

UPDATE: 28 June 2023

Kia ora

In this update, there continues to be positive developments in trade arrangements with the NZ trade delegation travelling to China, and cautious forecasts that our horticultural export revenue will continue to strengthen in the coming year. 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

Michelle Glogau | info@pmac.co.nz | 274 577531

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| GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS |

## ICPR changes

The following ICPRs have been updated in the last two weeks:

* **Taiwan**has been updated in the sections for Seeds, Nuts and Grains for Sowing (section 4.4.1) and Seeds, Nuts and Grains Consumption (section 4.4.2). [ICPR Taiwan](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/694)
* **Great Britain** has been updated under the complianceprogramme country for *Cyathea* spp. and *Dicksonia* spp. under section ‘4.3.2 Cuttings’; added *Asplenium* spp. under section ‘4.3.6 Whole Plants’; updated the requirements for Cyathea spp. and Dicksonia spp. under section ‘4.3.6 Whole Plants’. [ICPR GB](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/39653-Great-Britain)
* **Chile** has been updated in a number of sections. [ICPR Chile](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/629)
* **Malaysia**has been updated to clarify internal references within the document in sections 3.4.2 and 4.4.3. [ICPR Malaysia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/664)

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



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| NEW ZEALAND NEWS |

## Government News:

#### New Zealand and China reaffirm importance of agriculture cooperation

New Zealand has taken steps to grow primary sector exports through agreement with China to boost agriculture and food safety cooperation, Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor announced yesterday in Beijing.

Damien O’Connor signed an updated ‘Strategic Plan on Promoting Agricultural Cooperation’ with China’s Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs Tang Renjian.  “China is an important market for our exporters, especially our primary industries, and reaffirming our significant economic relationship with China is vital to our economic growth and recovery,” Damien O’Connor said. “Demand for New Zealand food and fibre remains strong internationally and is reflected in the record export earnings of $56.2 billion for the year ending 30 June 2023. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-and-china-reaffirm-importance-agriculture-cooperation)

#### New agricultural trade envoy appointed

Fifth-generation farmer and former Nuffield scholar Hamish Marr has been appointed New Zealand’s Special Agricultural Trade Envoy, Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O’Connor announced recently. The Special Agricultural Trade Envoy (SATE) works alongside Government to support key objectives and advocate for our farmers and growers off-shore.

Hamish is an arable farmer based in Methven producing high quality seeds for global export and he was awarded New Zealand Seed Grower of the Year in 2022 in recognition of his work. Until recently, Hamish was also Vice-Chair of the New Zealand Seeds authority which oversees seed certification on behalf of the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Hamish Marr will take up the role of SATE from 1 July 2023. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-agricultural-trade-envoy-appointed-1)

## Industry news

#### T&G launches new apple variety

T&G Global has launched Joli, a new global premium apple variety, which joins the company’s established portfolio of Envy and Jazz apple brands.

Joli, which global consumers will be able to enjoy from 2028 onwards, is the result of over ten years of innovation. Developed in New Zealand, Joli is a productive, large, full-flavoured bright red juicy apple with trees producing high yielding, high colour fruit.

T&G Global chief executive, Gareth Edgecombe, said Joli harnessed New Zealand’s great intellectual property and its addition to the company’s premium apple portfolio will help build a stronger horticulture sector. “Joli is an outstanding apple with fantastic attributes. It’s a bright shiny large red apple, with a full-flavoured balanced sweetness, which bursts with juiciness. Joli’s size and taste profile make it a perfect everyday premium apple for sharing occasions,” said Edgecombe. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/tandg-launches-new-apple-variety/249246.article)

#### China and New Zealand foster research ties

Plant & Food Research recently hosted a visit from Dr Zhigang Wang, China’s minister of science and technology as the two countries celebrated their research links.

Zhigang visited Plant & Food’s Mount Albert research centre at the end of May as an official guest of the New Zealand government. He was accompanied by senior officials in his ministry, China’s consul general to Aotearoa New Zealand Shijie Chen, alongside senior representatives from the Sichuan provincial department of science and technology and other research organisations.

