

**PMAC weekly update 5th to 12th March**

1. **Government agencies**: ICPR Update; WTO Notifications; A modern and open Saudi Arabia; A guide to Africa; Winter Olympics: What New Zealand can teach South Korea about branding.
2. **New Zealand News**: New High Commissioner to Tonga announced; Announcement of Ambassador to Republic of Korea; New Zealand explores ties with Mercosur; New Zealand sets out progressive and inclusive trade approach at CPTPP signing; CPTPP signed in Santiago; New Zealand horticulture sector positive over CPTPP trade deal; Nerves of Steel; 2018 Food Safety & Compliance Conference; New equipment used on apple orchards; New Zealand vegetable prices rising as crops rot; New kiwifruit ; shipping service from Northport, New Zealand; Zespri accused of 'violating Chinese law'; Envy apples shine at New York Fashion; First import of fruit puree from New Zealand arrives at Jiangsu Port; Variety specific apple juice to hit New Zealand's shelves; Latest BMSB finds; Australia: Impregnable barrier to fruit fly; Western Australia: Community fights to save $8 billion horticulture industry
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; Cost a key factor in falling Japan consumption; Strong export growth for Australian produce; Trend reports shows global produce sales near €5tn mark; China: Kingship officially starts Chilean investment project; China: Apple supply exceeds demand; China: Summary of fresh fruit import and export in January 2018; Qatar lab results clear Australian rock melon; Fourth person dies in Australia from contaminated fruit; More nations banning Australian rock melons; Probiotic foods along with prebiotics maintains gastro-intestinal health; Space technology to cut agricultural waste.

***Editor’s comments***

*A very mixed bag of articles this week .*

*Trade is well represented with three articles on the potentially positive effect of CPTPP and an opinion piece (Nerves of Steel)which considers the flow on effect of Trumps steel tariffs. While these article deal with issues beyond our control there are two noteworthy articles. One provides access to a Fruit Logistica report which identifies trends that will affect produce sales over the next few years. The second looks at Saudi Arabia (a country which has undergone a lot of change over the last 18 months) and its potential as a market for New Zealand exporters.*

*Another area that has prompted a lot of articles this week is the listeria outbreak in Australia. These show the negative effect it is having on the acceptance of Australian rock melons by other countries and underscores the importance of food safety and the negative effect one outbreak can have.*

1. **Agency news**



* 1. **ICPR Changes**

The ICPR for Chile has been updated with the import conditions for Actinidia spp. nursery stock to reflect the post-entry quarantine (PEQ) requirements,. See [Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements](http://mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/requirements/importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/) If you need any further clarification please contact your IVA.

* 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 includes:

* Australia Draft review of import conditions for brassicaceous crop seeds for sowing
* Brazil and Canada, China, Japan and USA MRL’s

The embedded files for the last 2 weeks (which has links through to the original notifications)are available here 



* 1. **A modern and open Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia is not a country that’s used to rapid change - yet few places have altered as quickly or as dramatically as the Kingdom in the last 18 months, and perceptions of the country haven't kept pace with the new realities. This article outlines the changes and looks at the market opportunities it presents for New Zealand exporters. [Full article available here](https://exportertoday.co.nz/article/modern-and-open-saudi-arabia?utm_source=ubiquity&utm_medium=engage&utm_campaign=en17032016&utm_content=Read%20More%20Button%20-%20A%20modern%20and%20open%20Saudi%20Arabia)

* 1. **A guide to Africa**

The African continent’s economy is valued at about $US6 trillion. How do New Zealand’s export firms tackle this vast and complicated market opportunity? [Full article available here](https://exportertoday.co.nz/article/out-africa-guide-kiwi-exporters?utm_source=ubiquity&utm_medium=engage&utm_campaign=en17032016&utm_content=Read%20More%20Button%20-%20Out%20of%20Africa%3A%20A%20Guide%20for%20Kiwi%20exporters)

* 1. **Winter Olympics: What New Zealand can teach South Korea about branding**

***Here is an exert from an article in the Singaporean “Newspaper” that show how others see NZ***

A good example here is the "New Zealand Way". The initiative built it as a destination brand for outdoor sports and tourism, in part, by leveraging the hosting of events such as the 1987 Rugby World Cup and the 1990 Commonwealth Games. The untapped potential of the country's natural environment was recognised and subsequently also showcased in films such as the Lord Of The Rings blockbuster trilogy. Building on the growing international appreciation of the country's unspoiled natural environment, and in the face of its trade setbacks, New Zealand recognised that a strong country reputation for quality agriculture and produce would help it better compete in global markets.

