

**PMAC weekly update 3rd to 10th August**

1. **Government agencies**: WTO Notifications; NZTE resources
2. **New Zealand News:**  Funding boost for sustainable food and fibre production, Trans-Tasman cooperation in a COVID-19 world, Foreign Minister announces new Consul-General in Los Angeles, New rules in place to restore healthy rivers, Report Explores New Zealand’s Trade Exposure to China, How horticulture is responding to a Covid-19 world; T&G pleased with H1 performance, Record campaign for NZ apples and pears, NZ seeks traceability improvement, Zespri project to support future success, Zespri eyes legal action in China, New Zealand funds affordable healthy produce, NZ’s bioenergy facility construction begins, No tears over RMA overhaul, A survey to help uncover worker exploitation, Bringing kai like peanuts to Kaipara
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; EU and US agriculture chiefs clash over role of innovation in sustainable farming, FDA Announces the New Era of Smarter Food Safety Blueprint, GRI launches forum on circularity, Japan’s fresh fruit imports grow, Syngenta event goes virtual, Tesco extends improved payment terms, Australian funds more research to digitalise end-to-end traceability, China's changing appetites, Electric handlers operating at Port of LA

**Comment**

The news this week is dominated by articles which look to the future- moving ahead with sustainability , setting ourselves up for success and traceability. New Zealand industry has released news of Zespri’s significant business wide project to move its systems and processes into the 21st Century, a United fresh consultation on traceability that will support both domestic and export supply chains, an initiative to help to prevent worker exploitation by providing workers with a voice and the construction of New Zealand’s first biowaste energy plant. At the same time the Government has released more information on new rules to protect our freshwater and an initiative to decrease the cost of fruit and produce to the consumer. Most of these article not only talk about what is needed ( and there has been a lot of such reports recently) but they are actually demonstrating real progress towards making the future.

In the International section the two articles of most significance are firstly a link to the USDA’s Food safety blueprint for its initiatives over the next decade( no surprises here that they include enhancing traceability and increasing digital capability). The second is worth reading in full and contrasts the differing approached being used by the EU and US to more sustainably produced food. Unfortunately, this philosophical difference is resulting in accusations of protectionism and anti-trade activities.

1. **Agency news** 
   1. **WTO Notifications**

Please find attached the most recent WTO 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. Changes notified over the last week include:

* Japan MRL’s for

The embedded files for the last week (which has links through to the original notifications)is available here for fruit and vegetables 

In addition there is a TBT notification for South Korea documenting draft amendments to enforcement decree and rules for the Consumer Chemical Products and Biocides Safety Act . For complete details see [EN](https://agriculture.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d7af3f807e82c63a8f495e991&id=b1e771d7b9&e=dc41ca1864)

* 1. **NZTE resources**

This week my NZTE has circulated the following resources

* [Intro to the United States](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pyVuS4oDDvJXP5VLVCDMCGHvrlvzF23NDplfqM4EQCcyjzLY-2BpFvLUW0aZ-2F6-2BUqt20-3DEVUD_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6rOcnFo-2Fk-2FanvOC-2Fop-2FUt-2FzV0F0O5XgZ52pByR5ykiBear5LU5xKpohEv3UXygagvMvO99nMFCMd8nI0NOQLuKVbJQqzInXGgBaui11Cas7uQtFec5DGd10scTC5EdNESsC2i10mLwlBWOLRkWOmKtzOi0bcZn7-2Ft2XVPdwSFyjoA-3D)

[Competitive and complex, the United States is a market full of promise for those who are informed, prepared and committed.](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pyVuS4oDDvJXP5VLVCDMCGHvrlvzF23NDplfqM4EQCcyjzLY-2BpFvLUW0aZ-2F6-2BUqt20-3DNM2F_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6r5znXKPNaTESsMCxAZi8xpEW-2BFkMdjUneIOnlI7f76Zs4cq-2BjLIJnqpYsV1EY704m-2F7S-2Boq-2F-2FgRkbSms68o-2F8Ol0SNv-2B9dvpcraS6PPzAGBEtcqVz9stippQA25q46mnnGBfNYKxJshhQusq6wBcugaGmkrzs9YmGFNrZHcTmVIQ-3D) [**Read more**](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pyVuS4oDDvJXP5VLVCDMCGHvrlvzF23NDplfqM4EQCcyjzLY-2BpFvLUW0aZ-2F6-2BUqt20-3DXd-r_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6rJYch2RfPyUcO1QscSkI5XSP0r3XoZGhAsYWk9h0EHTPaeshnlMnxEy-2F5JzmoDhJvtOgo6kjCBfbgqnPOsaKvRXXPf0FfDsd-2FKh41MFV-2FiDZ4ln86Spqft6JZQ01OxIJGdUoJNcV-2BnIxtXkGjE8g5dw0tdezdNzusigABNJNtjco-3D)

* [Setting up operations in Malaysia](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pxsyMdJHreggTH4-2FzT745YAEF6-2FLdIZbK7MrwP5T-2Bo6XPPXAoyhi7QzKa82AP54y-2Fk-3Dq_Br_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6rsWLzWTkJjKmEjrWg9QgCwDAxa-2FdOQGw2xv6NwmD-2FEGe0LBH78p-2Bb9LPWhrswwHSse9j8-2FGO31Wx3PuBNO2FfEiYU9wD8glvZ-2F4-2BOD7-2B-2Bfs53W1-2FM-2Fst7AvEsW6T0AdVZJNlHmObZOqT3zTYfVg8qATnyBQHwQPb9tUUr045-2BeqQ-3D)

