

**PMAC weekly update 6th to 13th September**

1. **Government agencies**: ICPR Changes WTO and TBT Notifications, MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 10 September 2021, NZTE programmes associated with Expo 2020
2. **New Zealand News:**  Robotic asparagus harvester aimed at addressing industry challenges, One-way quarantine-free travel for RSE workers starting in October, There's something wrong when we're feeding the world, but our own people go hungry, Fresh Produce Risk Ranking Results, Produce Industry Traceability Guidelines & the Non-Compostable Label Ban Webinar, Summerfruit partnership now open to investors, Darling Group welcomes investment from Booster, T&G’s VentureFruit takes root, T&G looking for new suppliers to achieve future growth strategy, T&G goes global with Jazz campaign, Envy™ celebrates full moon festivities with global marketing campaign, Kiwi cuttings smuggler ordered to pay Zespri $12 million, ‘Kiwifruit faces up to challenges’, Labour pains!, Flower farmers forced to bin harvest due to restrictions, Acute container shortage could have 'devastating' impact on business, Avocado exports face headwinds this year, Avocado exports face headwinds this year, Aupōuri aquifer consents granted, DoC to decide whether to appeal, Harvex- successfully helping to sell New Zealand onions, NZAPI recognises John Randall, Keeping NZ kids healthy!, New Zealand's Foodstuffs South Island names new CEO:, Co-operative businesses NZ effectively combatting Covid-19 effects
3. **International news:** 'Entire world is short-staffed', Canada The agricultural industry is desperate for workers of all sorts, SHAFFE to attend key industry events, More than 1 billion Asians will join the global middle class in the next decade, Australian industry faces largest rise in food and grocery prices in more than a decade, ‘Handling vegetables at market could have led to COVID-19 spread’, "There will never be a silver bullet to solve the food security problem", Chinese investment in Chile creates opportunities, Chinese state-owned company wants to expand in African horticulture, Onshore container disruption leading to record delays and profits, Pandemic has made shipping containers into hottest items globally, Overview of the importance and scope of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for flower crops, Breeding roses that are ready for climate change effects, Weeding Robot that uses precision lasers, Giving away CRISPR intellectual property licenses for free in fight against hunger, New way to freeze foods could cut carbon emissions immensely

**Comment**

After relatively few articles last week this week’s batch has bounced back to a healthy number of articles – there’s plenty happening in horticulture.

The ongoing issue of insufficient labour is mentioned in both New Zealand and in International articles and its obviously not a problem that is going to be fixed easily. In fact, until the world finds cost efficient robotic solutions, articles are starting to say the flow on effect of labour constraints is likely to be an increase in the price the consumer pays for produce. There is the hope in New Zealand that RSE workers from the Pacific will alleviate the problem (as long as the new expedited immigration process works) but other countries are not talking as concretely about a solution.

Also in the New Zealand section is an interesting opinion piece calling for New Zealand to feed its own population before exporting to other countries. A stance which is difficult to argue with if we want to claim our food is being produced in an ethically and socially sustainable way. The article reports that a public-private sector think tank, the Aotearoa Circle, has been established to consider how this can be achieved.

Food security in China and the need to explore a range of solutions is discussed in the international section Two associated articles about Chinese investments in Chile and Africa show that investments in other countries are part of Chinas plans to secure its food supply.

1. **Agency news** 
   1. **ICPR changes**

The ICPR for Chile has been updated with changes requirements for the paper work required for the import of Actinidia spp Pollen .[Plant ICPR for Chile](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/629)

* 1. **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. Changes notified over the last week include:

* Brazil – phytosanitary quarantine treatments for international transit of vegetables
* Japan and USA MRL’s
* Chinese Taipei Importation of plants or plant products shall be free from *Muhlenbergia capillaris* and *Muhlenbergia reverchoni *

** MFAT**

* 1. **MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 10 September 2021**

MFAT update is available at <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-global/global-economic-and-trade-update-for-new-zealand-businesses-10-september-2021/> Amongst other entries

* **USA** In the USA economists are noting event cancellations, reduced consumer spending, a hiring slow-down, travel restrictions and renewed mask mandates are indicative of a wider economic downturn.
* **Canada** On 7 September, **Canada reopened its border** to **non-essential travel for fully vaccinated international travellers** after a 17-month border closure (US travellers have been able to enter Canada for the past month). This permits quarantine-free entry into Canada (including for tourism or other non-essential purposes) for those who have received a negative COVID-19 PCR test and have proof of full vaccination at least 14 days prior to entry. See [Arrive Can](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/splash-arrivecan.html) website.
* **Ecuador** President Guillermo Lasso publicly announced the **beginning of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with China**
* **Report on Germany** report is now available on [German Businesses Keen to Diversify their Sources of Supply](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-europe/german-businesses-keen-to-diversify-their-sources-of-supply-august-2021/), prepared by the New Zealand Embassy Berlin, in consultation with NZTE