Zhigang’s visit focused on recognising the long and enduring relationship between Plant & Food Research and Chinese research partners, which has a particular focus on mutually-beneficial scientific research into understanding and controlling natural diseases in kiwifruit with the Sichuan Academy of Natural Resource Sciences (SPANRS). [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/china-and-new-zealand-foster-research-ties/249234.article).

#### Seeka provides FY23 earnings guidance

Seeka Limited has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of forecast full year earnings. The group result for the full year to 31 December 2023 is likely to be a net loss before tax of between $20 million and $25 million. This forecast reflects much lower than anticipated New Zealand kiwifruit volumes.

Seeka has completed its New Zealand kiwifruit harvest packing a total of 29.8m class 1 trays, compared to 42.4m in the previous corresponding period. Seeka’s regional market share is comparable between years and the lower volumes primarily relate to record low per hectare yields from orchards across all regions. All growing regions experienced adverse weather events, including a severe frost in October 22; storms in January and February 2023 primarily affecting the Gisborne and Hawkes Bay that also impacted the Bay of Plenty and Coromandel; and wetter conditions during pollination and throughout the growing season.

Seeka anticipates improving volumes in 2024 reflecting better growing conditions with El Nino weather patterns, winter chill, increased areas of new orchards coming into production and better frost impact mitigation preparedness by growers. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9539946/seeka-provides-fy23-earnings-guidance/?utm_medium=email)

#### Steven Martina to leave The Greenery and join Zespri

Steve Martina is to leave Dutch fresh produce giant The Greenery at the end of August and take up a new role as director for Europe and North America at Zespri International. Martina, who has spent more than 19 years with The Greenery, including almost eight years as chief executive officer, said he wanted a new challenge that would offer opportunities for “organisational impact and personal growth”.

Zespri chief executive officer Dan Mathieson confirmed Martina’s appointment, effective 1 September. “Steven will lead our European and North American team’s work to create sustainable, long-term value for kiwifruit growers, by offering local consumers the world’s leading portfolio of branded kiwifruit 12 months of the year,” he said. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/main-navigation/steven-martina-to-leave-the-greenery-and-join-zespri/249326.article)

#### IFPA A-NZ announces new managing director Ben Hoodless

The International Fresh Produce Association A-NZ (IFPA A-NZ) has announced the appointment of Ben Hoodless as its new managing director. Hoodless has led the organisation in an interim role since February 2023 and has previously served as chairman of IFPA A-NZ.

Richard Byllaardt, chair of IFPA A-NZ, expressed his enthusiasm about the appointment and said the board had confidence in Hoodless’ ability to lead the association towards achieving its goals. “We are delighted to welcome Ben Hoodless as the managing director of IFPA A-NZ. With his proven track record of industry expertise and strong leadership skills, we are confident that Ben will play a pivotal role in advancing our association’s objectives and supporting the growth of the fresh produce industry in the Australia-New Zealand region,” said Byllaardt. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/ifpa-a-nz-announces-new-managing-director-ben-hoodless/249304.article)

## Reports & Insights

#### MPI Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries – June 2023

According to the recently-published SOPI, the food and fibre sector export revenue has performed remarkably well during the disrupted global trade period to date. Food and fibre sector exports are expected to increase 6% to $56.2 billion for the year to 30 June 2023.

Looking ahead to the year to 30 June 2024, food and fibre sector export revenue is forecast to remain flat at $56.2 billion, with strengthening export revenue in dairy, forestry, horticulture, and seafood sectors offsetting weakening export revenue in meat and wool and processed food and other products sectors.

The report also includes an analysis by sector. [Full report here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/57298-Situation-and-Outlook-for-Primary-Industries-SOPI-June-2023)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Egypt: It’s about the Long-Game

Short-term, Egypt presents some difficulty in navigating a complex regulatory environment, the impacts of high inflation and the foreign exchange shortage. However, long-term, Egypt offers some core advantages. The labour force is large and growing, as is its domestic market, and the country’s location as a close neighbour of Europe, the Gulf and Africa makes it a strategic place to hub exports. The devalued exchange rate presents a competitive advantage. Nestlé’s in-market director recently commented “the potential for growth once Egypt is out of the current crisis is unprecedented.