[Learn about how to register companies, trademarks and domain names, open a bank account, pay tax and employ staff in Malaysia.](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pxsyMdJHreggTH4-2FzT745YAEF6-2FLdIZbK7MrwP5T-2Bo6XPPXAoyhi7QzKa82AP54y-2Fk-3DIL5V_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6rWuNYBCa25jXBHh7o380jcqWf7KHpx2tXdk8AsyeWjZCMXn8SsV0aMLyHjmcezYj4LtGL3YKMPskAQre08J9zW3Z4dwncBjJrGIYUUVHX-2FM2brInIzOij6PuQjUxaQzxDwzsao8suhbm52fVUIC-2FQzIE8yrSVFwLDeVNEm5nQ3NI-3D) [**Read more**](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pxsyMdJHreggTH4-2FzT745YAEF6-2FLdIZbK7MrwP5T-2Bo6XPPXAoyhi7QzKa82AP54y-2Fk-3DqY-5_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6rHROOuJdjAGUPJvU77CDoBCFEphy9xOuiO3-2F4-2FR9Wb6f-2BElTQdKI91b67-2B4PzNpo-2BtASw2gm0UI2Z9johIuS00p9-2FE3iH4Ss-2F0znht-2FTkRpMrz6CznTb66P5TYEo6RKyiFfLbV8dSYzcQiJIyn7dIOtsrEr9gG0nx4Q1zu8EDVGA-3D)

* [Business culture and etiquette in the US](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6px-2B8cXVNecG0CplSwvx5b6LGaLp3mATxjukWCCgsn6-2BqPDqvzHrpyvwWt7rLwTmzq3Q2TXgWyv-2FZWNg6mSKY159qT_E_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6rsHbSen8tcBedkVZg2jKZ6UXIU-2Br2-2Fmyx2d8LKz-2BTkePQ0Vy2ma3LG0YNLLJyncGJFmKgWFdu0-2BOIOoZKuybxQw83SwZsAtWxCknSGEEpRyL0FgIaGIwQXljlLaXfNCWU-2FgaOFS-2BoA46B3Ylv4sb7Qy4E5uhdzd6-2FANHPgBZXy0k-3D)

[Bold and confident meets understated and humble. Here’s what Kiwis entering the US need to know about American business culture.](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6px-2B8cXVNecG0CplSwvx5b6LGaLp3mATxjukWCCgsn6-2BqPDqvzHrpyvwWt7rLwTmzq3Q2TXgWyv-2FZWNg6mSKY159igpt_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6rVQy2uLWg4VQunMKps6djHR9eCDlV0UQ6WAvQpOv9kqkTuSiFkqXiQ0t0mSujXGGXp1EAsTh1MxTxVAMhyDqTJiohiSaMpxWEBiyxT3N6q9z4xZBwapHYyJhN8f5KzTu1MhcrxbH2HbCkdnClHfU3PIGrw4wEI2tHLYuaFvWfaKs-3D) [**Read more**](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6px-2B8cXVNecG0CplSwvx5b6LGaLp3mATxjukWCCgsn6-2BqPDqvzHrpyvwWt7rLwTmzq3Q2TXgWyv-2FZWNg6mSKY1590vcw_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6rgXg3j7DbhkzMz-2FuhJDf43pDA4Gj6nYZCbIeWuDJOUNuwIzbf-2BWR22xdi7KliVHYZabQCAWGiNHrVjQtsrPpeb8ZowTHe1TTr2tWSX6eEIWsn4e4iy4N9L8M75ULsuTh2uxdlMuKVedFHgS1lFc90-2BEW9WEQE1YRgCPl-2B9UMpXB4-3D)

* [Canadian importing requirements](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pw4Pfvu7aGO9bAjOFTFrOYy5KsSPgsV2CiW38TjU3jzQnEDvT0-2Fm8iy-2FWw179VwalQ-3DIVHO_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6r2eHk27jmPl7rgGWLmCjQzuRevuewj9D2tUdDnTDj5Ap3pfsBTi8fVvSOHi6JEZkg5XMZGuauQZV2CGJwIJubzRnusBsBD9S-2B9zxlYsCymFD1TQemu28sT8WiKQ8Up981jJ-2FpU-2FPHEskiq5hcX7uBmLiy7IWvThvmcTBXCCdbtyw-3D)

[Find out about permits, labelling, biosecurity and product registration requirements.](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pw4Pfvu7aGO9bAjOFTFrOYy5KsSPgsV2CiW38TjU3jzQnEDvT0-2Fm8iy-2FWw179VwalQ-3DrHA1_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6r0ZcRacNWiKwaWaI5T3el-2FHrihvmbY4GsF-2BOjlQJwEkWMQ9gFv9TS3-2FAueIQbAPfpeWvP78DS1T3XbQaGYUISA9q1kDz14F62ez7AeTLRxYAca5rIn7vGjOYXb-2BUTkXW0jHN-2FweUZPfhsxym3AVt5N96ULWWoAToGEB-2Be3E6rBvg-3D) [**Read more**](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pw4Pfvu7aGO9bAjOFTFrOYy5KsSPgsV2CiW38TjU3jzQnEDvT0-2Fm8iy-2FWw179VwalQ-3DGIOb_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6r4ZFhJzCuAwcDGDj9k8syrncbuMKi9GjAaHTjXd0Fp5S9nxASTHGlmK1x-2FK6T7eH1yKLQFNAn-2FZrjK1IEeKzs6r-2B30DEHhY2fiWIUiAAiz2Ci0CkInePwXFt6U8n241m7iTHXPLol4vBEFSOjECdq-2FiFKoUK-2BVbHn-2BPuI1XI8Hg4-3D)