* 1. **NZTE programmes associated with Expo 2020**

From 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, Expo 2020 Dubai will take place More than 190 countries will participate in the six-month-long event. NZTE is running a series of programmes to help NZ exporters leverage the event, one of which is the Food & Beverage programme to support F&B exporters with a presence or understanding of the Middle East. It will be made up of multiple activities that will include participation in the Taste New Zealand F&B Festival at the New Zealand Expo pavilion and opportunities to showcase your brand to industry buyers and consumers from the UAE, as well as international visitors to Expo 2020. [Discover FMCG programme.](https://my.nzte.govt.nz/attend/Expo_2020_Dubai_-_Discover_Middle_East1860952578) To learn more about the full Expo Business Leverage programme please visit the [NZTE website](https://my.nzte.govt.nz/attend/NZTE%20websitehttps:/www.nzte.govt.nz/page/expo-2020-dubai-business-leverage-programme)



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **Robotic asparagus harvester aimed at addressing industry challenges**

The Government is backing a $5 million project to develop a commercial-scale autonomous robotic asparagus harvester. The Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures fund (SFF Futures) is contributing $2.6 million to the project. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/robotic-asparagus-harvester-aimed-addressing-industry-challenges)

* 1. **One-way quarantine-free travel for RSE workers starting in October**

The first stage of one-way quarantine-free travel with Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu will commence in October, initially for RSE workers from those countries, COVID-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins and Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor announced today.“To minimise risk we are putting in place additional health measures for these workers. These include requirements to be vaccinated with at least one dose pre-departure, complete a period of self-isolation on arrival and return negative COVID-19 tests at Day 0 and Day 5.“We are starting solely with RSE workers for several reasons. RSE workers come to New Zealand in a cohort, and stay in employer-arranged accommodation. This helps mitigate any additional risk from COVID-19 by ensuring they go into self-isolation in a pre-organised place immediately upon arrival.” Officials in New Zealand are working with partner Pacific countries and the industry on the final measures that need to be in place, with exact flight dates in October to be confirmed.  [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/one-way-quarantine-free-travel-rse-workers-starting-october)

** Commentary**

* 1. **There's something wrong when we're feeding the world, but our own people go hungry**

*Supermarkets are making high profits but* making money isn’t the issue here, but making it when you’re [one of only two players in town](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300369564/supermarket-duopoly-slammed-as-regulator-waves-the-biggest-of-sticks) is. Meanwhile, [the demand on foodbanks](https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/126214110/covid19-government-funding-for-extra-60000-food-parcels) has seen supplies wiped out due to the need, particularly in Auckland. Last Saturday, the Social Development Ministry announced an additional $7m boost for 60,000 food parcels and 10,000 wellbeing packs at alert level 4. How can we as a country, reputedly producing enough to feed 40m people, seemingly not be able to feed our own 5m? Why have [annual food prices](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300374777/the-rise-and-fall-of-food-prices-whats-cheaper-dearer-and-why-it-all-matters) increased by 2.8 per cent in the year ended to June fuelled by rising fruit and vegetable prices?

Five weeks ago, the [Commerce Commission released its draft report](https://comcom.govt.nz/news-and-media/media-releases/2021/commission-releases-draft-report-on-competition-in-the-retail-grocery-sector#:~:text=Commission%20releases%20draft%20report%20on%20competition%20in%20the%20retail%20grocery%20sector,-29%20Jul%202021&text=In%20November%202020%2C%20the%20Government,be%20done%20to%20improve%20it.) into competition in the retail grocery sector. It found that the supermarkets operated a duopoly which “appear[s] to avoid competing strongly with each other, particularly on price”, presenting significant challenges for competitors, who are unable to compete on price and product range. What’s more, the report found that suppliers have little choice but to supply the major retailers, which allows the supermarkets to exercise their buyer power by pushing excess risks, costs and uncertainty on to suppliers. This in turn stops suppliers investing and innovating, leading to less choice and lower quality.

That report will undoubtedly [present the Government with more than a few headaches](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300368920/government-responds-to-damning-supermarket-report-on-high-costs) in terms of implementation. Does it play the big, bad interventionist and tinker with the market, not knowing what the actual results will be, or does it allow the market to decide by altering settings and providing it with a more even playing field? Poverty researcher Rebekah Graham’s work found that [almost 40 per cent of Kiwi households experience food insecurity](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/whoseatingnewzealand/447324/calls-to-feed-the-5-million-first-before-exporting-nz-food), while 19 per cent of children live in households that have it.

A public-private sector think tank, the Aotearoa Circle, is trying to tackle the problem with the idea of feeding the five million first, which has resonated with the agriculture sector.

