

UPDATE: 30 August 2023

Kia ora

In this update there’s a focus on trade with India with a delegation of business leaders and government representatives visiting India to progress economic relationships while India itself grapples with the domestic availability of yet another food staple – onions. 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](mailto:info@pmac.co.nz) | 274 577531

[GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS](#_Proposals_to_Amend): [**WTO and TBT Notifications**](#_ICPR_changes)**;** [**ICPR changes;**](#_ICPR_changes_2)[**Consultations**](#_Consultations) [Proposals to Amend the New Zealand (Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds) Food Notice](#_Proposals_to_Amend)

[NEW ZEALAND NEWS:](#_NEW_ZEALAND_NEWS) [**Opinion Piece:**](#_Opinion_piece:) [India and New Zealand: The next innings](#_India_and_New)  [**Government news**](#_Government_news_1)[Supply Chain and Freight Strategy](#_Supply_Chain_and)**;** [NZ and India progress economic partnership](#_NZ_and_India)  [**Industry news:**](#_Industry_news) [Large business delegation bound for India**;**](#_Large_business_delegation)[Māori Kiwifruit Growers send first shipment to Hawaii in market takeover**;**](#_Māori_Kiwifruit_Growers)[Zespri files civil case over unauthorised production and sale of gold kiwifruit in China**;**](#_Zespri_files_civil)[Kiwifruit recalled in US after routine sampling found listeria](#_Kiwifruit_recalled_in). [**Reports & Insights:**](#_Reports_&_Insights_4)[MFAT Market Intelligence Reports: UK Goods Market Overview**;**](#_MFAT_Market_Intelligence_2)[China - the 2023 halfway point: how to keep growth going?**;**](#_MFAT_Market_Intelligence_4)[New Zealand Business Roundtable in China Business Outlook Report “The outlook and experiences of New Zealand businesses operating in China.”](#_Market_Reports) [**Upcoming events & webinars**](#_Upcoming_events_and_3)

[INTERNATIONAL NEWS:](#_Market_Reports) [**Gain Reports**](#_GAIN_reports:) [**In the news:**](#_In_The_News:_5)[Historic A$130m funding for horticultural trade alliance**;**](#_Historic_A$130m_funding)[Australian vegetables explore Europe**;**](#_Australian_vegetables_explore)[India imposes 40% export duty on onions to calm rising prices**;**](#_India_imposes_40%)[Peru wants to export avocados, fresh grapes and blueberries to India**;**](#_Peru_wants_to)[BRICS bloc extends invitations to six new countries**;**](#_BRICS_bloc_extends)[South African avocados gain access to China**;**](#_South_African_avocados)[Taiwan bans cherries from four US producers**;**](#_Taiwan_bans_cherries)[France signs decree to regulate the prohibition of plastic packaging for fruits and vegetables**;**](#_France_signs_decree)[Wind-powered cargo ship embarks on maiden voyage**;**](#_Wind-powered_cargo_ship)[Weather extremes' impact on global fruit and vegetable sector](#_Weather_extremes'_impact)

|  |
| --- |
| 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](mailto: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:

* **Australia**: [ICPR Australia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/621)
* **Bahrain**: [ICPR Bahrain](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/14302-Bahrain)
* **Brazil**: [ICPR Brazil](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/625-Brazil)
* **Cambodia**: [ICPR Cambodia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/28449)
* **China**: [ICPR China](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/630)
* **Eurasian Economic Union** (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russian Federation) [ICPR Eurasian Economic Union](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11518)
* **Hong Kong:** [ICPR Hong Kong](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/649)
* **Japan**: [ICPR Japan](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/657-Japan)
* **Kenya**: [ICPR Kenya](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/658)
* **Korea:** [ICPR Korea](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/659-Korea)
* **Israel**: [ICPR Israel](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/655)
* **Malaysia:** [ICPR Malaysia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/664-Malaysia)
* Mauritius: [ICPR Mauritius](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/666-Mauritius)
* Mexico: [ICPR Mexico](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/667-Mexico)
* Myanmar: [ICPR Myanmar](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/15652)
* Norway: [ICPR Norway](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/673-Norway)
* Nieu: [ICPR Nieu](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/671)
* Pakistan: [ICPR Pakistan](http://mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/675)
* Samoa: [ICPR Samoa](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/684-Samoa)
* Sri Lanka: [ICPR Sri Lanka](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/692-Sri-Lanka)
* Taiwan: [ICPR Taiwan](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/694)
* Thailand: [ICPR Thailand](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/695)
* Uruguay: [ICPR Uruguay](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/703-Uruguay)
* Vanuatu: [ICPR Vanuatu](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/704-Vanuatu)