* [Preparing for Hong Kong’s market realities](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pwIX5Mz6XXyDCsA-2Bt-2BlsJK3AK1z9JwLFgf7895HjwCVA5MP0NJQIrfm-2BALYBBT1tpLDjOmU1Ecnm92-2FSTFka8Uq_Fmc_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6rNLNsE892dIIykXwsupWGBd9yTkHrXznlm9m7zxQyU7qbx7LhlGLP9eb3AgknQpNYyWKdea9C80bgixEYpSBrhUDuv6BlwTHQeNwHrvfVruqGzwYsSFS4oBjv3nAAdr1NSuoQlJ2rCwPivoeL0P99eGkA8ayPva3GpMvobCEfX50-3D)

[An analysis of the opportunities and challenges awaiting exporters in Hong Kong, and a market entry checklist to help you address them.](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pwIX5Mz6XXyDCsA-2Bt-2BlsJK3AK1z9JwLFgf7895HjwCVA5MP0NJQIrfm-2BALYBBT1tpLDjOmU1Ecnm92-2FSTFka8UqovTX_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6ri9su-2BgN3NNI9FvYwuW6ZPkyjBeEvmPDfpdweB-2Fy1YPQfjm1gxcGiuC-2BzdTaBxXxSr6eYb-2FoN1t2xAtNlkPi-2BQ2soH4Sr9gcna8E1GL5R7aB0LyHX0TGnNd5ic9mzRoabY8SSeiVwg1eN1Pq8TPaj4YpPpTCQ0pbGYttJBJJctco-3D) [**Read more**](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pwIX5Mz6XXyDCsA-2Bt-2BlsJK3AK1z9JwLFgf7895HjwCVA5MP0NJQIrfm-2BALYBBT1tpLDjOmU1Ecnm92-2FSTFka8UqITC8_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgtCGztUl9nZG0h8pLhxxxEuMudHFq-2FNGSxjc5z3Jag6rFJaT0bfToodZdnbNfAT3DgkkGguHgFUPhceRw-2F1kk8TRYQtOnLFOO5mqdhKj82exdi7brBZQ3q-2F1ZVibD2gRISZFvjXmOxHTIRB4RkjCMiAqgvTgcxE4QnWKl9pvD7gi09i8x6CQDCSbHEU0Mmle0s3cGkzGE4xtbSI9hthzBwM-3D)



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **Funding boost for sustainable food and fibre production**

Twenty-two projects to boost the sustainability and climate resilience of New Zealand’s food and fibres sector were announced last week by Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor. The $18m funding will deliver practical knowledge to help farmers and growers use their land more sustainably, meet environmental targets, remain prosperous, and better understand and adapt to the effects of climate change in New Zealand. The majority of the research is on farming systems

Details of all the projects are available [here](https://www.agriculture.govt.nz/dmsdocument/41457-slmacc-2020-results-summary-pdf) [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/funding-boost-sustainable-food-and-fibre-production)

* 1. **Trans-Tasman cooperation in a COVID-19 world**

New Zealand and Australia last week reaffirmed the need for the closest possible collaboration as they tackle a global environment shaped by COVID-19, Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters and his Australian counterpart, Marise Payne, met virtually for biannual Foreign Minister Consultations and discussed how the two countries are responding together to COVID-19. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/trans-tasman-cooperation-covid-19-world)

* 1. **Foreign Minister announces new Consul-General in Los Angeles**

Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters announced the appointment of Jeremy Clarke-Watson as New Zealand’s new Consul-General in Los Angeles. Mr Clarke-Watson is a career diplomat who has previously served as New Zealand Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and as the Deputy Head of Mission at the New Zealand Embassies in both Saudi Arabia and Viet Nam. He is currently New Zealand’s Special Envoy for Commonwealth Trade Integration. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/foreign-minister-announces-new-consul-general-los-angeles)

* 1. **New rules in place to restore healthy rivers**

New rules to protect and restore New Zealand’s freshwater were passed into law last week . with the gazetting of the new national direction on freshwater management. This includes the new National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management (NPS-FM), National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-FW), stock exclusion regulations, and regulations in the measurement and reporting of water takes.

Of particular significance to growers are the following ploicies Significant policies that now have legal backing include:

* Requiring councils to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai by prioritising the health and wellbeing of our waterways
* Setting stricter controls on nitrogen pollution and new bottom lines on other measures of waterway health
* Requiring mandatory and enforceable farm environment plans
* Making real-time measuring and reporting of data on water use mandatory.  
  “

The Government has confirmed special provisions for areas of Pukekohe and Horowhenua, where the growing of fresh vegetables is critical to national supply. Councils will be allowed to maintain water quality below some national bottom lines while ensuring that improvements are made. These provisions will expire after 10 years, or earlier if a tailored legally binding solution for these areas can be reached.

[Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-rules-place-restore-healthy-rivers)



**Report Explores New Zealand’s Trade Exposure to China**

A [new report](https://nzchinacouncil.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/How-many-eggs-in-how-many-baskets.-An-update-on-NZ-China-trade-patterns.pdf) on New Zealand-China trade patterns commissioned by the New Zealand China Council provides comparative data on New Zealand’s export and import exposure at the country level and export exposure by industry and product.

The report shows China took 24.2% of New Zealand’s goods exports in 2018, higher than the global average but not unusually high compared to other APEC economies such as Australia (34.7%).

The report shows China has accounted for over 60% of New Zealand’s goods export growth in the past decade.  It also shows exports have diversified recently, largely due to rapid growth in a range of products over the past five years. It identifies rock lobsters, logs and several dairy and meat products as exports with high exposure to the Chinese market.

The report concludes the Government has an important role in providing future diversification options for New Zealand exporters, by continuing to negotiate improved access in other large potential markets such as the EU,UK, US and India. But this will not be easy or fast, despite our negotiators’ best efforts.

New Zealand businesses need to be clear-eyed about engaging with China. Selling a portfolio of products that is highly concentrated in a single market is obviously risky. There will be bumps along the commercial road, some of which will be out of their control. But there will be considerable opportunities too for those who invest in long-term relationships and demonstrate their value to Chinese buyers.

The full report can be accessed [here](https://nzchinacouncil.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/How-many-eggs-in-how-many-baskets.-An-update-on-NZ-China-trade-patterns.pdf), and a podcast of a panel discussion at the report launch can be found [here](https://soundcloud.com/newzealandchinacouncil/how-many-eggs-in-how-many-baskets-podcast).

* 1. **How horticulture is responding to a Covid-19 world**

Based on the report Horticultural post Covid recovery strategy response Mike Chapman, chief executive of HortNZ says Horticulture is in a unique position to accelerate the economic potential of the primary sector and aid a post-Covid19 recovery. The horticulture sector has been growing more strongly than any other primary sector in recent years and latest export growth figures are proving its resilience through the crisis, according to the report. Yet its true value is generally under recognised and under reported, as the significant global IP and the indirect benefits multiplier, are often not accounted for. For example, research conducted by the New Zealand apple industry estimated that the true broader economic benefit of the industry at that time was three to five times its export value. If that is extrapolated, with horticulture exports (including wine) exceeding $6.2 billion in 2019, the economic benefit is huge – and it is primarily focused in the regions.

“The industry’s potential for growth in the most sustainable, environmentally friendly, and ethical manner, makes it an ideal sector to lead the recovery with domestic growth and export earnings. Such growth has many benefits to New Zealand, from clean, green job growth to investment in regional areas and in a range of industries and communities,” the report says.“ Recognition of this contribution to the country’s health and well-being as we recover from Covid-19, strongly reinforces the value proposition for additional growth acceleration programmes for the sector,” the report says.

*The report also makes a case for the sectors ability to provide employment (2,349 more permanent jobs and 12,757 seasonal jobs). It also identified that Horticultures recover to Covid 19 must be Industry led and Government enabled.* Government enabled is identified as increased eligibility and prioritisation within existing funding programmes, and in areas which support the growth of the industry, but are harder to fund – i.e. where innovation is prohibitively expensive or risky for an industry sector or individual business to bear the burden, but for which the potential benefit for New Zealand could be significant (robotics and automation, plant genetics, etc). *The article also lists an additional 7 areas that will require enabling.*

The report quotes the most recent report from NZTE research in May 2020 on its International Consumer Review, which showed that New Zealand had received a strong, positive “halo effect” in the perception of the country being trusted to provide safe, healthy and sustainably produced food. The potential for the sector to capitalise on this perception and reputation is limited only by its imagination, says HortNZ. [Full article available here](https://bopbusinessnews.co.nz/news/how-horticulture-is-responding-to-a-covid-19-world/)

* 1. **T&G pleased with H1 performance**

## Revenue and operating profit improve over first half of 2020, although challenges loom for apple trade in Asia. The group posted an operating profit of NZ$19.5m for H1 2020, up from NZ$6.2m in 2019. Revenue lifted 20 per cent to NZ$671.3m, while net profit (before tax) climbed from NZ$3m last year to NZ$13.7m.

Edgecombe (T&G’s CEO) underlined the strong performance of the group’s apple division over H1 2020, which increased its revenue to NZ$440.5m, up from NZ$315.4m in 2019. Additionally, its New Zealand domestic business, T&G Fresh, increased its revenue to NZ$153.8m, up from $135.4m in 2019, assisted by [the acquisition of Freshmax New Zealand](http://www.fruitnet.com/produceplus/article/181663/tg-completes-freshmax-nz-acquisition) in late April.

While conceding it had been a “very challenging” start to the year, Edgecombe said T&G Global’s vertically integrated supply chain, combined with the expertise of its staff and in-market presence, positioned the group well to respond quickly to Covid-19 and maintain its focus on delivering its financial targets.