It’s going to take more than altruistic thinking to solve this issue. New Zealand’s wealth is founded on those food exports. Solving it will be vital if one of the food baskets of the world – that’s us – is going to feed its own. If we don’t, we fail not only the food-insecure, but all of us. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/opinion-analysis/126273042/theres-something-wrong-when-were-feeding-the-world-but-our-own-people-go-hungry)



* 1. **Fresh Produce Risk Ranking Results, Produce Industry Traceability Guidelines & the Non-Compostable Label Ban Webinar**

## Webinar to be held via zoom on **Wednesday 29th September 2021 10- 10.45am View the agenda and** [Register here.](https://5aday.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6da879b6faf5dc2e07794a680&id=fd0d12e5c5&e=0ff94fdc1c)

* 1. **Summerfruit partnership now open to investors**

Ardgour Valley Orchards LP, New Zealand's newest summerfruit development which will produce specialty apricots and cherries for export is now seeking investor interest in its Central Otago development. Ardgour Valley Orchards spans 38 hectares within Ardgour Station in the Tarras Valley, with two thirds of the orchard set aside to produce new apricot varieties for the first time. The rest has been allocated for a mix of red and white-fleshed cherry production. Three new apricot varieties bred by Plant & Food Research in Central Otago will be commercialised for the first time. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9352553/summerfruit-partnership-now-open-to-investors/)

* 1. **Darling Group welcomes investment from Booster**

New Zealand based horticulture company, Darling Group is pleased to announce an investment by Booster Tahi LP, the investment arm of Booster, a New Zealand owned superannuation scheme provider and investment manager. Darling Group’s model is unique in the Avocado Industry and offers Booster the ability to invest across the produce supply chain. The investment enables Darling Group to invest further into the development of its supply chain infrastructure and capability and accelerate its New Zealand avocado orchard development plans.

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Leading this development is the purchase of a MAF RODA avocado packing machine for their New Zealand packing facility, Just Avocados. This immediately delivers state-of-the-art industry packing capabilities, maturity level detection, and grading accuracy. The recent investment by Tahi has also enabled Darling Group to increase their previous 50% shareholding in Zeafruit to 100% ownership. Zeafruit is a leading marketer of avocados and citrus in New Zealand and their business includes citrus orchards and a packing facility in Gisborne. .Another project underway is the conversion to avocados of a 95-hectare dairy farm in Northland, New Zealand. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9352562/darling-group-welcomes-investment-from-booster/)

* 1. **T&G’s VentureFruit takes root**

T&G Global’s new international genetics and variety management business, VentureFruit, has lined up around 50 premium apple, pear and berry projects that it could be working on within five years, according to managing director Peter Landon-Lane. “At the moment we might have something like five different plant varieties that we are commercialising around the world in multiple countries, but in the next five years that will get closer to 50,” he said.

The fact the company had this build underway, with projects such as the development and breeding of a range of unique new berries with Plant & Food Research and the commercialisation of the world’s first climate-adapted apple, meant the time was right to provide the 10-strong team with “the sort of dedicated focus and space to really become successful,” Landon-Lane said.

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“It’s a long-term game – if you invest a dollar in a breeding programme depending on what sort of plant it is it is possible 15 years before you get that back – it is reasonably patient capital. “On the other hand, because we started 19 years ago [with Envy and Jazz] we’ve already got quite significant IP income coming into the company so the flywheel is already turning.” [Full article available here](https://www.foodticker.co.nz/tgs-venturefruit-takes-root/)

* 1. **T&G looking for new suppliers to achieve future growth strategy**

T&G Global is on the lookout for a wide range of suppliers across the Hawke’s Bay and Nelson regions, to be part of a significant growth period for the company. The company hopes to attract interest from new or existing suppliers in servicing and/or supplying their planned 300 hectares of orchard development across the aforementioned regions. The main categories the company is focused on for servicing and supply includes orchard construction supplies and services, land preparation, orchard maintenance contractors, crop protection and orchard automation.  [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9354360/t-g-looking-for-new-suppliers-to-achieve-future-growth-strategy/)

* 1. **T&G goes global with Jazz campaign**

**T**&G Global has launched a global marketing campaign for Jazz apples. Incorporating the new motto ‘Is it Jazz time yet?’, the marketing campaign is aimed at driving brand awareness and positioning Jazz as “the ideal snack on the go”, according to T&G Global’s head of marketing Rebecca Chapman.

“With more people looking for healthier snacking choices, we’re promoting the fact that Jazz apples fulfils this need,” It has been launched in several key markets including the US, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, UAE, Thailand, Vietnam and New Zealand. T&G Global sold 5m cartons, or roughly 106 tonnes, of Jazz apples internationally in 2020. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/186161/tg-goes-global-with-jazz-campaign)

* 1. **Envy™ celebrates full moon festivities with global marketing campaign**

With Mid-Autumn festivities fast approaching in key Asian markets, T&G Global has launched an integrated marketing campaign to encourage consumers to celebrate full moon festivities with Envy™ apples. Envy™ apples fit perfectly with gifting occasions due to their large size, beautifully balanced sweetness and fresh aroma - elevating what an apple can be. Our latest brand campaign promotes sharing the ultimate apple experience with your loved ones throughout the festive holiday.

