticide for controlling insects with mandibulate as well as piercing-sucking mouthparts, as a result of batch-by-batch inspections at the border, Chen Ching-yu, a division chief at the FDA's Northern Center for Regional Administration, told reporters.

Since Jan. 11, all cherries imported from the South American country have been subject to border testing after it was found that the fruit shipments were failing safety checks with a greater frequency, Chen said. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9502124/123-tons-of-tainted-chilean-cherries-intercepted-at-taiwanese-border/)

#### Aldi and Lidl are investing big to win the ‘hearts and minds’ of British farmers

As tensions between traditional supermarkets and suppliers hit boiling point, Aldi and Lidl are positioning themselves as the new face of British produce. “The farmers and producers that supply us, some of which have been with us for decades, are paramount to the success of our business,” Lidl GB’s chief executive Ryan McDonnell said last week, as the grocer announced that it would be spending £2bn more than planned on buying British in the coming years. Aldi, meanwhile, has pledged to spend an extra £3.5bn a year with UK suppliers by the end of 2025.

The discounters have been keen to send a message: while other supermarkets are squeezing farmers on prices, Aldi and Lidl are looking out for Britain’s food and drink producers. [Full article here](https://www.fpcfreshtalkdaily.co.uk/single-post/aldi-and-lidl-spend-big-in-battle-for-hearts-and-minds-of-british-farmers)

#### Continued global growth for organic market

The latest figures published by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and IFOAM Organics International.show strong worldwide growth in the sector. This includes a 1.7% increase in organically managed land at the end of 2021, with both France and Spain reporting an increase of over 8% compared to 2019. A total of 20 countries have now reached 10% or more of all agricultural land under organic management.

As seen at Biofach 2023, the global organic trade fair which hosted the launch of the latest report, support for organic on the European mainland is seen at the most senior government level. The German Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture, Cem Özdemir, described organic as ‘the decisive response to the climate and biodiversity crises and those with a different view should go to the opticians.’ [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9505028/continued-global-growth-for-organic-market/)

#### IFPA releases State of the Industry Report

The International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) has released a new State of the Industry Report which showcases data, insights and outlooks to help the fresh produce industry as it prepares and plans for the challenges and opportunities of 2023.

“IFPA’s first State of the Industry Report explores how the IFPA member community, and the global fruit and vegetable industry can make a positive and powerful impact on the world, despite daunting challenges,” said IFPA chief executive Cathy Burns. According to IFPA, the report features industry critical data including economic and consumption data, key trends according to IFPA research and other globally recognised research, and the future outlook for the industry [Full report here](https://www.freshproduce.com/membership/2022-state-of-the-industry/)

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