For the Year Ending March 2023 New Zealand exported $270.57 million of total goods and services to Egypt and imported $21.5 million. [Full report here](https://govt.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee12ff73e0bbcb23b01a60631&id=f30b33d20a&e=f1812fde89)

#### Upcoming events and webinars:

* Primary Industries New Zealand Summit, 3-4 July 2023, Tākina, Wellington. [Full details here](https://primaryindustries.co.nz/)
* 2023 Horticulture Conference Week, 31 July-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. [Full details here](https://fpsc-anz.com/fresh-produce-safety-conference-2023/)
* 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. [Full details here](https://www.cbaff.org.nz/2023conference)
* Asian Seed Congress 2023, 20-24 November 2023, Christchurch. [Full details here.](https://web.apsaseed.org/asc2023)

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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.

**FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual: Canada**

Canada intends to establish a regulatory framework for plastic packaging, covering minimum recycled content requirements, and rules for compostability, and the use of recyclability signs on packaging. Additionally, Canada intends to introduce regulatory requirements for advertising foods and beverages to children under the age of 13. The federal government also announced the intent to add per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to Canada’s list of toxic substances, and draft regulatory requirements over the next two years. In 2022, Canada published final regulations on front of package nutrition labeling (FOPNL), and a new regulatory framework for supplemented foods. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Ottawa_Canada_CA2023-0025)

**Taiwan Organic Sector Report – 2023:**

With Taiwan’s Organic Agriculture Promotion Act in effect since 2019, the industry has been phasing in an expanded universe of organics. More clean label products and upcoming third-party certified quasi-organics are sharing shelf space with certified organics. The trend reflects a still strong consumer demand, yet the industry’s product selections are limited due to stringent regulation. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Taiwan%20Organic%20Sector%20Report%20-%202023_Taipei%20ATO_Taiwan_TW2023-0026)

**China: Planting Seed Annual 2023**

The People’s Republic of China (PRC) is the second largest seed market in the world, behind the United States and annually plants 12 million metric tons (MMT) of seed, with a market value of U.S. $19 billion. This report provides updated information on the regulatory landscape for planting seeds, including developments related to agricultural biotechnology in 2022 and the first half of 2023. In addition, the report includes information on the supply, trade, and utilization for a range of planting seeds, including row crops, vegetables, and grass. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Planting%20Seed%202023%20Annual_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2023-0099)

## In The News:

#### Chilean flood damage being assessed by Fedefruta and Asoex

The Federation of Fruit Producers of Chile (Fedefruta) and the Chilean Fruit Exporters Association (ASOEX), are both assessing the impact and damage while seeking how best to support producers and their workers affected by the floods. Both organisations expresses their solidarity with the families that have been affected and regrets the loss of human lives due to the heavy rains affecting central-southern Chile.

The Federation of Fruit Producers of Chile has received reports of damage to fruit farms and facilities due to the frontal system that is being experienced in various productive areas, whether due to flooding due to overflowing of rivers or canals, mudslides, crops complicated by excessive rain, lack of drinking water or roads cut off because of this situation. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9540847/chilean-flood-damage-being-assessed-by-fedefruta-and-asoex/?utm_medium=email)

#### Africa is enjoying increased fruit exports to Europe and Asia

Africa is enjoying increased fruit exports to the EU, the United Kingdom and Asia, helping to fill a growing supply gap occasioned by low harvests in those markets. According to the EU Citrus Semi-Annual Report, the production of citrus fruits in Europe is expected to decrease by 10 per cent in the 2022-23 season, with Spain experiencing the largest decline. This means that African producers can step in to fill the gap.

The combined impact of insufficient spring rains, a warmer summer and drought experienced up to May 2023, the report said, have compromised the EU’s citrus production, particularly oranges and lemons. Conversely, African countries are recording higher fruit harvests despite heavy rainfall in some countries like South Africa and a lack of sufficient water in Morocco, signalling an expansion of the area under commercial fruit production on the continent. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9540844/africa-is-enjoying-increased-fruit-exports-to-europe-and-asia/?utm_medium=email)

#### China has lost its leadership in the global apple exporters’ ranking

China, a long-term leader in the world ranking of fresh apple exporters, has sharply reduced export volumes in the 2022/23 season. Thus, according to EastFruit analysts, we will definitely have a new leader of the world apple export rating in the current season.