“We have produced special edition, premium Envy™ gift boxes to support the mid-autumn festivities. The beautifully presented cases match the premium attributes of our apples and are already hugely popular with festival fans. Globally, there’s incredible appetite for Envy™. Independent research has forecast that we need at least another 25 million TCEs by 2030 to meet potential consumer demand, especially in China, Vietnam, Thailand and the USA. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9353115/envy-celebrates-full-moon-festivities-with-global-marketing-campaign/)

* 1. **Kiwi cuttings smuggler ordered to pay Zespri $12 million**

A former kiwifruit grower who smuggled cuttings of Zespri’s prized gold variety to China has been ordered to pay the kiwifruit exporter more than $12 million, after his appeal proved unsuccessful. Last year, Haoyu Gao was ordered by the High Court to pay Zespri almost $15 mln for taking the cuttings to China after signing a supposed licensing agreement with a grower there. Zespri claimed Gao’s agreement to supply the cuttings was an infringement of its rights under the Plant Varieties Rights Act.

Gao appealed the High Court ruling and, in a judgment released on Tuesday, the Court of Appeal reduced the damages to be paid by Gao from $14.9 million to $12.1 million. The reduction in damages related to the inexact measurement of the Chinese orchards involved. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9353164/kiwi-cuttings-smuggler-ordered-to-pay-zespri-12-million/)

* 1. **‘Kiwifruit faces up to challenges’**

Zespri chief executive Dan Mathieson has issued a statement saying the industry is facing unprecedented challenges because of the lack of people available to work in the sector as a result of the pandemic. Mathieson says the situation is likely to be around for some time and the sector has to think about how else it can make different decisions that free up capacity and jobs that people have been doing but don't need to do in the future.

Labour and logistics are by far the biggest challenges facing the kiwifruit industry in the Covid environment. Mathieson says this is the same for the entire primary sector. He says before the Covid outbreak, it was pleasing to see the Government announce that it was going to increase the number of RSE workers from the Pacific Islands allowed into NZ. He adds, if this happens, it will really help.

* 1. **Labour pains!**

Overseas workers on their way to drive machinery and pick fruit could be affected by last week's decision to pause the release of MIQ rooms. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) announced last week that MIQ facilities which were used to accommodate returnees from overseas are now being used for community cases. More facilities and more rooms will be needed as the outbreak unfolds.

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About 150 fruit pickers from selected Pacific countries are expected to start arriving every 16 days from the end of this month. MIQ rooms for these arrivals are booked under 'time sensitive travel allocation' approved by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). Apples and Pears NZ chief executive Alan Pollard says the hort sector has MIQ rooms booked until November. He says while some arrivals were deferred in recent weeks, planning for these flights and spaces continues. In addition, the Government recently announced one way quarantine-free travel from Vanuatu, Samoa and Tonga. "We were hopeful that these flights would commence in September, but realistically it is more likely to be in October," he adds.  [Full article available here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/labour-pains)

And hear the news report from last week on the same issue [Full article available here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ruralnews/audio/2018810750/midday-rural-news-for-2-september-2021)

And another article with a similar plea [Full article available here -](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9353467/kiwifruit-faces-up-to-challenges/)

* 1. **Flower farmers forced to bin harvest due to restrictions**

Under Alert Level 4, New Zealand flower growers aren't able to sell or distribute their goods. This means months of work and beautiful flowers are going straight into the bin. And as Level 4 lockdown in Auckland continues to drag on, a group of flower growers wants change. *The story of one grower Aila Morgan Guthrie who is throwing out flowers daily.* Her post started a discussion amongst flower farmers and got them thinking about what they think needs to change. Christy Ralphs, owner of flower growing business Nourish Gardens convened an online meeting with 28 other growers from across Auckland. She said the longer the lockdown goes on the more concerned she becomes about the industry's survival. Ralphs said she believed they could operate safely under Level 4 by supplying flowers to essential businesses that are already open. Read the complete article at [www.tvnz.co.nz.](https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/flower-farmers-forced-bin-harvest-due-restrictions) And support for allowing flower growers in Auckland to provide flowers [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9354401/nz-grower-s-thoughts-on-floriculture-struggles/)

* 1. **Acute container shortage could have 'devastating' impact on business**

An acute shortage of refrigerated containers should be the country’s most important priority, alongside the response to the Delta variant, Venture Timaru chief executive Nigel Davenport says. “It’s critical. At the very heart of our economy is the fact we are an import/export country which is dependent on our ability to import what we need, but as importantly export our food and other products to our global markets.