Looking to the second half of 2020, Edgecombe said T&G Global is by no means out of the woods. He pointed specifically to mounting pressure on the apple market in Asia.“Across all markets, we’re witnessing incredible volatility and uncertainty,” he said. “This is particularly the case in Asia, where sales continue to be impacted by the full or partial closure of wholesale markets, and large quantities of commodity apples remain unsold. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/182578/tg-pleased-with-h1-performance)

* 1. **Record campaign for NZ apples and pears**

**T**he value of New Zealand apple and pear exports hit a new high over the 2019/20 campaign.

At its annual general meeting in Hastings last week (5 August), peak industry body New Zealand Apples and Pears (NZAPI) reported total export returns for the season reached NZ$870m (US$577m), reflecting a NZ$500m increase over the last eight years.

The Industry is well placed to reach its NZ$1bn target by 2022 and NZ$2bn by 2030,” said NZAPI chief executive Alan Pollard. “NZAPI is playing a crucial role in the Covid 19 recovery strategy, working collaboratively with government and across the horticulture sector to identify opportunities domestically and overseas,” he explained.

Around the boardroom table, NZAPI welcomed Peter Landon-Lane as a board director, taking over from Bruce Beaton, who stepped down in November 2019.  Landon-Lane is the technical and innovation director of T&G Global and has previously held senior management roles with Plant & Food Research and Fonterra. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/182567/record-campaign-for-nz-apples-and-pears)

* 1. **NZ seeks traceability improvement**

A consultation document seeking the input of New Zealand’s fresh produce industry has been released as part of a significant project to assess and improve traceability within the industry.

United Fresh, New Zealand’s pan produce industry organisation representing more than 90 different organisations, embarked on the Sustainable Farming Fund project, 'Effective Fresh Produce Traceability Systems' in 2018 in response to global and local community health scares from food products. “We know that traceability in the New Zealand domestic produce supply chain is not working to a common standard, since each supply chain varies in its management of internal and external traceability, with external traceability working well in some cases, or not at all in others,”

Food safety, environmental concerns and increasing awareness of health and wellness issues have led to increasing demands from consumers who want greater assurances about the provenance of their fruit and vegetables. Reliable traceability systems are no longer an optional extra in the produce industry, but a baseline requirement of increasing importance

The United Fresh project has resulted in the release of a set of Draft Produce Industry Traceability Guidelines, founded on the understanding that food safety is not negotiable for the entirety of the produce value chain. Growers, packers, wholesalers, marketers and retailers across New Zealand have all been asked to comment on the work United Fresh and the project team has undertaken and offer feedback on how the draft guidelines can be further improved before its final version is published in 2021.The consultation within the industry is expected to be completed by mid-October and United Fresh said that it intended to follow the formal feedback process with a series of workshops to further explore the implications of the draft guidelines. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/182583/nz-seeks-traceability-improvement)

* 1. **Zespri project to support future success**

Zespri has inked a deal which sees Deloitte leading a Kiwi-based consortium which includes Zag and Sysdoc, for the kiwifruit cooperative’s $160 million Horizon digital transformation programme.

Deloitte will be the design and implementation partner for the ambitious four-year programme, which is Zespri’s largest-ever investment in processes and systems, designed to ‘fundamentally overhaul the foundations of the business’.

The project was borne out of the need to replace key finance and supply chain systems, with some of Zespri’s systems now 20 years old and designed to support ‘a much smaller industry, fewer varities and a smaller market footprint’. “The Horizon Programme will help to deliver greater operating efficiency and effectiveness for decades to come.”

Horizon is focused on modernising Zespri’s systems and process across finance, grower enablement,

It’s a big project, with a big budget – Zespri chair Bruce Cameron says the programme is expected to cost around $30 million to $40 million per year. “Beyond mitigating a number of risks, the investment will help sustain our industry’s strong growth trajectory and enable Zespri to become more agile and efficient,” the company said in its annual report.

Among the plans are increased abilities to capture real time data in its global supply chain management to draw insights and make better decisions. “This includes areas such as track and trace, freight planning and forecasting and in our tactical choices on storage locations to meet future demand.

“It will allow more proactive management of fruit in the supply chain for quality issues. Ultimately, there will be value for growers from streamlined, efficient processes underpinned by robust data and scalable systems,” the company’s annual report says.

Improved ability to measure sustainability performance is also expected, aiding the company with inspection and reporting requirements. Growers are also expected to benefit, with the report noting that the current online tools were designed more than a decade ago – and the increasing burden on growers in terms of compliance data requirements. [Full article available here](https://istart.com.au/news-items/deloitte-zag-sysdoc-digital-transformation-project-zespri/)

* 1. **Zespri eyes legal action in China**

Zespri is set to launch legal action against at least one nursery in China as illegal plantings of its gold kiwifruit variety SunGold continue to grow. It is believed there are now 4,000ha of unauthorised plantings of SunGold in China, up from 2,500 around six months ago. Zespri is monitoring the situation in China closely.

“Unfortunately, it looks like there is a good portion of orchards can produce good quality fruit.”

Courtney said if the output of kiwifruit plantings such as these continued to grow in volume and quality, it could push Zespri’s New Zealand and Italian grown kiwifruit off the shelves in China. Zespri will use Plant Variety Right (PVR) law to slow plantings down but Courtney said taking this approach is more difficult in China, than in somewhere like New Zealand.

China recognises New Zealand's PVR law but authorities said they have to work smallholder farms that are growing the vines. As a result, Courtney said Zespri is interested in some sort of "win-win".

