

UPDATE: 26 October 2023

Kia ora

In this week’s update, key developments in New Zealand include a call for a dedicated Minister of Horticulture and the upcoming 28th Asian Seed Congress while in the international section, we highlight Chile’s expanding market access opportunities into Asia and the growth in partnerships to boost fruit production in India. You’ll find links to these as 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 |

## 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.



## ICPR changes

The following ICPRs have been updated in a number of sections since the last newsletter:

* European Union: [ICPR EU](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/640)
* India: [ICPR India](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/651)
* Japan: [ICPR Japan](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/657)
* New Caledonia: [ICPR New Caledonia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/670)
* Reunion Island: [ICPR Reunion Island](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/681)
* USA: [ICPR USA](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/702)

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

## CONSULTATIONS

#### PHEL Proposed Price Schedule and Greenhouse Booking Policy

MPI has reviewed its Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (PHEL) diagnostic test pricing list along with its post-entry quarantine booking policy and is seeking feedback on the proposals. More information on the proposal and how to provide feedback are on the Ministry for Primary Industries [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/science/laboratories/plant-health-and-environment-laboratory/what-we-do-at-the-plant-health-and-environment-laboratory/). Submissions close on the 06 November 2023.

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| NEW ZEALAND NEWS |

## Industry news

#### New Zealand's horticulture sector needs its own Minister

The incoming Prime Minister is being urged to appoint a Minister of Horticulture to Cabinet to help pave the way for ensuring the essential supply of nutritious fruit and vegetables for New Zealand and the world while creating jobs and export success.

Horticulture New Zealand Chief Executive Nadine Tunley says the horticulture industry stands ready and willing to make a significant contribution to growing a prosperous and sustainable economy whilst ensuring horticultural food security for New Zealanders. “Many New Zealanders are struggling with the cost of living which is putting pressure on food budgets. With the right policy and regulatory settings, growers can provide a reliable and resilient supply of fresh fruit and vegetables and contribute positively to New Zealand’s food security.

“We are also confident we can increase exports and double farmgate revenue by 2035. We need the Government to recognise and understand the importance of horticulture and create and maintain the conditions for our industry to thrive, and in doing so lift the overall health, wellbeing and economic recovery of New Zealand. Said Tunley [Full article here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/media-releases/new-zealand-horticulture-needs-its-own-minster-as-new-government-urged-to-focus-on-five-key-priorities/)

#### Global seed showcase coming to Canterbury

The countdown is on for the international seed congress, the most significant event on the Asia and Pacific industry calendar, and coming to New Zealand for the first time in its 28-year history.

Up to 1500 international seed trade professionals are expected for the 28th Asian Seed Congress co-organised by the Asia and Pacific Seed Alliance and the NZ Grain and Seed Trade Association (NZGSTA). The event will be held at the Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre from November 20 to 24, and will be the biggest event the centre has hosted to date.

NZGSTA general manager Thomas Chin said the congress will be a huge opportunity to showcase the NZ seed industry. “The industry is looking forward to co-hosting and demonstrating to global customers NZ’s high-quality seed and production systems,” Chin said.

Chin said NZ is a world leader in seed production with the industry supplying 60% of the world’s radish seed, 50% of white clover seed and 40% of its carrot seed, as well as some 40 other different cropping seed species. [Full article here](https://www.farmersweekly.co.nz/news/global-seed-showcase-coming-to-canty/)

#### Trial volumes from new growing method show positive difference in firmness and quality for cherry growers

New Zealand cherry growers are looking forward to a good season, it is still early days, but the spring weather has been good for growing at Cherri Global orchards in Hawke’s Bay and Otago where pollination has been good resulting in a strong flowering.

Cherri Global are particularly excited about the coming season as they look to reap the rewards of the planar cordon planting system. This will be the first season the company expects to harvest more than half of their crop from the new planar cordon planting system which has already proved to provide larger, better quality cherries.