Covid-19 international trade disruptions have caused shipping delays and a global container shortage with high demand from Europe and the United States leading to a sharp rise in container rates.

Davenport said South Canterbury, and the rest of New Zealand, could not afford to have reduced production because of inconsistent or non-existent container supply. “The cascading effect through our communities would be devastating, as it will likely see a reduction in working hours, job losses, and workforce ‘flight’ risk, right across the production and processing supply chain and aligned servicing sectors.”

Davenport believed the Government should consider a road, rail and sea logistics strategy involving coastal shipping. Economist Benje Patterson said exporters were struggling to get large volumes out of the country, especially high value add products, because of the lack of refrigerated containers. “ He saysthe Government should even consider chartering ships, which some major exporters were already doing. “When Covid hit the Government started paying hundreds of millions of dollars to keep premium product airfreight going. “Airfreight on an annual basis provides less than $10 billion in export receipts compared to close to $55 billion in seafreight exports.” Export NZ chief executive Catherine Beard said discussions had been held about chartering ships with major food exporters considering large vessels using pallets instead of containers. “Time will tell if it is successful.” [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/126266481/acute-container-shortage-could-have-devastating-impact-on-business)

* 1. **Avocado exports face headwinds this year**

Avocado growers have been told to expect substantial falls in orchard gate returns (OGR) for their upcoming spring and summer fruit harvests, mainly because of an oversupply of avocado in Australia. It is reported that the average price per 5.5kg tray across all sizes will be well down on the average OGRs for the past five years of NZ$23 for exported fruit. NZ Avocado board member Jim Tarawa, says global logistics made it very difficult to serve Asian customers as they take fruit a month at a time instead of a full season due to the threat of lockdowns[. Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/horticulture/view/avocado-exports-face-headwinds-this-year)

* 1. **Aupōuri aquifer consents granted, DoC to decide whether to appeal**

More than NZ$145 million of potential Northland horticultural development across 24 properties on the Far North's Aupōuri Peninsula have gained the required consent to take over 4.5 million cubic metres of groundwater each year from the Aupōuri aquifer. As a result, The Department of Conservation will decide next week whether to appeal these consents. [Full article available here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/aupouri-aquifer-consents-granted-doc-to-decide-whether-to-appeal/MEHYSOXXX3S6RSK46DSP3FJ4XY/)

* 1. **Harvex- successfully helping to sell New Zealand onions**

Global online onion trading platform Harvex has just completed the first New Zealand onion export season and it has been a great success according to Andy Gray from the company.“Our target in this first year was to trade 6000MT of onions and we have already traded more than that with just the New Zealand season. The buyers on the platform are happy to purchase from our vetted suppliers. As people have found themselves not able to travel to meet buyers face to face they are becoming more accustomed to buying online but need to trust the platforms where they are buying from, Harvex provides that platform where both buyers and sellers are carefully vetted before being able to trade.

“We are expanding the platform, introducing new buyers and sellers but what we also offer is market information as we have people on the ground in many countries who supply information on pricing, import quotas, new packing demands and special requests from buyers. We have people using the platform just to get that market information.” [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9354051/with-a-successful-new-zealand-season-behind-us-we-are-looking-forward-to-the-dutch-onion-season/)

** Bits and pieces**

* 1. **NZAPI recognises John Randall**

**J**ohn Randall has been recognised for his contribution to New Zealand’s apple and pear sector.

Randall, a plant exports senior adviser at New Zealand’s Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), was presented with the Outstanding Contribution to Industry award at a recent conference hosted by peak body New Zealand Apples and Pears’ (NZAPI).

Examples of Randall’s collaboration with industry include his involvement with OAPs (Official Assurance Programmes) negotiated between MPI and importing countries; working with industry and overseas regulators to improve and simplify the pre-clearance programme for pipfruit to the US; and his ongoing work towards the universal acceptance of a systems approach across all markets.

He became the first government official to receive the award in its eight-year history.[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/186192/nzapi-recognises-john-randall)

* 1. **Keeping NZ kids healthy!**

New Zealand's fresh fruit and vegetable sector has signed a new two-year deal with the Government to continue supplying produce to low decile schools. The Fruit and Vegetables in Schools (FIS) scheme has been running since 2008. The deal means 560 low decile schools around the country will continue to receive fresh produce every school day. He says this is 25% of all primary schools, with 124,000 students receiving over 27 million servings of fresh fruit and vegetables each year.