“It is most likely that Italy will be a new global apple export leader in 2022/23. There is also a high probability that Poland will overtake China in terms of apple export volumes. Iran, which was approaching the leading positions in previous seasons exporting nearly as much apples as China, on the contrary, will go down in the rankings, as apple exports from Iran fell even more sharply than exports from China,” says Andriy Yarmak, an economist at the Investment Centre of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9540302/china-has-lost-its-leadership-in-the-global-apple-exporters-ranking/?utm_medium=email)

#### Sri Lanka will require heavy metals report for fruit imports

Importers of fruit into Sri Lanka will be required to obtain a report on heavy metals starting from June 1 as part of the country's efforts to improve food safety, the Health Ministry said on Tuesday. The new requirement came after a recent survey by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health, which found that many imported fruit samples were contaminated with lead, the ministry said in a statement.

The heavy metals report must come from an accredited and independent laboratory from the exporting country and will be a mandatory requirement for the release of fruit consignments into the country. Importers are advised not to import any fruit with heavy metals above the Codex levels, as they will be rejected at the port of entry, said the ministry. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9534077/sri-lanka-will-require-heavy-metals-report-for-fruit-imports/?utm_medium=email)

#### Withdrawal of retaliatory tariffs on US apples sparks concerns for Himachal apple growers

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the withdrawal of retaliatory tariffs on American apples during his recent visit to the United States. The decision, set to be implemented within the next 90 days, will result in increased imports of American apples into India, potentially reducing the demand for Himachal apples.

The origin of this trade dispute dates back to 2018, when India retaliated against US tariffs on steel and aluminium by imposing a 20 percent retaliatory tariff on 28 items, including American apples. This increased the import duties on American apples from 50 to 70 percent, aiming to protect the local apple industry. However, now the Indian government has chosen to reverse course by eliminating these retaliatory tariffs. This decision is expected to unleash a flood of American apples into the Indian market, creating an uneven playing field that severely undermines the demand for homegrown Himachal apples. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9540595/modi-s-visit-to-us-sparks-concerns-for-himachal-apple-growers/?utm_medium=email)

#### Onion bubble: What will farmers do with all these onions from August onwards?

According to EastFruit analysts, many countries in the region have dramatically expanded the area under onions under the influence of record prices and strong demand for this crop in the markets of Europe and Asia in the 2022/23 season.

Despite the continued strong demand and high onion export rates from countries such as Uzbekistan, wholesale prices for this vegetable have already dropped to 15-20 cents per kg in Central Asian countries. And this is in the absence on the market of such a large player as Turkey, which has not lifted the ban on onion exports yet. At the same time, plans are being announced to sharply increase the area under onions, which will be harvested from August 2023 in many countries – both in Central Asia, and in the Caucasus, and in Eastern Europe. It is quite obvious that by that time all countries will have lifted the bans on the export of onions.

Onions are a crop with a low level of price elasticity - the level of demand for onions does not depend much on prices, because onions cannot be replaced by anything else in consumption and recipes. Also, even if onions are cheap, people tend not to consume more of them. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9540293/onion-bubble-what-will-farmers-do-with-all-these-onions-from-august-onwards/?utm_medium=email)

#### European organic movement united against GMOs

IFOAM Organics Europe members voted overwhelmingly to maintain their opposition to GMOs, including New Genomic Techniques, ahead of next month’s European Commission proposal on NGTs

As the European organic movement reaffirmed its opposition to GMOs, including to New Genomic Techniques (NGTs), IFOAM Organics Europe’s president Jan Plagge warned against allowing patents on genetic material to fall into the hands of a few companies and stressed the need to transition away from “input-intensive, short-term fixes” with “unproven benefits and potential unintended effects and risks”.

The resolution adopted at IFOAM’s General Assembly in Brussels, passed with more than 97 per cent member support, restated the demand of organic breeders, farmers, processors, certifiers, traders and retailers to preserve their freedom of choice to remain GMO-free, including GMOs derived from NGTs. The resolution comes ahead of the European Commission’s publication of a proposal on NGTs, which is expected on 5 July. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/european-organic-movement-united-against-gmos/249315.article)

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