The subsequent success of the country's agriculture sector, which has also became more competitive and efficient, is symbolised by the fact that it now accounts for around one third of global dairy exports - that is twice Saudi Arabia's share of world oil exports. The New Zealand example underlines how even a relatively simple, unified country brand vision can be powerful. It has managed to capture the world's imagination with its consistent branding that put outdoor pursuits and natural values firmly at its core. [Full article available here](http://www.tnp.sg/news/views/winter-olympics-what-new-zealand-can-teach-south-korea-about-branding?utm_source=ubiquity&utm_medium=engage&utm_campaign=en17032016&utm_content=Read%20More%20Button%20-%20What%20New%20Zealand%20can%20teach%20South%20Korea%20about%20branding)



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **New High Commissioner to Tonga announced**

Tiffany Babington has been announced as New Zealand’s new High Commissioner to Tonga..

“Ms Babington will lead the delivery of New Zealand’s Official Development Assistance programme in Tonga, helping to oversee $66 million of investment over three years focused on energy, policing, justice and education.” Ms Babington has previously been posted to Vanuatu and Italy, and worked on global development, Pacific regional, Niue and Tokelau issues. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-high-commissioner-tonga-announced)

* 1. **Announcement of Ambassador to Republic of Korea**

Philip Turner has been announced as New Zealand’s next Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

Mr Turner has extensive experience working in North Asia. He has held a number of senior positions at Fonterra, and most recently as Director of Global Stakeholder Affairs. Prior to joining Fonterra, Mr Turner held a number of roles in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including postings to the New Zealand Embassies in Tokyo and Brussels. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/announcement-ambassador-republic-korea)

* 1. **New Zealand explores ties with Mercosur**

New Zealand is interested in strengthening economic ties with the Mercosur trading bloc, says Minister for Trade and Export Growth David Parker. Mr Parker visited Paraguay, the current president of Mercosur, on 6-7 March. “As part of my visit I registered with Paraguay New Zealand’s desire to begin exploratory discussions with the Mercosur trading bloc,” says Mr Parker. These exploratory discussions would identify joint interests and strengthen New Zealand’s understanding of the benefits of a potential free trade agreement.

Taken as a whole, Mercosur countries have a combined GDP of US$2.42 trillion. “New Zealand is one of only two observer countries of Mercosur, a South American trade bloc comprised of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay.  [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-explores-ties-mercosur)

* 1. **New Zealand sets out progressive and inclusive trade approach at CPTPP signing**

Minister for Trade and Export Growth David Parker has signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in Santiago, Chile. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-sets-out-progressive-and-inclusive-trade-approach-cptpp-signing)

New Zealand also signed agreements to exclude compulsory investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) between them with five countries in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).Minister for Trade and Export Growth David Parker said the agreements are “side letters” with the same treaty-level status as the Agreement.

New Zealand has signed additional side letters with Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Peru and Viet Nam. New Zealand has also signed a side letter to exclude ISDS with Australia, the source of 80% of investment from the CPTPP nations into New Zealand.

A further two countries, Canada and Chile, have joined New Zealand in a declaration that they will use investor-state dispute settlement responsibly. The terms of the side letters vary. Some exclude the use of ISDS between New Zealand and other countries entirely, while other side letters allow for arbitration to proceed only if the relevant Government agrees. The side letters and joint declaration will be available on the MFAT website at: [www.mfat.govt.nz/cp](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/cptpp) [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-signs-side-letters-curbing-investor-state-dispute-settlement)

**General**

* 1. **CPTPP signed in Santiago**

9 March 2018 – The New Zealand International Business Forum (NZIBF) welcomes the signing in Santiago of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Mr Jacobi said that the CPTPP signing was about securing sustainable growth and jobs.