"Where they can work with us to help us mitigate the impact of the spread (of the vines) but they can also maybe add value to their local growers as well,” Courtney explained. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/182540/zespri-eyes-legal-action-in-china)

* 1. **New Zealand funds affordable healthy produce**

The New Zealand government will fund new projects designed to connect communities with healthy, affordable food and those who produce it in the wake of Covid-19. Funding was set aside in the 2020 budget and some has already been used to scale up school and community programmes by providing 100,000 fruit and vegetable boxes to children.

Four other initiatives have been addressing a short-term, critical need. While they’ve been ticking along we’ve been looking for longer-term solutions to help address food insecurity and food waste.”

Three projects will receive up to NZ$100,000 for a ten-week development and trial period.  They include

* a feasibility study to determine the viability of bringing Yume Food, which provides an online marketplace for food producers to list surplus product, to New Zealand.
* Agrichain, a proposal explores a produce box-based supply channel, capable of providing a selection of produce to vulnerable households impacted by Covid-19.
* Totally Local, an online marketplace that allows consumers to support local growers, it uses a unique algorithm to connect consumers to local producers and a delivery service.

[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/produceplus/article/182566/new-zealand-funds-affordable-healthy-produce)

* 1. **NZ’s bioenergy facility construction begins**

Construction of New Zealand’s first large-scale food waste-to-bioenergy facility has commenced in Reporoa, in the central North Island, following the blessing of the land by Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa.

The new anaerobic digestion facility is owned by Ecogas – a joint venture between Pioneer Energy and Ecostock Supplies – and will be built on land owned by T&G Fresh, one of New Zealand’s largest fresh produce businesses.

Ecogas director, Andrew Fisher, said the world-class facility will help New Zealand deal with some of its 327,000 annual tonnes of food waste, which currently goes into landfills around the country and processing i8t in as anaerobic digestion facility.

The facility, which will be operational in 2022, will recover 75,000 tonnes of organic waste from businesses and kerbside food scrap collections throughout the North Island, turning it into sustainable and renewable clean energy. “It will create enough energy to annually power up the equivalent of around 2,500 households in the region, produce clean bio-fertiliser for approximately 2,000 hectares of local farmland, and provide CO2 and heat to enhance the growth of tomatoes in T&G Fresh’s local glasshouse. The outcome is a carbon-neutral, circular economy solution,” noted Fisher.

Anaerobic digestion technology is well-proven overseas, with similar plant’s operating in Europe and the US, however through this joint venture, it will be the first commercial-scale facility in New Zealand.

Co-funded by Ecogas and a 2019 NZ$7m loan from the Provincial Growth Fund, this NZ$30m state-of-the-art facility will provide a welcome infrastructure boost to the local economy and generate close to 60 new jobs through the construction process.

Ecogas was recently awarded Auckland Council’s 20-year kerbside food scrap processing contract, which is expected to supply some of the initial food waste to the Reporoa facility, using construction trucks that would otherwise be returning to the region empty. Ecogas has also acquired a second site to build another anaerobic digestion facility in Auckland as demand grows.  [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/produceplus/article/182564/construction-of-bioenergy-facility-begins-in-new-zealand)

* 1. **No tears over RMA overhaul**

A review panel has recommend that the RMA should be scrapped and replaced by two new laws.

Last week, Environment Minister David Parker released a report by a panel headed by retired Appeal Court Judge Tony Randerson which proposes that the Act, which has been in operation for thirty years, should be scrapped and replaced by two new laws – a Natural Built Environment Act and a Strategic Planning Act.

Its recommendations include a proposal for each region in the country to put forward a combined development plan, consolidating the myriad of local council plans that currently exist.  At present there are about 100 policy statements and plans put up by local authorities and under the new proposal there would be just 14 combined regional and district plans.

The proposal would also see more power being given to iwi as set out in some subtle word changes. Currently plans have to ‘take into account’ the Treaty of Waitangi, whereas under the new proposal, plans have to ‘give effect’, meaning Treaty matters must be given greater weight. Parker says a review of the resource management system was long overdue. He says the RMA has doubled in size from its original length has become too costly, takes too long, and has not adequately protected the environment.

Parker says the report recommends greater use of national direction by the Environment Minister and a more streamlined process for council plan-making and a more efficient resource consent process.

Federated Farmers says it’s on board with the chorus of voices across diverse sector groups saying the RMA is broken and no longer fit for purpose., [Full article available here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/dairy-news/dairy-general-news/no-tears-over-rma-overhaul?utm_source=Rural+News+Group+Weekly+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=c056621c12-RNG_04_AUG_2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fb79f8bfe8-c056621c12-59798541&ct=t(RNG_04_AUG_2020))

* 1. **A survey to help uncover worker exploitation**

A Hawke's Bay company believes it will be the first in the world to develop a mobile friendly survey to uncover serious worker’s rights problems in horticulture. New Zealand Apples and Pears business development manager Gary Jones said the industry has realised it needs to develop ways to stop exploitation. Jones said the industry had commissioned Havelock North company Ask Your Team to help build an online survey which would ask employees anonymously about their experience.

In a recent pilot, 2600 workers were surveyed and 1500 (nearly 60 per cent) responded. "We were able to ascertain with that very large group a lot of how they were feeling about their workplace conditions," Jones said. "Then the employers were able to adjust how they employ those workers and to improve outcomes for their well-being."