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

## Consultations

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

New Zealand Food Safety is seeking public feedback on changes to the Food Notice: Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds. The proposed changes are:

* 4 new or amended entries for maximum residue levels in Schedule 1
* 2 new entries for agricultural chemicals for which no maximum residue level applies in Schedule 2
* one new entry for a veterinary medicine for which no maximum residue level applies in Schedule 3
* one amended entry for a veterinary medicine for which no maximum residue level applies in Schedule 3.

More information on the proposal and how to make a submission are on the Ministry for Primary Industries [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposals-to-amend-the-new-zealand-maximum-residue-levels-for-agricultural-compounds-food-notice-2023/?utm_source=notification-email). Submissions close at 5pm on 24 September 2023.

|  |
| --- |
| NEW ZEALAND NEWS |

## Opinion piece:

#### India and New Zealand: The next innings

In this opinion piece, Stephen Jacobi of the New Zealand International Business Forum considers the prospects for growing two-way trade and investment between India and New Zealand. [Full article here](https://www.tradeworks.org.nz/india-and-new-zealand-the-next-innings/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=the-last-newsletter-total-posts-from-our-blog_2)

## Government news

#### Supply Chain and Freight Strategy

New Zealand’s first-ever national freight and supply chain strategy was recently launched. The strategy is a joint government and industry initiative and aims to improve freight and supply chain productivity and build resilience to disruptions of our ports, freight and shipping sectors.

The strategy articulates a long-term vision for the freight and supply chain to be 1) underpinned by zero emissions freight transport; 2) resilient, reliable, and prepared for potential disruptions; and 3) highly productive and efficient. The document also outlines what needs to be done over three time-horizons from three years to 30 years. [Link to strategy](https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/MOT4806_Aotearoa-Freight-and-Supply-Chain-Strategy-p09-v03.pdf)

#### NZ and India progress economic partnership

New Zealand’s relationship with India took a significant step forward during Trade and Export Growth and Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor’s three-day visit to New Delhi. “Having a broad economic relationship with India is an important goal for New Zealand and the Government has been working steadily on this,” Damien O’Connor said.

Damien O’Connor and his counterpart Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, set out their priorities for the relationship in a [Joint Statement](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/joint-statement-new-zealand-and-india-ministerial-talks-new-delhi). “This is a strong signal of both countries’ priorities in the coming year with our emphasis on building a multi-faceted partnership, with good prospect to introduce new aspects,” Damien O’Connor said.

Key priorities advanced during his talks in New Delhi include progressing primary sector partnerships across agriculture and horticulture with his counterpart Ministers, Hon Parshottam Rupala and Hon Narendra Singh Tomar. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/nz-and-india-progress-economic-partnership)

## Industry news

#### Large business delegation bound for India

Fifty business representatives recently travelled to Delhi, making it one of the largest delegations ever to head for India. The delegation, comprising members and senior leaders of five business organisations, comes at a time of renewed focus on New Zealand’s trade and investment relationship with the world’s most populous state.

“No country is enjoying economic growth quite like India is achieving in a sluggish global market and I believe taking deliberate steps to develop two-way trade and investment could be potentially very significant for New Zealand’s future”, says Auckland Business Chamber CEO Simon Bridges.

