

**PMAC weekly update 7th to 14th June**

1. **Government agencies**: MPI Update on China’s Decree 248 re registration of food manufacturers, WTO and TBT Notifications, MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 11 June 2021
2. **New Zealand News:**  NZ not in trade talk race with Aus, HortNZ welcomes extension of SSE and Working Holiday Visas, Horticulture’s potential to help New Zealand respond to climate change recognised, Māori land owners are working together to create large farming businesses and economic rangatiratanga, New Zealand cherry venture seeks investors for second phase of expansion, NZ apple exports negatively affected by lack of labour, Hawke's Bay cool stores filled with fruit as exporters struggle to get it shipped, Young fruit growers win regional titles, New Zealand Earth Gems and yams available for export for the first time, New Zealand's avocado industry continues strong growth, Horticultural plastic pots on government's radar, Teaming up to stop and fight melanoma, AgriTech New Zealand appoints two new Executive Council members
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; EC launches public consultation on review of the EU agricultural marketing standards, Fees introduced for import of EU high-priority goods and update to Defra's PEACH system, Global food prices rise at rapid pace in May, Agribusiness Remains a Target for Hackers, Blueberry’s via sea freight, Pandemic changed patterns for the imported fruit market in China, Yantian port congestion impedes container shipping more than Suez Canal incident, MSC and Hapag-Lloyd increase rates to Europe, McCain Foods commits to regenerative agricultural practices for all its potatoes by 2030, Switzerland might become first European nation to ban synthetic pesticides, Sustainable, safe, traceable: EU produce takes centre stage, Innovative vacuum container slows down aging of flowers, provides new shipping opportunities,

**Comment**

From MFAT this week news of a recent OECD report predicting that globally economic activity will return to pre-pandemic levels earlier than predicted. Also interesting in the New Zealand section is the increased expectation in the updated Climate Change Commission’s report that 3500 hectares of farmland will be converted to horticulture annually ( up from 2000). A large increase in expectations and if it happens a lot more product to find homes for. The article on Maori Agribusiness later in the update indicates some of this will probably be in Maori ownership with the value of Maori horticultural ventures increasing in value 300% between 2013 and 2018 as compared to a 50% increase in value for all agribusiness activity over the same period.

In the International section I’d like to draw your attention to two European specific articles which show just how the intent behind the Farm to Fork strategy is being progressed. First the EC is planning changes to its marketing Standards to accelerate the EU’s transition to sustainable food systems by using the marketing standards "to ensure the uptake and supply of sustainable products”.. While not the EU but close by ,Switzerland has a referendum this week which will conceivably ban the use of all synthetic pesticides within ten years- making it only the second country in the world (after Bhutan) to do so.

1. **Agency news** 
   1. **MPI Update on China’s Decree 248 re registration of food manufacturers**

The General Administration of China Customs (GACC) has published their new regulations for both registration of overseas manufacturers of imported food (Decree 248) and import and export food safety (Decree 249). Both were notified to the WTO SPS Committee in 2020, and both come into effect on 1 January 2022. MPI is currently comparing the differences between these regulations and previous regulations, and analysing any impact they will have on New Zealand’s market access.

MPI Market Access has prepared comparison tables which compare each of the new regulations with the previous regulations. Please contact [market.access@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:market.access@mpi.govt.nz) if you would like to be provided with these.

Although the new registration regulation requires ‘registration of all foods’ (except food additives), only about 20 types of food will need to be registered via MPI. All other foods will require the producer to self-register.

MPI hopes to commence a project in June 2021 so we can ensure that we meet the 1 January 2022 deadline for the registration regulation. We are currently working to this deadline as GACC has not confirmed whether there will be a transition period.

We hope to have a cross commodity project team which will include industry bodies. Our preliminary analysis indicates that some of the objectives of a cross-commodity project team would be:

\* to facilitate a more effective response to GACC’s implementation requirements once these are notified,

\* to ensure that MPI can provide the necessary regulatory information for establishments that are regulated under the Animal Products Act and Food Act,

\* to consider smart ways to collect information from establishments and minimise transaction errors,

\* to ensure that there is minimal impact on existing trade, and

\* to ensure that there are opportunities for future new trade.

Any updates to requirements will be provided by MPI in terms of a FYI (guidance) or an OMAR notification once we have more information. Please direct any queries through to [market.access@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:market.access@mpi.govt.nz).

* 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:

Israel maximum levels of contaminants in foods MRL’s 

* Eu the non-renewal of phosmet
* Japan MRL’s
* UK measure against the import of *Prodiplosis longifila, Agrilus fleischeri, Thekopsora minima* and *Agrilus planipennis*
* USA the addition of 26 taxa of plants for planting that are quarantine pests (weeds), all Myrtaceae taxa (when destined to Hawaii), and 43 other taxa of plants for planting that are hosts of 17 quarantine pests, to lists of plants for planting whose importation is now not authorized pending pest risk analysis.