“CPTPP is about giving new opportunities to exporters especially in the four markets where we do not already have FTAs (Canada, Japan, Mexico and Peru). CPTPP also puts in place better trade rules which enhance the security of our trade and reduces the cost of doing business within all eleven economies”. [Full article available here](http://www.tradeworks.org.nz/cptpp-signed-santiago/)

* 1. **New Zealand horticulture sector positive over CPTPP trade deal**

The wider New Zealand horticulture export sector sees substantial a opportunity following the signing of an agreement on the Comprehensive Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade deal.

New Zealand Horticulture Export Authority CEO Simon Hegarty says: “We welcome this outcome, particularly with Japan’s inclusion in the CPTPP providing for elimination of an estimated NZ$48m in annual tariffs. While the refined CPTPP now involves 11 countries resolving a range of trade issues, tariffs are a prominent trade barrier component for some key markets.

New Zealand exports approximately 60% of its annual horticulture production, at a value of NZ$3.5 billion and the CPTPP countries are the destination for $1.22 billion (35%) of that total. Within the CPTPP group, Japan is the destination for NZ$5731m Free on Board (or just under 50% of our CPTPP trade value) however, it accounts for 99% of the estimated $48.5m in tariffs NZ exporters paid in all CPTPP markets in 2017.

Japan’s 6.4% tariff on kiwifruit alone amounted to an estimated cost of $26m - $30m or an average $10,300/grower, the cost to the 30 buttercup squash export growers from the 3% tariff in that market was $1.53m or an average of $50,600 per grower, and the 8.5% tariff on onion exports to Japan cost an average $19,500 to each of the 90 commercial onion growers. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190841/New-Zealand-horticulture-sector-positive-over-CPTPP-trade-deal)

* 1. **Nerves of Steel**

On the eve of the signing of the CPTPP, among the biggest FTAs in the world, the global temperature on trade has rapidly moved towards “trade war” setting. On 1 March, President Trump announced that he intended to impose sweeping new tariffs on imports of steel and aluminium. Hardest-hit trading partners are likely to include the EU, Korea and Canada. China, the ostensible target of the measures, in fact supplies a mere 2 percent of US steel imports, although it is a relatively large aluminium supplier.

New Zealand will likely face impacts in our own and in other steel and aluminium markets, of course, particularly if prices collapse as displaced supply goes looking for a new home. While this is clearly far from ideal, the more serious risk lies in the threat to the global trading system. The ‘wild west’ of tit-for-tat trade measures is not a comfortable place for a small player such as New Zealand, nor for the integrity of the broader rules framework. There are questions over the WTO consistency of applying retaliatory tariffs without due process.

Equally, others may take the precedent signalled by the US – of basing its action on “national security” grounds, under the little-known and rarely-used Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 – to use a similar rationale to justify protectionism on other products.   The national security element is one that under any circumstances the WTO would likely have difficulty adjudicating – but worryingly, the WTO’s Dispute Settlement system has for some time been close to paralysis as a result of US refusal to allow the appointment of Appellate Body judges to proceed.

Meantime the potential downward spiral could have a serious destabilising and recessionary impact on the global economy.[Full article available here](http://www.tradeworks.org.nz/nerves-of-steel/)

* 1. **2018 Food Safety & Compliance Conference**

The **2018 Food Safety & Compliance Conference** is being held in Auckland on 19th and 20th March at a cost of $1999 +GST . Come along to the conference to hear from leading experts in food safety on how to leverage New Zealand’s reputation to improve market access, go beyond regulation and carve out competitive advantage as a food producer. [Full article available here](https://www.conferenz.co.nz/events/food-safety-compliance-conference-1?utm_source=ubiquity&utm_medium=engage&utm_campaign=en17032016&utm_content=Read%20More%20Button%20-%20Food%20Safety%20%26%20Compliance%20Conference%20-Akl%2C%2019-20%20March)