On the subject of a future free trade agreement, The India New Zealand Business Council Chairman Michael Fox commented “New Zealand has already explored an FTA with India. While we will always be interested in a comprehensive agreement, there is much to be achieved, even in the absence of an FTA, to grow the relationship. The best way to prepare for that possibility in the future is to invest in broadening and deepening trade and investment ties now”.

Leaders of the Employers and Manufacturers’ Federation (Northern), Export New Zealand, and the New Zealand International Business Forum will also accompany Simon Bridges and Michael Fox. [Full article here](https://www.tradeworks.org.nz/large-business-delegation-bound-for-india/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=the-last-newsletter-total-posts-from-our-blog_2)

#### Māori Kiwifruit Growers send first shipment to Hawaii in market takeover

Māori Kiwifruit Growers have exported their first shipment of kiwifruit to Hawaii, intent on becoming the sole suppliers to the Hawaiian market. Māori Kiwifruit Growers (MKG) chairperson Anaru Timutimu said it was the first export shipment the group made since it was formed in 2017. The group partnered with kiwifruit marketing cooperative Zespri, which managed exports to Hawaii.

From next year, however, the MKG would take over exports to the entire Hawaiian market, Timutimu said. Hawaii took about 77,000 trays of kiwifruit per year, he added, but the Māori cooperative would apply to increase exports to 100,000 trays next year.

“Māori have genealogical connections to Hawaii, we are using that to put more energy into the market. Some of the promotional work will align with indigenous themes. We will use the Māori story,” he said. [Full article here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/132711673/mori-kiwifruit-growers-send-first-shipment-to-hawaii-in-market-takeover)

#### Zespri files civil case over unauthorised production and sale of gold kiwifruit in China

Kiwifruit marketer Zespri is taking legal action against the unauthorised production and sale of its gold kiwifruit in China. Zespri owns the rights to Sun Gold, or G3. Growers in New Zealand pay hundreds of thousands of dollars per hectare to grow it. However, a grower took clippings to China and since 2016, the amount being grown there has been increasing. Currently, experts claim there are more gold vines in China than in New Zealand.

According to Zespri chief executive Dan Mathieson, a civil case had been filed against two defendants involved with the unauthorised production, sale and marketing of the G3 fruit in China's Intellectual Property Court. Mathieson said it was a significant step in protecting the investment made by New Zealand producers in developing the licensed kiwifruit varieties - and also for its consumers.

Recent law changes in China strengthened the intellectual property rights of the horticulture sector in China. Mathieson said that changes to its Seed Law last year enabled action to be taken against those selling the fruit, rather than just growing it. The case is set to commence in mid-September. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/495066/zespri-files-civil-case-in-china-over-unauthorised-production-and-sale-of-gold-kiwifruit)

#### Kiwifruit recalled in US after routine sampling found listeria

Hundreds of punnets of Zespri organic green kiwifruit have been recalled in the US after routine testing found listeria. Supermarket operator David Oppenheimer and Co listed the recall on the US Food and Drug Administration website on 8 August. It said one-pound punnets of organic green kiwifruit with the Zespri brand sold in 14 states should not be consumed. The recall notice from David Oppenheimer and Co said no illnesses had been reported to date The recall was the result of a routine sampling by the Kentucky Department for Public Health on 7 July 2023 which found listeria.

In an update sent to growers, Zespri said it had traced the kiwifruit through the supply chain to two orchards. Chief operating officer Jason Te Brake said the orchards were in different regions and were not affected by flooding earlier in this season. "All fruit from these orchards placed on hold. The total amount of fruit impacted by this hold is approximately 3380 trays. "We are still awaiting the test results associated with the USFDA's voluntary recall and working to identify the cause of the contamination." he said. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/495506/kiwifruit-recalled-in-us-after-routine-sampling-found-listeria)

## Reports & Insights

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: UK Goods Market Overview

With the New Zealand-United Kingdom FTA’s entry into force on 31 May 2023, New Zealand businesses can now export to the UK on a level playing field. 99.5% of New Zealand goods can now enter the UK tariff-free. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/uk-goods-market-overview-august-2023/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=a5e3834c66-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_08_22_02_37&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-a5e3834c66-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: China - the 2023 halfway point: how to keep growth going?