Every employee would get a link and unique number to their smart phone. There had to be an agreement between employers and the employee to use the survey. A wider pilot is expected in October and a global launch is the next aim. [Full article available here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/422531/kiwi-company-developing-survey-to-help-uncover-worker-exploitation)

* 1. **Bringing kai like peanuts to Kaipara**

Kaipara Kai has been established to promote opportunities for landowners to plant new crops in the hope that increased food production will inject money into the local economy. The Kaipara Kai hub was opened in March and is funded by the Provincial Growth Fund. The hub has identified 20 crops which it says could be grown in the area, says manager Matt Punter.

About 50,000 hectares of under-utilised land has been identified and, if developed, this could have a significant impact on the local economy. "There's the likes of peanuts and soybeans and a range of arable crops like sorghum. But as we look further forward it is possible to identify crops like pineapples and bananas and other subtropical fruits which historically we may not have thought about growing."

The hub has had some 300 inquiries from large to small landholders and even school and community groups about what might be produced in the area, Punter says. [Full article available here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/countrylife/audio/2018757423/bringing-kai-like-peanuts-to-kaipara)



1. **International news**

**Comment**

* 1. **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. With regard to import regulations for a particular market New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site. These are collated specifically for New Zealand product. However the Gain reports often provide additional information that is useful e.g. on grading and labelling, economic profiles. To see the full report click on the link in each notification This week see:

1. **Costa Rica Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report\_San Jose\_Costa Rica\_06-30-2020](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Country%20Report_San%20Jose_Costa%20Rica_06-30-2020)
2. **Costa Rica Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report\_San Jose\_Costa Rica\_06-30-2020](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Export%20Certificate%20Report_San%20Jose_Costa%20Rica_06-30-2020)
3. **EU Approves Belgian EUR35 Million Aid for Potato and Flower Sector** [EU Approves Belgian EUR35 Million Aid for Potato and Flower Sector\_Brussels USEU\_Belgium\_08-04-2020](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=EU%20Approves%20Belgian%20EUR35%20Million%20Aid%20for%20Potato%20and%20Flower%20Sector_Brussels%20USEU_Belgium_08-04-2020)
4. **EU MRLs for Chlorpyrifos and Chlorpyrifos-Methyl published** [MRLs for Chlorpyrifos and Chlorpyrifos-Methyl published\_Brussels USEU\_Belgium\_07-31-2020](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=MRLs%20for%20Chlorpyrifos%20and%20Chlorpyrifos-Methyl%20published_Brussels%20USEU_Belgium_07-31-2020)
5. **India COVID-19 in India - Weekly Port Situation Update** [COVID-19 in India - Weekly Port Situation Update\_Mumbai\_India\_07-28-2020](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=COVID-19%20in%20India%20-%20Weekly%20Port%20Situation%20Update_Mumbai_India_07-28-2020)
6. **India COVID-19 in India - Weekly Food Retail Update** [COVID-19 in India - Weekly Food Retail Update\_Mumbai\_India\_08-04-2020](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=COVID-19%20in%20India%20-%20Weekly%20Food%20Retail%20Update_Mumbai_India_08-04-2020)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **EU and US agriculture chiefs clash over role of innovation in sustainable farming**

US secretary for agriculture says Europe’s plan to make agriculture more sustainable could stifle innovation, cut agricultural output and put transatlantic trade at risk. The EU commissioner says quality not quantity is what counts US Secretary for agriculture has blasted the EU’s “Farm to Fork” strategy and the continent’s reluctance to use new technologies in agriculture, in heated debate over how to make food production more sustainable. In the online exchange, organised by the European Conservative and Reformists Party (ECR), the two agriculture chiefs debated their opposing views on how innovation can contribute to sustainable food production.

Europe’s farmers face an awkward dilemma. To make operations more sustainable, they need to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilisers, whilst at the same time trying to increase yields so the EU can become less dependent on food imports. As the route around this, the US favours using technologies such as gene editing and precision breeding, together with modern pesticides and fertilisers, which it is promised, will be less harmful to the environment than previous products.

In Perdue’s view, the EU’s green plans for farming and biodiversity could jeopardise trade relations with the US, because the policies could bring about a new form of protectionism against cheaper food from the US. “That's not going to be good for international trade,” he said.

In the US the argument holds that farming can be both highly profitable and sustainable. According to Perdue, agriculture output in the US has almost tripled since the 1950s, when the US government began incentivising efforts to industrialise farming and allowed the widespread use of chemically induced mutagenesis to increase genetic variation in crops. This year, the USDA launched an agriculture innovation agenda to increase agricultural production in the US by 40 per cent while cutting its environmental footprint in half by 2050.

Perdue argues the EU cannot increase agricultural output and become less dependent on food imports if it continues with plans to drastically reduce the use of pesticides and fertilisers, and if it refuses to use new technologies such as precision breeding, a way of producing genetically modified organisms without introducing genes from other species. A 2018 ruling by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) found this form of modern precision genome editing is nevertheless subject to an EU directive that banned genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in 2001. Scientists in the EU have presented cases to the commission both for and against the use of gene editing in agriculture. [Full article available here](https://sciencebusiness.net/news/eu-and-us-agriculture-chiefs-clash-over-role-innovation-sustainable-farming)

* 1. **FDA Announces the New Era of Smarter Food Safety Blueprint**

In July the announced the release of the New Era of Smarter Food Safety blueprint. The blueprint outlines the work we plan to undertake over the next decade to modernize the food safety approaches and bend the curve of foodborne illness. It includes work to enhance traceability, improve predictive analytics, respond more rapidly to outbreaks, address new business models, reduce contamination of food, and foster the development of stronger food safety cultures.