**Industry news**

* 1. **New equipment used on apple orchards**

# Original article titled Labour Costs a Concern for Tree Fruit Growers in New Zealand. The article looks at the use on apple orchards of:

* Multi row sprayers
* Intelligent Fruit Vision (IFV) for predicting crop size
* Fine tuning nutrition

It also mentions the cost of labour and the requirements of the RSE scheme. [Full article available here](http://www.growingproduce.com/fruits/apples-pears/labor-costs-a-concern-for-tree-fruit-growers-in-new-zealand/)

* 1. **New Zealand vegetable prices rising as crops rot**

In New Zealand, the prices of vegetables such as cauliflower have jumped up to $10 a head - more than double the usual cost. According to Horticulture NZ chief executive Mike Chapman, heavy rain across many parts of the country, Cyclone Gita and high humidity are causing crops to go to seed or rot. "Growers are losing $100,000 a week because they just can't grow the range of vegetables and it will affect the workers and the rural community.” [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190518/New-Zealand-vegetable-prices-rising-as-crops-rot)

* 1. **New kiwifruit shipping service from Northport, New Zealand**

A new shipping service for Northland's $40 million kiwifruit industry will take more than 500 truck and trailers trips off the road south of Whangarei and increase profits for the region's growers. Starting May this year, the Mediterranean Shipping Company will stop at Northport in Whangarei to load Zespri kiwifruit and other locally grown produce every fortnight.  Northland produces around three and a half million trays of kiwifruit a year, which equates to about 13,000 pallets and is worth around $40 million. The volume of trays is expected to double in the next three years.  [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190517/New-kiwifruit-shipping-service-from-Northport,-New-Zealand)

* 1. **Zespri accused of 'violating Chinese law'**

Zespri made changes to its website after a notification by New Zealand Trade Enterprise that they were exposed to political and business risks if they didn't acknowledge Hong Kong and Taiwan as regions, rather than countries. Naming Hong Kong and Taiwan as separate countries on a website is an act the Chinese perceive as a serious violation to their national laws.  
  
Last January, the Marriott International hotel chain had to apologise and condemn "separatists" in China after the Beijing government shut down its website over wording, which suggested some Chinese regions were separate countries. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190784/Zespri-accused-of-violating-Chinese-law)

**Other**

* 1. **Envy apples shine at New York Fashion Week**

New Zealand bred Envy apple was on the runway at New York Fashion Week at the February 9 Flying Solo fashion show. Garland Perkins, retail solutions specialist at Oppy who orchestrated the NYFW sponsorship noted that T&G Global, who owns the trademark rights to Envy, has garnered success in similar events like last year’s Thailand’s Bangkok Fashion Week, and will participate in the Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival in March.

“The Envy apple consumer is someone we think of as an ‘aspirer’; a busy person who lives a fast and full life,” said David Nelley, vice president of categories for Oppy. “They look for smart choices that reward, nourish and break the routine, and perhaps even consider a special apple like Envy essential to their individual style.”

In honor of Envy’s first appearance at NYFW, local stores dressed up the apple display with NYFW point-of-sale material and ran a social media contest urging shoppers to “Be the Envy of Fashion Week” and win a $500 shopping spree. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190494/Envy-apples-shine-at-New-York-Fashion-Week)

* 1. **First import of fruit puree from New Zealand arrives at Jiangsu Port**

According to the Changzhou Entry-Exit Inspection & Quarantine Bureau, a batch of 1,319 boxes of fruit puree from New Zealand has successfully passed the quarantine examination and has arrived in the Chinese markets. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190630/China-First-import-of-fruit-puree-from-New-Zealand-arrives-at-Jiangsu-Port)

* 1. **Variety specific apple juice to hit New Zealand's shelves**

Next month a New Zealand company will launch three single pressed apple juices onto the domestic market, so apple lovers can buy juice made from specific varieties; JazzTM, Braeburn and Royal Gala.