China has set a growth target of 5% for 2023. This is modest compared to China’s pre-pandemic targets, and many analysts were initially bullish that China would easily surpass this target following China’s reopening in early 2023 after almost three years of COVID-related restrictions. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/china-the-2023-halfway-point-how-to-keep-growth-going-august-2023/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=efc7c8a2ae-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_08_20_11_34&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-efc7c8a2ae-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

#### New Zealand Business Roundtable in China Business Outlook Report: The outlook and experiences of New Zealand businesses operating in China.

The New Zealand Business Roundtable in China (NZBRIC) has released the full findings of its first major business sentiment survey. The aim of the 2023 survey is to understand the outlook of New Zealand firms on China’s business environment; the risks and opportunities facing them; their views on the bilateral relationship and trade architecture; their experience during the pandemic and post-COVID; and the level of exposure to and investment in China. [Full report here](https://www.nzbric.com/_files/ugd/fd1758_cbf085b041c74e7ca8a077faed0915ff.pdf)

#### Upcoming events and webinars:

* 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)

|  |
| --- |
| 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.

**Japan 257th Food Safety Group**

Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) proposed revisions to Japan’s maximum residue levels for 7 agricultural chemicals (Buprofezin, Cyflufenamid, Dicloromezotiaz, Dimesulfazet, 1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene, Pydiflumetofen, and Cyfluthrin) for various agricultural commodities. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Japan%20257th%20Food%20Safety%20Group_Tokyo_Japan_JA2023-0077)

**China Trade Data Update - 1st Half CY2023**

The General Administration of Chinese Customs (GACC) trade data through the first six months of 2023 show an 8.3 percent increase in the total import value of agricultural commodities compared to the same period last year, and relatively flat exports over the same period. Import volumes were mixed, with significant increases in vegetable oils and soybeans, modest increases in meats and grains, and lower volumes of cotton, dried fruits and nuts, and logs and timber. The increase in agricultural imports comes amid concerns that the overall economy remains sluggish, with monthly economic data showing the post-Covid recovery has slowed. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=China%20Trade%20Data%20Update%20-%201st%20Half%20CY2023_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2023-0108)

**FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual:** [Kenya](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Nairobi_Kenya_KE2023-0005), [Egypt](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Cairo_Egypt_EG2023-0016), [Sri Lanka](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Colombo_Sri%20Lanka_CE2023-0009), [Hong Kong](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Hong%20Kong_Hong%20Kong_HK2023-0024), [Saudi Arabia](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Riyadh_Saudi%20Arabia_SA2023-0004), [Israel](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Tel%20Aviv_Israel_IS2023-0006)

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

**FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual:** [Kenya](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Nairobi_Kenya_KE2023-0006), [Egypt](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Cairo_Egypt_EG2023-0017), [Sri Lanka](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Colombo_Sri%20Lanka_CE2023-0008), [Saudi Arabia](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Riyadh_Saudi%20Arabia_SA2023-0005), [Israel](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Tel%20Aviv_Israel_IS2023-0007), [Canada](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Ottawa_Canada_CA2023-0027),

These reports include requirements such as registration, technical information, certificates and other documentation for food and agriculture product exports from the US to each country.

**Stone Fruit Annual:** [Turkey](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Stone%20Fruit%20Annual_Ankara_Turkey_TU2023-0024), [Chile](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Stone%20Fruit%20Annual_Santiago_Chile_CI2023-0018), [Taiwan](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Stone%20Fruit%20Annual_Taipei_Taiwan_TW2023-0039), [Japan](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Stone%20Fruit%20Annual_Tokyo_Japan_JA2023-0074)

## In The News:

#### Historic A$130m funding for horticultural trade alliance

A host of partners have signed on to an ambitious new A$130m Australian horticulture trade initiative called the Fresh and Secure Trade Alliance (Fasta) with the aim of supercharging fresh produce exports.