**For More Information**

* [The New Era of Smarter Food Safety Website](https://www.fda.gov/food/food-industry/new-era-smarter-food-safety)
* [The New Era of Smarter Food Safety Blueprint](https://www.fda.gov/food/new-era-smarter-food-safety/new-era-smarter-food-safety-blueprint)

[Full article available here](https://www.fda.gov/food/new-era-smarter-food-safety/new-era-smarter-food-safety-blueprint)

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **GRI launches forum on circularity**

**T**he Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), an independent international organisation that helps businesses, governments and other organisations understand and communicate their sustainability impacts, has announced the launch of a Business Leadership Forum (BLF) on the circular economy and waste reporting. The BLF will involve a series of webinars, open to individuals who register by 14 August, plus an in-person meeting in the US, scheduled for next summer. Topics set to be covered include circularity trends, mapping waste impacts in the value chain, circularity measurement methodologies, company case studies and ways to make the most of the GRI Waste Standard, which was launched in May.

[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/182526/gri-launches-forum-on-circularity)

* 1. **Japan’s fresh fruit imports grow**

First six months of 2020 show three per cent increase in imports compared to 2019

It’s the largest volume of fresh fruit imported into the country during the first six months of each of the last five years and is particularly significant given the implications of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

A review of the top 13 imported fruits for the first six months indicated bananas, kiwifruit, and table grapes all experienced an increase in volume over the last five years. During the same period, grapefruit, lemons, melons and cherries all showed a downward trend, while other fruit, including pineapples, oranges, tangerines, avocados and mangoes remained steady. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/182543/japans-fresh-fruit-imports-grow)

* 1. **Syngenta event goes virtual**

Syngenta has announced that its [Fields of Innovation event will take place virtually this year, on 21-25 September](https://www.syngentavegetables.com/fields-innovation), allowing the company to showcase the very best innovations and vegetable varieties( it has to offer. According to Syngenta, for Fields of Innovation it has created a digital world in which growers and the entire value chain will be able to connect with international experts through unique 3D imagery, videos, technical information and live contact.

Attendees will find out how Syngenta is creating value through innovation, using R&D to bring new advances to market that keep pace with customers’ needs and changing farming conditions. Qualities such as improved heat tolerance and more efficient harvesting are just some of the breakthroughs on show, the group outlined, while the event will aim to help create conversations and partnerships at a time when Covid-19 has created uncertainty. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/182547/syngenta-event-goes-virtual)

* 1. **Tesco extends improved payment terms**

**T**esco is extending its improved payment terms scheme for its smaller suppliers until 31 January 2021.

Under the initiative, brought in to assist hard-hit small suppliers at the start of the Covid-19 crisis, nearly 2,000 suppliers will continue to have their invoices paid immediately, instead of the usual 14 days.

According to Tesco, the extension has been put in place to ensure suppliers are supported throughout the busy Christmas period and beyond. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/fpj/article/182544/tesco-extends-improved-payment-terms)

* 1. **Australian funds more research to digitalise end-to-end traceability**

The Australian government has announced further investment in an advanced blockchain traceability system that will help protect the country’s clean, green and safe food image - and boost export opportunities for farmers. “It supports the National Traceability Framework and protects the Australian brand in export markets by preventing food fraud, reducing food waste and maintaining consumer confidence,” he noted. “It’s important during these challenging times have a resilient fresh food supply system.”

The FreshChain Systems’ project is one of 16 to share in A$4m of funding under the first round of the Australian government’s Traceability Grants Programme. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/182549/freshchain-digitises-end-to-end-traceability)

* 1. **China's changing appetites**

Covid-19 has heightened Chinese consumer concerns about food safety, and industry players are warning New Zealand businesses to keep up. In RNZ’s The Detail's Jessie Chiang looks at the growing demand for plant-based meats and food traceability in China, and how that will affect us. – [available here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=2018757228)

"Consumer needs...[and] the government's needs around food security, climate change, water scarcity, irrigable land issues - there's a raft of really large forces at play that has created the perfect storm on the back of Covid-19 for plant based nutrition. In 2016 the Chinese government set health guidelines aimed at halving meat consumption per capita by 2030.

Food traceability - being able to track every single stage of production, processing and distribution - is also becoming more and more important to consumers. "We have to provide all the necessary information including our logistics records, our purchasing record, our authorisation, our stock moving report and even sometimes we work with the manufacturer to go through a lab report," he says. [Full article available here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/programmes/the-detail/story/2018757228/china-s-changing-appetites-and-why-nz-must-change)



* 1. **Electric handlers operating at Port of LA**

The world’s first zero-emissions top handlers, unveiled last year as part of a pre-commercial trial at the Port of Los Angeles, are now being used in daily operations at the Everport Container Terminal.

The two battery-electric top handlers were designed and built in the US by Taylor Machine Works, a heavy-duty equipment manufacturer.

Each top handler runs on a one-megawatt battery, designed to operate for up to 18 hours between charges. A data logger has been fitted to track hours of operation, charging frequency, energy usage and other performance indicators. Port targets call for reducing GHGs 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/182590/electric-handlers-operating-at-port-of-la)

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