"Our main target markets are China, Taiwan, Vietnam and Middle East but given the significant volume increase coming year on year, we are keen to diversify by developing our existing programmes in markets such as South East Asia, Japan and Korea." said Cherri Global CEO Phil Alison [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9570870/trial-volumes-from-new-growing-method-show-positive-difference-in-firmness-and-quality/?utm_medium=email)

#### Zespri officially opens global hub in Singapore

Zespri has officially opened its new Centre of Sales and Marketing Excellence in Singapore, following a recent blessing ceremony. The Centre was first established in 2015 and acts as a vital hub connecting Zespri’s markets together, as well as connecting all markets with growers in New Zealand and offshore. A new office was completed in late 2020 but Covid-19 and the associated travel restrictions in recent years delayed an official opening until now.

Zespri CEO Dan Mathieson says the Singapore hub plays a critical role in Zespri’s ability to return value back to growers and communities. “Our Centre of Sales and Marketing Excellence is the gateway to all of our major markets and the heartbeat of our sales and marketing strategy, supporting our 17 offices around the world and it was brilliant we could have our growers join us for this important event after the extended Covid-enforced delay”. “The hub has been pivotal in the ongoing strengthening of our brand, including the global roll-out of our successful KiwiBrothers campaigns, which has helped us grow demand and attract new consumers, and we’re looking forward to this continuing in the years ahead. “ [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9570765/zespri-officially-opens-global-hub-in-singapore/?utm_medium=email)

#### New Zealand data shows an increase in foodborne infections

New Zealand has reported a rise in most major foodborne infections in 2022, according to recently published data.  The data comes from EpiSurv, the notifiable disease surveillance system, and the Ministry of Health’s database on hospitalizations, which are separate.

Most 27 outbreaks, with 253 cases in 2022, were linked to commercial food operators, and only five were associated with food prepared in consumer homes. Campylobacter, Salmonella, Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC), and Listeria infections increased in 2022 from 2021 levels. Reasons suggested include more overseas travel and easing restrictions put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 35 hepatitis A cases were reported in a national outbreak associated with imported frozen berries. The incident continued into 2023. Of cases in 2022, seven had no recollection of eating imported frozen berries and were likely due to secondary transmission. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2023/10/new-zealand-data-shows-increase-in-foodborne-infections/)

#### Plant import and diagnostic fees are doubling: have your say

MPI has reviewed its Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (PHEL) diagnostic test pricing list along with its post-entry quarantine booking policy and is seeking feedback on the proposals. The changes, including major cost increases, are to be introduced in December. New Zealand Plant Producers (NZPPI) have outlined their feedback about the proposal on their website and encourage their members to also provide feedback to MPI. [Full article here](https://nzppi.co.nz/Plant-import-and-diagnostic-fees-are-doubling-have-your-say/19776-3b45d978-3b2d-4a06-a9bb-1755c88b603a-s119774/)

## Reports & Insights

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: German economic update: Transformation opportunity?

The world’s fourth largest economy is likely to experience negative growth this year and just modest growth in the coming years. Germany is facing a number of structural challenges, which are becoming a key focus of the Government’s economic, industry and climate policy. For New Zealand exporters, future economic opportunities in Germany may look different to those over the past decade. German wealth looks less likely to increase across the board, but demographic change, the energy transition and digitalisation could offer new opportunities. [Full report here](https://govt.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee12ff73e0bbcb23b01a60631&id=5ed4ecc1de&e=f1812fde89)

#### Upcoming events and webinars:

* United Fresh & IFPA Sustainability Workshop, 15November 2023, Mt Wellington, Auckland [Full details here](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/auckland-sustainability-workshop-wed-15-november-2023-tickets-716965752867?aff=oddtdtcreator)
* Adapting Aotearoa: Towards a Climate Resilient Land and Food System. Deep South Challenge, Resilience to Nature’s Challenges and Our Land and Water. 20 November 23, Christchurch Town Hall, Christchurch. [Full details here](https://deepsouthchallenge.co.nz/adapting-aotearoa/?utm_medium=email&_hsmi=272241730&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--m2Lcd2I5GV_82uymEjsQHyPxO0jYoU9a9HO_cqzjtI6QlTVrb1QlLn_Xh3y39CCz7FdEgzdwpOJXPFmkUsjhm1pRGGg&utm_content=272241730&utm_source=hs_email)
* Asian Seed Congress 2023, 20-24 November 2023, Christchurch. [Full details here.](https://web.apsaseed.org/asc2023)
* Hort Connections, 3-5 June 2024, Melbourne Convention Centre, Australia [Full details here](https://hortconnections.com.au/)