Delivered through the federal horticulture research and development corporation, Hort Innovation, and led by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the eight-year programme will see key Aussie export stakeholders and officials joining forces to help protect and grow Australia’s horticultural exports. As part of the programme, Fasta will also boost biosecurity initiatives to solidify Australia’s strong reputation in pest-management and as a responsible trading partner for years to come.

Hort Innovation chief executive Brett Fifield said export growth has never been more important for the A$16bn horticulture sector, with most industries identifying enhancing and diversifying export markets as a priority. “The Australian horticulture sector is projected to surge by up to 22.5 per cent in value by 2030, primarily due to increased exports in trade-focused commodities,” he said. “Through streamlined evidence-based data collection for the Australian government’s trade negotiations and strengthened biosecurity measures, Fasta will support this growth.” [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/historic-a130m-funding-for-horticultural-trade-alliance/255462.article)

#### Australian vegetables explore Europe

The Australian federal government has awarded Ausveg new funding to help facilitate export growth to European markets. The peak industry body for vegetable and potato growers received a  A$121,000 Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation (ATMAC) grant which is set to facilitate a study tour to the UK and EU.

Ausveg Chief Executive Officer Michael Coote said the ATMAC grant delivers significant value to fruit and vegetable growers and the broader horticulture industry. “This will offer horticulture growers a unique opportunity to learn firsthand about the social, economic and governance compliance requirements on UK and EU growers and what expectations will be on Australian exporters to meet the same requirements,” said Coote. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/australian-vegetables-explore-europe/255420.article)

#### India imposes 40% export duty on onions to calm rising prices

With immediate effect, India will impose a 40% export duty on onions, lasting until December 31. It is an attempt to improve domestic availability of the vegetable, the Ministry of Finance has said. The duty imposed by the world's biggest exporter of onions will help New Delhi dampen local prices ahead of key state elections later this year but will force Asian buyers to shell out more, as other regional exporters have limited supplies. [Full article here](https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-imposes-40-export-duty-onions-with-immediate-effect-2023-08-19/)

#### Peru wants to export avocados, fresh grapes and blueberries to India

As India and Peru have agreed to resume talks for a free trade agreement, the South American nation is looking to export avocados, fresh grapes and blueberries to India. Vice Foreign Trade Minister of Peru Teresa Stella Mera Gomez said that technical teams of India and Peru would meet to start talks on modalities and scope of the proposed agreement.

The two countries started negotiations for an FTA in 2017. Five rounds of talks were held until August 2019 before the COVID pandemic disrupted the process.  [Full article here](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/trade/exports/insights/peru-looks-at-exporting-avocados-fresh-grapes-blueberries-gold-to-india/articleshow/102633296.cms?from=mdr)

#### BRICS bloc extends invitations to six new countries

The expansion of the BRICS bloc, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has gained momentum as the current members have decided to extend invitations to six countries to become full members, effective from January 2024. South African president Cyril Ramaphosa said: “We have decided to invite the Argentine Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to become full members of BRICS.” [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9553921/brics-bloc-extends-invitations-to-six-new-countries/?utm_medium=email)

#### South African avocados gain access to China

South African avocados have been granted access to China after a new agreement was signed at the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) summit. South Africa’s minister of agriculture, land reform and rural development, Thoko Dediza, and China’s agriculture minister Tang Renjian signed the protocol on the first day of the event, held in South Africa. “Gaining access to China is a vital step in driving export growth for South African avocados,” she said. “It is a commitment which the government made under the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan.