This new beverage brand, The Apple Press began to take shape in 2013 when Hawke’s Bay apple grower Ross Beaton teamed up with food innovation specialist Sally Gallagher to tackle the industry challenge of utilising the “cosmetically challenged” fruit that was coming off the Hawke’s Bay apple orchards. Their innovative solution was to use the fruit to create a range of premium beverages for the New Zealand market, following up quickly with export to key international markets.

"We don't need to have preservatives because of the technology we use. We have gone one step further using clever technology to minimise processing & ingredient requirements, to compliment the use of quality raw materials from a safe, sustainable and traceable source." [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/special-article/190600/Variety-specific-apple-juice-to-hit-New-Zealands-shelves)

**Biosecurity**

* 1. **Latest BMSB finds**

Throughout February and March there have been several media reports regarding car ships from Japan containing significant numbers of stink bugs – [BMSB](http://broadcaster.cucumber.co.nz/t/r-l-jynejk-hujdidaht-p/)and [Yellow Spotted Stink Bug (YSSB](http://broadcaster.cucumber.co.nz/t/r-l-jynejk-hujdidaht-x/)[)](http://broadcaster.cucumber.co.nz/t/r-l-jynejk-hujdidaht-x/)**.**

KVH says that it has been strongly promoting the need to treat vehicles offshore so that New Zealand's horticulture industry doesn’t have to deal with this problem. More detail can be read in the February [KVH risk update](http://broadcaster.cucumber.co.nz/t/r-l-jynejk-hujdidaht-n/), which includes latest data reported by MPI.

* 1. **Australia: Impregnable barrier to fruit fly**

Hundreds of thousands of sterile fruit flies dropped from the sky over the Adelaide region recently kicking off a bold plan to reduce the numbers of an endemic pest. The sterile flies would reduce Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) numbers because the flies they mate with will not be able to reproduce.  
  
While SIT has been effective in California and Guatemala, this project is breaking new ground with some of Australia's leading fruit fly experts on board. "Sustainable management of Qfly is vital to Australia's $10.3 billion horticultural sector—this pest costs the horticultural sector $300 million each year in lost markets." [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190520/Australia-Impregnable-barrier-to-fruit-fly)

* 1. **Western Australia: Community fights to save $8 billion horticulture industry**

In late January, a female Queensland fruit fly was found in a trap in a lemon tree in Fremantle, Western Australia. It was one of 1900 traps across the Perth area. The full article describes the approach being used to handle the potential incursion. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190803/Western-Australia-Community-fights-to-save-8-billion-horticulture-industry)



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. This week see:

1. **Canada Exporter Guide** In 2016, Canada was the second-largest export market for U.S. food and agricultural products.  [Exporter Guide\_Ottawa\_Canada\_2-23-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Exporter%20Guide_Ottawa_Canada_2-23-2018.pdf)
2. **Canada Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification**   
   The report highlights certification requirements for food and agricultural products exported to Canada, and supplements the FAIRS Narrative Report CA17049.    [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification\_Ottawa\_Canada\_2-15-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20-%20Certification_Ottawa_Canada_2-15-2018.pdf)
3. **China Consumer Study on China's Imported Food Products** The data and analysis shown in this report is derived from focus group discussions and a quantitative survey comprised of 1,325 consumers in the Eastern China area. [Consumer Study on China's Imported Food Products\_Shanghai ATO\_China - Peoples Republic of\_3-1-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Consumer%20Study%20on%20China's%20Imported%20Food%20Products_Shanghai%20ATO_China%20-%20Peoples%20Republic%20of_3-1-2018.pdf)

**Business**

* 1. **Cost a key factor in falling Japan consumption**

Japanese fruit consumption has been steadily declining over the past decade, and one of the country's leading industry figures says rising costs are contributing to the decline. The weak Japanese yen makes imported fruit more expensive than ever before,” an official explained.“Also, a factor is that (with few exceptions), many fresh fruits are considered a luxury item in Japan. And with the high cost, consumption in Japan is extremely low compared to other advanced countries such as the US, and many European countries.”