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| 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: Inaugural Genetically Modified Corn and Soybean Variety Registration List Published - Comment Period Opened

On October 17, 2023, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) National Crop Variety Registration Committee (CNCVRC) published the first-ever variety registration list for genetically modified (GM) corn and soybeans. The list includes 37 GM corn varieties and 14 GM soybean varieties and is open for public comment for 30 days, or until November 15, 2023. Once finalized, listed GM corn and soybean varieties will be eligible for planting in approved areas. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Inaugural%20Genetically%20Modified%20Corn%20and%20Soybean%20Variety%20Registration%20List%20Published%20-%20Comment%20Period%20Opened_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2023-0149)

China: National Standard for Requirements of Restricting Excessive Packaging for Fresh Edible Agricultural Products Released |

On September 22, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) released National Mandatory Standard for Requirements of Restricting Excessive Packaging for Fresh Edible Agricultural Products (GB43284-2023). China notified the standard to the WTO on February 2, 2023. The standard, which was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), will enter into force on April 1, 2024. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=National%20Standard%20for%20Requirements%20of%20Restricting%20Excessive%20Packaging%20for%20Fresh%20Edible%20Agricultural%20Products%20Released_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2023-0138)

Japan 258th Food Safety Group

Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) proposed revisions to Japan’s maximum residue levels for 9 agricultural chemicals (Chlorfluazuron, Fluxametamide, Isofetamid, 1-Methylcyclopropene, Quizalofop-ethyl and Quizalofop-P-tefuryl, Tebufenpyrad, Hydrocortisone, Mosapride, and Ethopabate) for various agricultural commodities. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Japan%20258th%20Food%20Safety%20Group_Tokyo_Japan_JA2023-0105)

FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual: [Japan](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Tokyo_Japan_JA2023-0100); [Chile](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Santiago_Chile_CI2023-0022)

These reports provide information on the regulations and procedures for the importation of food and agricultural products from the United States to each country.

Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual: [Australia](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Canberra_Australia_AS2023-0019)

## In The News:

#### Australia: SA’s first $50m biosecurity treatment facility to boost state's horticulture exports

A state first for South Australia, the post-harvest treatment facility will provide inspection, quarantine, and treatment of fruit and vegetable produce, which is vital for exporting SA’s produce globally.

The industry-led initiative is funded through $9.8 million in Federal Government funding, $4.2 million from the State Government, and $36 million from industry. The facility will use pressure cooling and treatment technology and will be the largest-scale multi-treatment and inspection facility in South Australia. Once completed, the project will unlock an additional $100M in fresh produce exports over a 5-year period, creating up to 172 direct and indirect ongoing jobs and assisting in cost reduction for the state’s primary producers.

The project will establish a post-harvest treatment service with pressure cooling and treatment technology, both of which are required to enable the export of South Australian produce to more overseas destinations. [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9569935/sa-s-first-50m-biosecurity-treatment-facility-to-boost-state-s-horticulture-exports/?utm_medium=email)

#### Australian delegation promotes Vietnam prospects

A delegation of leading Australian fruit and vegetable producers is traveling to Vietnam to celebrate the thriving two-way trading relationship between Australia and Vietnam with local industry.

In 2022, the value of Australian horticulture exports to Vietnam surged to A$137m. This substantial increase moved Vietnam up to Australia’s second largest export market for fresh produce by value. Australian Fresh Produce Alliance (AFPA) chief executive Claire McClelland said this growth was a result of a sustained effort by both country’s governments to deliver new and improved market access for fresh produce, and more broadly grow two-way trade.

The delegation has been supported by Austrade and the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, demonstrating the importance of a whole of government approach, and engagement with industry in supporting improved trade outcomes. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/australian-delegation-promotes-vietnam-prospects/256472.article)

#### Australia: Dimethoate Use Suspended After Insecticide Residue Found To Exceed Safety Levels

A range of tropical fruit including mangoes and avocados are now no longer allowed to be dipped in dimethoate, a neurotoxin banned in Europe but still used in some countries as an insecticide.