In recent years the avocado industry has expanded by some 4,750ha and there are now 18,000ha planted under avocados in the country.” Didiza said China is likely to become one of the world’s leading avocado consumer markets, and this offers immense opportunity for the South African industry to expand even further. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/south-african-avocados-gain-access-to-china/255607.article)

#### Taiwan bans cherries from four US producers

Taiwan’s Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced that 11 batches of cherries imported from the US were found to be in violation of food safety standards for prohibited pesticide residues. The recent investigation by the FDA found cherries to contain the pesticide mefentrifluconazole, which is permitted for use on some produce like cucumbers but banned for use on cherries in Taiwan. The FDA said this year 33 batches of U.S. cherries, or approximately 6,000 tons, have failed to meet food safety requirements. [Full article here](https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4977628)

#### France signs decree to regulate the prohibition of plastic packaging for fruits and vegetables

In a move towards combating plastic pollution, France has taken a crucial step by signing a decree to regulate the prohibition of plastic packaging for fresh, unprocessed fruits and vegetables. The decree was signed by Barbara Pompili, Minister of Ecological Transition, Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Economy, Finance, and Recovery, and Julien Denormandie, Minister of Agriculture and Food. The ban will gradually phase out plastic packaging, with a complete ban for the most vulnerable produce.

The decree outlines a step-by-step approach to phase out plastic packaging for fresh fruits and vegetables. Starting from 01 January 2022, approximately 30 types of unprocessed fruits and vegetables will be sold without plastic packaging. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9551105/france-signs-decree-to-regulate-the-prohibition-of-plastic-packaging-for-fruits-and-vegetables/?utm_medium=email)

#### Wind-powered cargo ship embarks on maiden voyage

A container ship retrofitted with giant, rigid sails recently embarked on its maiden voyage testing new technology that could bring cutting-edge wind propulsion to commercial cargo shipping.

Pyxis Ocean, owned by Mitsubishi Corp and chartered by shipping firm Cargill, is the first vessel to be retrofitted with two WindWings – large sails measuring up to 37.5m in height. Designed by British firm BAR Technologies and manufactured in China by Yara Marine Technologies, the ’wings’ can be fitted to the deck of cargo ships and can cut a vessel’s fuel consumption – and therefore carbon emissions – by up to 30 per cent, Cargill estimates.

“The maritime industry is on a journey to decarbonise. It’s not an easy one, but it is an exciting one,” said Jan Dieleman, president of Cargill’s Ocean transportation business. The WindWings project, which is co-funded by the European Union as part of the CHEK Horizon 2020 initiative, could help the container shipping industry meet its net-zero targets by offering a retrofit solution that is capable of decarbonising existing vessels, Dieleman said. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/main-navigation/wind-powered-cargo-ship-embarks-on-maiden-voyage/255600.article)

#### Weather extremes' impact on global fruit and vegetable sector

Tuesday, July 4, 2023, was the world's hottest day ever recorded, reports the U.S. Meteorological Institute. More and more climate records are being broken, but lately, they are not just being broken; they are being smashed. We can no longer escape global warming's effect, something fruit and vegetable growers can attest to as well. All around the world, growers are victims of increasingly frequent drought periods or, the opposite, excessive rain resulting in flooding.

It is hugely challenging to halt climate change while adjusting to changing weather patterns, and much can be written about it. This article by Peter De Craemer considers the consequences for fruit and vegetable growers all over the world and looks at where the fruit and vegetable sector is seeking answers to mitigate the climate extremes' impact. [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9550807/weather-extremes-impact-on-global-fruit-and-vegetable-sector/?utm_medium=email)

**Subscribe/ Unsubscribe** If you no longer wish to receive this email please send an email to [info@pmac.co.nz](mailto:info@pmac.co.nz) asking to be added/ removed and providing the nominated email address

**Disclaimer** Please note this information has been accessed from emails that have been forwarded to info@pmac.co.nz and are distributed as a regular update. If you intend using this information please sight the original document to ensure you are aware of the context within which any changes have been made and to guard against any transcription changes