In 2008, the average Japanese household spent around ¥36,118 (US$340) on fresh fruit. In 2017 the figure was at ¥36,052 (US$340) with a variation of around ¥2,500 (US$23) in the years between.

Comparatively, the volume of fruit consumed in 2008 was 89.47kg versus 75.05kg in 2017.[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/174931/why-japan-wont-eat-more-fruit)

* 1. **Strong export growth for Australian produce**

**A**ustralian produce may not be able to compete on price in overseas export markets, but it can compete on quality, reliability, and safety, according to ABARES’ senior economist Caroline Gunning-Trant. Over the six years to 2016-17, Australia’s fruit and nut exports to its top five destinations more than doubled, and the value of vegetable exports increased 50 per cent. This has continued over the past calendar year as overall Australian fresh fruit exports exceeded A$1.1bn.

“China is a fast-growing market where consumers are increasingly brand and quality conscious. … Our brand and quality consistency will be key to sustaining those markets,” he said.

In terms of competing with China’s own supply, the report also mentioned that the Chinese fruit industry is “not expected to produce sufficient quality fruit to displace imports from Australia over the medium term.” Jones also stresses the importance of maintaining and improving market access protocols as critical to the industry’s success. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/174918/strong-export-growth-for-australian-produce)

* 1. **Trends report shows global produce sales near €5tn mark**

## Worldwide consumer spending on fruit and vegetables is expected to approach the five-trillion euro mark by 2030, according to new research written by consultancy Oliver Wyman and published exclusively by Fruit Logistica, the world’s leading trade fair for the fresh fruit and vegetable business.

[Click here to download your free copy of Part 1 of the Fruit Logistica Trend Report 2018.](http://www.fruitnet.com/TrendReport2018)

The markets in the Asia-Pacific region are expected to account for over half (56 per cent) of those global fresh produce sales by 2030, more than the rest of the world combined. As the marketplace for fresh fruit and vegetables becomes increasingly globalised and interconnected, the way those products are carried from origin to market is changing, in many cases dramatically. The drive towards greater efficiency, for example – often through the use of new technologies such as blockchain – is helping companies to improve, expand and consolidate.

The report explains how this evolution will influence companies in the fruit and vegetable business during years to come. It picks out four trends that demand particular consideration:

• Increasing world population

• Greater use of digital technologies and data

• Autonomous transportation

• Increased consumer interest in health and well-being

**Further chapters will be published on the Fruit Logistica website over the coming months.** [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/174913/global-produce-sales-near-five-trillion-euros)

** China**

* 1. **China: Kingship officially starts Chilean investment project**

The Chinese Association for Consumer Products Quality and Safety Promotion and Shenzhen Kingship Co., Ltd. (hereafter referred to as Kingship) have recently signed an agreement titled the "Strategic Cooperation Agreement". The Kingship Chilean investment project promotes comprehensive cooperation in such areas as the integrated development of the entire supply chain of fruit, distribution, supplementing resources, and market coordination. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190561/China-Kingship-officially-starts-Chilean-investment-project)

* 1. **China: Apple supply exceeds demand**

China is a big player in both the production and consumption of apples but, as a result of a continuous growth in apple production, supply is currently exceeding demand. The estimated production volume in 2017 was 43.5 million tons. 86% of those apples were destined for the domestic fresh food market. Around 10% went to processing factories, and around 3% was exported.

Apple exports are still negligible, with the latest export figures showing that the Chinese apple export volume in January 2018 was 110.2 thousand tons. This is a decrease of 36.66% compared to the previous month and a decrease of 31.13% compared to the same period in the previous year. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190558/China-Apple-supply-exceeds-demand)

* 1. **China: Summary of fresh fruit import and export in January 2018**

***Fresh fruit import*** China imported 483 thousand tons of fresh fruit in January, 2018. That is an increase of 8% compared with the same period in the previous year. The three destination countries with the highest import value are Chile (580 USD, an increase of 69% compared with the same period in the previous year), Vietnam (87.41 million USD, an increase of 1% compared with the same period in the previous year), and Thailand (65.11 million USD, a decrease of 27% compared with the same period in the previous year).