This week Australia’s chemical regulator, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), issued a 12-month suspension notice after testing found dimethoate residue above the maximum permissible limit on the skin of mango and avocado samples. The APVMA says the residual insecticide levels detected “are unlikely to pose a significant risk to human health”, but issued the suspension as a precaution.

In the case of mangoes and avocados, the fruit is either dipped in or sprayed with the insecticide to control Queensland fruit fly, a native pest found throughout eastern Australia. Some in the horticulture industry say the move could affect supplies of fruit and impact the price and availability in southern states. [Full article here](https://theabj.com.au/2023/10/13/insecticide-residue/)

#### AHEIA rebrands to Australian Horticulture Trade

Australian Horticulture Trade is the new name for the organisation representing Australian importers, exporters, growers and packers of fresh products involved in international trade

The Australian Horticultural Exporters’ and Importers’ Association has announced it will rebrand to Australian Horticulture Trade (AHT). The national association was formed to promote, advocate and enhance the trade of horticultural produce into and out of Australia. The new name was announced at the association’s recent AGM and industry forum. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9570310/aheia-rebrands-to-australian-horticulture-trade/?utm_medium=email)

#### The opening of the Vietnam market for Chilean kiwis and air shipments of cherries is advancing

An official delegation of Chile's Ministry of Agriculture has travelled to Asia, with stops in Vietnam, South Korea, and China, to continue working on the opening of markets and improving the conditions of entry of Chilean agricultural products into this continent.

The delegation was in Vietnam on October 10 and 11, where it met with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, Hoang Trung, and authorities of the Department of Plant and Animal Health of Vietnam, among others.

"We managed to advance with the Vietnamese vice-minister in a very complete itinerary to facilitate the exchange of fruits. We want to be able to export cherries by air and open the Vietnamese market to Chilean kiwis. Meanwhile, they're interested in sending mango, passion fruit, and other products from the southern part of Vietnam to Chile," stated Minister Esteban Valenzuela. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9568247/the-opening-of-the-vietnam-market-for-chilean-kiwis-and-air-shipments-of-cherries-is-advancing/?utm_medium=email)

#### China grants access to Chilean peaches and apricots

Chilean fruit exporters are celebrating the news that China has opened its doors to their peaches and apricots after the signing of a protocol in Beijing on Tuesday (17 October). Chinese quarantine officials are scheduled to visit Chile in November, and exports will begin once the audit is approved, with the industry expecting to commence shipments this season.

With the signing of this protocol, not only do our exports to this market grow, but Chile becomes the first country to have secured access for practically all our fruits to enter China,” said Asoex president Iván Marambio. “This highlights the strong relations between our two nations, and the significant work of our sector, together with Ministry of Agriculture and SAG (Agriculture and Livestock Service) to deliver high-quality and safe fruit to consumers.

In addition to the protocol granting market access to Chilean peaches and apricots, the two nations signed three Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreements covering phytosanitary certification, organic food certification and the development of a Chinese demonstration farm in Chile. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/china-grants-access-to-chilean-peaches-and-apricots/256572.article)

#### Indonesian government to cut garlic imports by 40 percent next year

In an effort to encourage Indonesia’s domestic production, the Agriculture Ministry plans to reduce garlic imports next year by roughly 40 percent.

According to National Food Agency (NFA) head Arief Prasetyo Adi, the horticultural product import recommendations (RIPH) for 2024 would limit the volume of imported garlic to a maximum of 650,000 tons. That amount was based on the nationwide need, which was only 600,000 to 620,000 tons, he said yesterday. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9569231/indonesian-government-to-cut-garlic-imports-by-40-percent-next-year/?utm_medium=email)

#### India: Haskelberg and IG Deccan boost partnership

Israel’s Haskelberg and Indian company IG Deccan have signed an agreement to deepen their partnership to collaborate and propagate avocado plants together in India. The two nurseries, which first announced their partnership in April this year, said they would focus on collaborative research and the introduction of new varieties and rootstocks specifically tailored to India’s unique climatic conditions

“This strategic expansion aims to propagate larger quantities of avocado plants, drawing on the strengths of Haskelberg’s world-class expertise and IG Deccan’s unmatched local knowledge,” said the companies in a joint press release. “The commitment underscores the joint aspiration to diversify crops, thereby heralding a potential game-changer for the Indian agricultural sector.” [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/haskelberg-and-ig-deccan-boost-partnership/256652.article)

#### Global Plant Genetics and FD Berries form India partnership

Intellectual property specialist Global Plant Genetics and berry grower-shipper FD Berries have established a berry licensing and supply chain agreement in India.