FIS reaches every decile one and two school in NZ, more than any other food and nutrition health promotion initiative. [Full article available here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/hort-news/hort-general-news/keeping-nz-kids-healthy?ct=t(RNG_7_SEP_2021_COPY_01))

* 1. **New Zealand's Foodstuffs South Island names new CEO:**

The South Island's biggest supermarket business has a new boss who has worked most of her career in the retail fashion sector. Mary Devine is taking over as Foodstuffs South Island's chief executive, replacing Steve Anderson who has been in that position for the past 20 years, the business said. The 226-store southern operations of New World, Pak'nSave, Four Square, Trents, Henrys and Raeward Fresh will now be headed by a woman for the first time. [Full article available here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/foodstuffs-south-island-names-new-ceo-fashion-retail-boss-mary-devine-takes-helm/33464JXWON77RDNE4KMOT5RENM/)

* 1. **Co-operative businesses NZ effectively combatting Covid-19 effects**

According to data from the New Zealand Co-operative Economy Report, the country's top 30 co-operatives earned nearly $42 billion in revenue last year, roughly the same as 2015. It contributed to 13 percent of the national GDP by revenue. Members were up nearly 25% to 1.5 million, but employees were down 13%. Among the larger co-operatives in New Zealand are Fonterra, Farmlands, Mitre 10, Zespri and Foodstuffs. Co-operative Business NZ said the business model was "thriving" in New Zealand. The report said 72 percent of co-operatives were in the agri-food sector, and have achieved increased revenues of around 10 percent since 2015. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9353885/co-operative-businesses-nz-effectively-combatting-covid-19-effects/)



1. **International news**

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **'Entire world is short-staffed'**

*Food prices to climb as labour shortage affects food industry.*

Across the world, a dearth of workers is shaking up food supply chains. In Vietnam, the army is assisting with the rice harvest. In the United Kingdom, farmers are dumping milk because there are no truckers to collect it. Supplies are being hit and some employers are forced to raise wages at a double-digit pace. That’s threatening to push food prices — already heated by soaring commodities and freight costs — even higher. Prices in August were up 33 per cent from the same month last year, according to an index compiled by the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization. [Read the complete article here.](https://financialpost.com/news/economy/your-food-prices-are-at-risk-as-the-world-runs-short-of-workers)

* 1. **Canada The agricultural industry is desperate for workers of all sorts**

There’s a global shortage of agricultural workers, from manual labor roles to science and engineering-focused agricultural tech work, and Canada is no different.. Pre-COVID-19 studies showed that primary agriculture experienced a labor shortage in Canada of 63,000 positions in 2018, giving it the highest job vacancy rate of any Canadian industry at 5.4 percent. The shortage has been predicted to increase to 123,000 by 2029. Based on 2,800 salaries listed by the Canadian Government the average salary for a farmworker at $15.25 an hour, which works out to $31,720 a year. An agronomist can expect to make an annual average of $59,996 while agricultural engineers will earn more than $100,000. [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9353469/can-the-agricultural-industry-is-desperate-for-workers-of-all-sorts/)

* 1. **SHAFFE to attend key industry events**

*SH fruit association to mark its presence in the main meetings of the fresh fruit industry worldwide*

The Southern Hemisphere Fresh Fruit Exporters Association (SHAFFE), is seeking to raise the profile of Southern Hemisphere fruit exports by taking part in a series of key upcoming industry events.

"Among our strategic objectives established for the year 2023 is to position SHAFFE as a voice within the international fruit sector, and thus enhance exports from the Southern Hemisphere and issues of interest to the industry, said president Charif Christian Carvajal.[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/186209/shaffe-to-attend-key-industry-events)

* 1. **More than 1 billion Asians will join the global middle class in the next decade**

A new study predicts that in 2030 more than one billion Asians will join the world middle class, i.e. those households in which per capita spending ranges between $11 and $110 a day. Currently, the middle class is made up of nearly 3.75 billion people, according to data from the World Data Lab.

India and China, the world's most populous countries, will add some three-quarters of a billion members to the middle class by 2030. The other largest contributors are also in Asia. They will come from countries like Indonesia - which is projected to have the world's fourth-largest middle class by 2030, surpassing Russia and Japan - and densely populated Bangladesh, which is set to climb the rankings faster than any other nation. Bangladesh is expected to go from ranking 28th to ranking 11th, adding more than 50 million people to the middle class.. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9353352/more-than-1-billion-asians-will-join-the-global-middle-class-in-the-next-decade/)

* 1. **Australian industry faces largest rise in food and grocery prices in more than a decade**

Australians will most likely be paying more for groceries and other essential goods heading into Christmas as the pandemic wreaks havoc on retail supply chains. Economists have warned households to expect higher prices as supermarkets and other retailers start passing on large cost increases to consumers. Growing shipping costs out of China, combined with labor shortages on local farms are making it more expensive for businesses to put essentials on their shelves. The warnings come after household budgets were squeezed in the June quarter by rises in the price of essentials like fruit, vegetables and petrol. [Click here to watch the video on the subject.](https://www.9news.com.au/national/queensland-news-fruit-and-vegetable-suppliers-have-oversupply-of-stock/27a9d7df-abec-4c47-aec5-d538b93741bd) [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9354341/australian-industry-faces-largest-rise-in-food-and-grocery-prices-in-more-than-a-decade/)