The three kinds of fruit with the highest import value in January, 2018, were fresh cherries (import value of 550 million USD, an increase of 70% compared with the same period in the previous year) fresh longan and bananas.

***Fresh fruit export-*** China exported 329 thousand tons of fresh fruit in January, 2018. This is a decrease of 19% compared with the same period in the previous year. The three export destinations with the highest export value were Malaysia , Thailand and Vietnam. The three kinds of fruit with the highest export value in January, 2018, were citrus, fresh apples (export value of 120 million USD, a decrease of 20% compared with the same period in the previous year), and fresh pears . [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190562/China-Summary-of-fresh-fruit-import-and-export-in-January-2018)

 **Food safety**

* 1. **Qatar lab results clear Australian rock melon**

The Ministry of Public Health in Doha announced that the analyses of Australian rock melons, which were previously withdrawn from the market, showed that the fruit is free of listeria and any other types of bacteria such as salmonella and escherichia coli.  
  
After receiving a notification that Australian rock melons might be contaminated with listeria, the Ministry detained the next shipment. It has also taken precautionary measures to prevent importing new shipments of rock melons suspected of being unsafe. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190585/Qatar-lab-results-clear-Australian-rock-melon)

* 1. **Fourth person dies in Australia from contaminated fruit**

Victorian health authorities have confirmed that a fourth person has died from listeria contracted from eating contaminated rock melons. The latest death means two people from NSW and two from Victoria have been killed by the outbreak, which was linked to a farm in southern NSW.

There are now 17 confirmed cases of listeriosis around the country linked to the contaminated rock melons. Cases have also been reported in Tasmania and Queensland. The NSW Food Authority confirmed last week that investigations into the deadly outbreak began in January. The fruit has been pulled from supermarket shelves across the country. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190675/Fourth-person-dies-from-contaminated-fruit)

* 1. **More nations banning Australian rock melons**

This week, following a similar decision by the United Arab Emirates, the nations of Bahrain and Indonesia have also temporarily banned the import of rock melons from Australia. According to [macaunews.mo](https://macaunews.mo/govt-recalls-26-kilos-possibly-contaminated-melons-australia/), in the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, a total of 26 kilogrammes of rock melons from New South Wales has been recalled, as they were suspect as well. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190759/More-nations-banning-Australian-rock-melons)

** Health**

* 1. **Probiotic foods along with prebiotics maintains gastro-intestinal health**

Dietitian Manuel Villacorta is passionate about probiotic foods, but is very concerned about visceral fat that is stored in the gut. "This belly fat is probably the worst fat you can have in excess. By reducing visceral fat you reduce inflammation and you reduce many chronic diseases.”  
  
But in order for probiotics to thrive and multiply, they need a steady diet of good, fibrous foods. Avocados, oats, asparagus, onions and mangoes are all great prebiotic examples. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190592/Probiotic-foods-along-with-prebiotics-maintains-gastro-intestinal-health)

 **Innovation**

* 1. **Space technology to cut agricultural waste**

Satellite technology is being promoted which mayo reduce nitrogen fertiliser usage by up to 40 per cent. By fostering a more efficient farming method, the tool is estimated by Vultus to save around 2.3m tonnes of CO2 over the 5.5m hectares of land used for agriculture worldwide.

The technology will use satellite imagery of fields to identify variations in conditions, then, based on these variations it will provide farmers with a timely analysis and nitrogen recommendations.

The technology will be available worldwide to all farmers, at a cost of €5 (US$1.23) per hectare per year. It will provide data and new recommendations for nitrogen applications based on a nitrogen index that has been developed by Vultus through rigorous research, trials and historical data analysis.

Through this tool, the company is hoping to reduce global nitrogen usage by up to 40 per cent.

[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/174887/space-technology-to-reduce-agricultural-waste)

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