Global Plant Genetics said the new agreement will enable FD Berries to grow some of the world’s leading evergreen and low-chill blueberry genetics and license them to third-party growers under contract. “Growers, retailers and consumers in India will have opportunities to access world-class varieties which we feel will change the landscape for blueberries across India,” said Rupert Hargreaves, co-owner and director of Global Plant Genetics.  [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/global-plant-genetics-and-fd-berries-form-india-partnership/256626.article)

#### Fruit and vegetable growers of Canada supports new private member’s Bill that facilitates faster access to innovative crop protection solutions

The Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC) enthusiastically welcomes the introduction of a new Private Members Bill by MP Kody Blois aimed at amending the Feeds Act, the Seeds Act, and the Pest Control Products Act. FVGC has strongly supported the ongoing initiative for a renewed, efficient, and adequately funded pesticide regulatory system that supports Canadian agriculture.

MP Blois' Private Member's Bill proposes amendments that would create a pathway for the provisional registration or approval of pest control products, seeds, and feeds within 90 days, provided they have already received approval in at least two other trusted jurisdictions. This is a practical approach to quickening the approval process while maintaining stringent safety and efficacy standards.

The bill offers a myriad of advantages that directly address the needs of Canadian growers. The bill facilitates faster access to innovative crop protection solutions, allowing farmers to better combat threats like pests and diseases, tangible cost savings for growers and enables them to be more competitive in both domestic and global markets. [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9569978/fruit-and-vegetable-growers-of-canada-supports-new-private-ember-s-bill-introduced-by-mp-kody-blois/?utm_medium=email)

#### UK sees a shift from avocado to more sustainable smashed peas on toast

It seems that the UK is turning away from the well-known ‘avocado toast’ in favour of a more sustainable delight: smashed peas. The culinary shift was articulated by chef Emma Kensington, who shared her enthusiasm for the new trend. "We have to be mindful of our food choices, not only for our health but for the planet too. Smashed peas offer an excellent alternative to avocados, which are often sourced from far-flung locations and have a considerable carbon footprint." [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9568434/uk-sees-a-shift-from-avocado-to-smashed-peas-on-toast/?utm_medium=email)

#### The German market potential for fresh fruit and vegetables

Germany is the third largest importer of fresh fruit and vegetables in the world after the USA and China, and the main importer within Europe. In 2022, the total value of imports was €12.6 billion, which represented 18.5% of the imports of the region (EU27, United Kingdom, EFTA). Germany is the largest importer of vegetables in Europe, and the second-largest importer of fruit after the Netherlands.

Germany relies on imports to guarantee a year-round supply of fresh produce. Almost 40% of Germany’s fresh fruit and vegetable imports come from developing countries. The opportunities for tropical and exotic fruit are growing, such as bananas, grapes, avocados, blueberries and mangos. The same is true of (exotic) vegetables such as tomatoes, capsicum, beans, asparagus and pumpkins. The German organic market is the largest in Europe, which makes it attractive for suppliers from developing countries. [Full article here](https://www.cbi.eu/market-information/fresh-fruit-vegetables/germany)

#### European Commission assesses proposal for environmental footprint methodology FloriPEFCR

The possibility of calculating, comparing, and monitoring the environmental impact of a cut flower or pot plant in Europe according to a standard independent calculation method is getting closer now that a proposal for such a calculation system - the FloriPEFCR - was recently submitted to the European Commission. Brussels is expected to endorse the FloriPEFCR by the end of this year and then publish it on the European Commission's website.

Consumers and trade in Europe are increasingly demanding demonstrably sustainably grown flowers and plants. The FloriPEFCR is a means of demonstrating the reliability of Dutch floriculture products and being transparent about their sustainable production, aspects that contribute to keeping the sector's reputation high. [Full article here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9569326/european-commission-assesses-proposal-for-environmental-footprint-methodology-floripefcr/?utm_medium=email)

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