* 1. **‘Handling vegetables at market could have led to COVID-19 spread’**

Experts claim that people who contracted COVID-19 at Bukit Merah View Market and Hawker Centre in June typically had three things in common: They were unvaccinated, did not wear their masks properly and tended to touch fruit and vegetables with their bare hands. These were the findings of a National Centre for Infectious Diseases study on the market cluster, which saw a total of 94 cases. All 182 market stalls were subsequently closed for two weeks. The study's findings suggest that stallholders might want to consider pre-packaging their produce. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9353571/handling-vegetables-at-market-could-have-led-to-covid-19-spread/)

 **China**

* 1. **"There will never be a silver bullet to solve the food security problem"**

China represents 15% percent of the world's population, but only has less than 7% of the land," says Ho. "How China is going to feed our own population in the next two decades will have very important implications." The Chinese Government is looking at a wide range of approaches to become more food secure "For example- Alternative protein, Agritech, gene editing, Artificial intelligence Read the complete article at [www.edition.cnn.com.](https://edition.cnn.com/2021/09/05/asia/matilda-ho-bits-x-bites-agri-impact-investing-c2e-spc-intl/)

* 1. **Chinese investment in Chile creates opportunities**

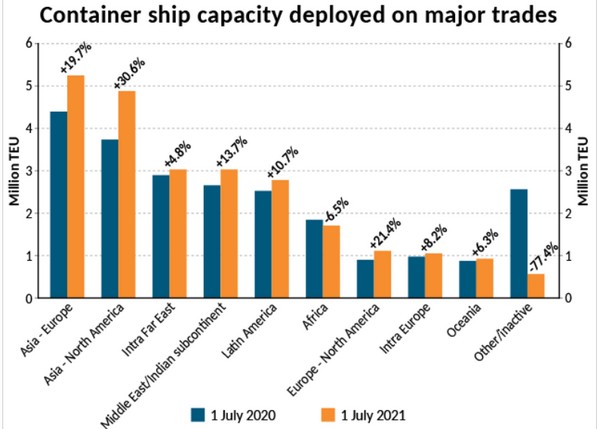
The proportion of Chile’s fresh fruit exports going to Asia has grown 16.4 percent year-over-year. Chinese companies in the country provide 5G mobile phone service, distribute electricity and operate banks, among other activities. But China’s interest in Chile has also provoked unease — especially when it comes to investment in strategic sectors of the country’s economy — as well as concerns from traditional trading partners like the US and Canada that they are getting left behind. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9352534/chinese-investment-in-chile-creates-opportunities/)

* 1. **Chinese state-owned company wants to expand in African horticulture**

Chinese infrastructure project provider China Railway 20th Bureau Group Corp, or CR20G, says they'll become an agricultural industry chain builder in markets involved in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) during China’s 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25).In addition to building railroads, schools and water-conservancy projects, CR20G, a subsidiary of state-owned China Railway Construction Corp Ltd, says they helped farmers in its markets in Mozambique and other African nations achieve stable and high yields by introducing China’s practical agricultural technologies, conducting related services and applying modern machinery to assist them in ensuring grain security. “We are confident that we can harness the new growth opportunities presented by many countries’ plans to build modern agricultural projects, as well as regional transportation and service hubs, upgrade their urbanisation and modernise their economies for scale and sustainable growth,” Guo said.[Read the complete article here.](https://www.thestar.com.my/business/business-news/2021/08/31/agribusiness-chains-in-bri-economies)

[](http://upload.evocdn.co.uk/fruitnet/uploads/asset_image/2_1216358_e.jpg) **Freight**

* 1. **Onshore container disruption leading to record delays and profits**

At the end of August, over 40 container ships were waiting to berth outside the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach alone, with 90% of those arriving at a port having to wait at anchorage before a berth became available. Covid-19 disruption at major Chinese and Vietnamese ports have also resulted in long queues of ships waiting in this part of the world. In other cases, liners actively avoid certain ports in their schedules.  
  
[](https://admin.freshplaza.com/web/2/article/create/#img1)

According to an article on [hellenicshippingnews.com](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/container-shipping-onshore-disruption-leading-to-record-delays-and-profits/), capacity on the Far East to Europe trade has risen 19.7% over the past year to 5.25 million TEU, while capacity on the Far East to North America trade has risen 30.6%. Even with these extra ships, shipping companies are struggling to meet their scheduled departures, which leads to cancellations of sailings or port calls because the supply is not there rather than due to a lack in demand. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9353982/onshore-container-disruption-leading-to-record-delays-and-profits/)

* 1. **Pandemic has made shipping containers into hottest items globally**

Before Covid hit, companies could rent a humble 20-foot or 40-foot box with relative ease, allowing them to move goods at a low cost. Containers have a lifespan of about 15 years before they're recycled into low-cost storage or building solutions. But empty boxes remain scattered across Europe and North America, while supply chain delays mean even more are needed to fulfill orders. Demand for goods, meanwhile, has soared — giving the network of ships, containers and trucks that deliver merchandise around the world little time to catch up.

As a result, containers have become incredibly scarce and extremely expensive. One year ago, companies would pay roughly $1,920 to book a 40-foot steel container on a standard route between China and Europe. Now, firms are spending more than $14,000, an increase of more than 600%. Meanwhile, the cost of buying a container outright has effectively doubled. One point of friction is that a lot of the cargo going from Europe back to Asia is low-value materials like waste paper and scrap metal. As shipping prices have gone up, those trips aren't worth it anymore, leaving boxes stranded.[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9353976/pandemic-has-made-shipping-containers-into-hottest-items-globally/)

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**Floral news**

* 1. **Overview of the importance and scope of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for flower crops**

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) is a code of crop production practices that ensure sustainable production of flower crops, that are environment friendly, economically viable, socially acceptable and complies with the legal standards. The set of prescribed practices must address efficient resource management besides ensuring higher yields and good quality on a sustainable basis, must take care of the welfare and safety of persons working or living in the farm. This study provides an overview of GAP for different flower crops. [To read the complete study, go to www.researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354235977_GOOD_AGRICULTURAL_PRACTICES_FOR_COMMERCIALLY_IMPORTANT_FLOWER_CROPS_Compiled_and_Edited_by)

* 1. **Breeding roses that are ready for climate change effects**

“We are testing our roses in hot places, as we want to provide roses for the future, not just for tomorrow,” says Matthias Meilland of Meilland Roses. In addition, sustainability is an important aspect for the company. “We breed garden roses that are the perfect sustainable gift, we are launching pollinator Friendly® roses, and our varieties can be used without any pesticides and fungicides.” In this article, Meilland shares the effects of global warming for rose breeding, whether it is possible to hold on to the new ‘pandemic gardeners’, and how ever-changing trends make rose breeders’ lives challenging.

[Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9354453/breeding-roses-that-are-ready-for-climate-change-effects/)

 **Innovation**

* 1. **Weeding Robot that uses precision lasers**

The [Carbon Robotics](https://carbonrobotics.com/) company has developed an agricultural robot capable of eliminating 100,000 weeds an hour through the use of precision lasers and artificial intelligence systems. It has 12 high-resolution cameras that point to the rows of crops: the images are sent to the intelligent system, which is capable of identifying plants in real-time. If a weed is detected, a laser flashes and instantly kills it.

The people responsible for the startup want the robot to work with renewable energy in the future. They also state that it would take producers 3 to 5 growing seasons to recover the initial investment in the robot. [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9352418/carbon-robotics-developed-an-agricultural-robot-capable-of-eliminating-100-000-weeds-per-hour-with-precision-lasers/)

* 1. **Giving away CRISPR intellectual property licenses for free in fight against hunger**

The ultimate aim of plant breeding has always been to make plants resistant to drought and diseases. That could help eliminate hunger around the world. Last week Wageningen University & Research (WUR) announced it will provide potential partners with free licenses to work on its patented CRISPR technology. The license must be applied to gene-editing of plants for non-profit applications. “

Worldwide there are over 3.000 CRISPR-Cas-related patents, of which WUR also holds several. For five of them (which are jointly owned with Dutch Research Council NWO), WUR decided to provide free licenses. An article in Nature was published right after the announcement.

Microbiologist prof. dr. John van der Oost is an authority on CRISPR-Cas. He is often described as one of the founding fathers of the technology and he took the initiative to provide free CRISPR licenses. He says: “The potential of CRISPR-Cas cannot be overstated. It is a very versatile technology that could provide new and sustainable ways to feed the earth’s growing population. We happily share our knowledge to that end, and hope more patent holders will consider doing the same.”

[Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9353029/giving-away-crispr-intellectual-property-licenses-for-free-in-fight-against-hunger/)

* 1. **New way to freeze foods could cut carbon emissions immensely**

Freezing is a relatively cost-effective way to preserve nutrients and taste, but unfortunately it comes with a big energy and carbon emissions price tag. Researchers now propose a fundamentally new way to freeze foods that could cut global energy consumption by as much as 6.5 billion kilowatt-hours a year. This 4.59 billion kg carbon emission reduction can be compared to removing about 1 million cars from the road. Called isochoric freezing, the technique relies on storing foods in a sealed, rigid container made of hard plastic or metal that is filled with a liquid such as water, and placing it in a freezer.

Instead, only about 10% of the volume of water in the container is frozen, and the pressure inside the chamber keeps the ice from continually expanding. Energy savings come from not having to freeze foods completely solid, which uses a huge amount of energy. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9354383/new-way-to-freeze-foods-could-cut-carbon-emissions-immensely/)

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