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**MFAT**

* 1. **MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 11 June 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-11-june-2021/> . Amongst other entries included in this week’s edition are new of :

The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** released its **latest** [**Global Economic Outlook**](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/edfbca02-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/edfbca02-en) on 31 May. The **world economy** is projected to return to pre-pandemic activity levels earlier than expected, primarily due to the speed of the vaccine rollout in advanced economies.  It will, however, remain short of what was expected prior to the pandemic at the end of 2022.  The OECD forecasts **global growth rates** to be 5.8% in 2021 and 4.4% in 2022. **New Zealand’s economic performance** relative to other OECD economies remains strong.  Our GDP contraction in 2020 (1.1%) was among the smallest in the OECD, and although New Zealand’s growth in 2021 (3.5%) and 2022 (3.8%) is not expected to be among the strongest in the OECD, this partly reflects the relatively small contraction in 2020.

### Asia

* **Yantian port in Shenzhen** has been **impacted by ongoing COVID-19 restrictions** as a result of an **outbreak** at the port and neighbouring area. The port closed last week as all port workers were required to be tested and self-isolate. The port has reopened but is now operating at 30% capacity; container processing has been reduced from 20,000 containers per day to around 5,000 containers per day. **Operations appear to be gradually restarting** with an expectation that the port will be back to full operations by the end of the month, barring any further outbreaks in that area.
* A **mid-year review** on the **implementation of New Zealand’s fully paperless electronic certification with the Philippines** Department of Agriculture showed success despite minor issues which have since been resolved. The Philippines plans to add horticulture products into the system before the year ends.

### Europe

* A **Go Central Eastern Europe Seminar** is being held at the **New Zealand Trade & Enterprise Auckland office** on **21 June**. The event aim is provide information on the potential of the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) market and networking opportunities with CEE exporters. Further information and registration details can be found [here(external link)](https://go-central-eastern-europe.nz/).

## ****Market reports released this week****

* An economic update on the United Arab Emirates was prepared by the New Zealand Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the New Zealand Consulate in Dubai [here(external link)](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-middle-east/united-arab-emirates-economic-update-20-may-2021/).
* An update on Expo 2020 Dubai was prepared by the New Zealand Embassy Abu Dhabi and the New Zealand at Expo team in Dubai. It can be found [here(external link)](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-middle-east/report-on-expo-2020-dubai-the-countdown-is-on-4-months-to-go/).



1. **New Zealand News**

** Commentary**

* 1. **NZ not in trade talk race with Aus**

According to Trade Minister Damien O’Connor, New Zealand is in no rush to conclude trade talks with the United Kingdom despite Australia potentially being just days away from snatching the British market with its own free trade deal. O’Connor says “we will hold out for a valuable trade agreement and we will not be pressured by somebody else’s timelines,” as he heads to London and Brussels later this month to finalise trade talks. British media have reported the UK is getting ready to offer tariff and quota-free access for Australian agricultural imports. [Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/agribusiness/view/nz-not-in-trade-talk-race-with-aus)

* 1. **HortNZ welcomes extension of SSE and Working Holiday Visas**

Horticulture New Zealand has welcomed the Government’s decision to extend Supplementary Seasonal Employment (SSE) and Working Holiday visas by six months.

These extensions come after months of advocacy by the horticulture industry collective, comprising NZ Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated, NZ Apples & Pears, Summerfruit NZ, NZ Winegrowers, NZ Ethical Employers and HortNZ. ‘This season, there was an estimated shortfall of 5,000 workers at the height of apple and kiwifruit harvests,’. ‘The cost of this shortfall will become apparent in the coming months, as not all the crops were picked and quality was compromised. In addition, productivity fell due to lower skill levels and the aptitude of a number of workers.

‘We urgently need a Pacific bubble, which will enable the safe entry and exit of workers from the Pacific, using the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme. We believe that this can be achieved, with workers travelling from Covid-free countries in conjunction with appropriate controls outside of Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ).  [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9329126/hortnz-welcomes-extension-of-sse-and-working-holiday-visas/)

* 1. **Horticulture’s potential to help New Zealand respond to climate change recognised**

Horticulture New Zealand is pleased that the Climate Change Commission has recognized that land-use change to horticulture can help New Zealand respond to climate change, while at the same time providing people with fresh, healthy food.  ‘We’re pleased that in its final report to the Government, the Climate Change Commission has increased its estimate of how much land could be converted to horticulture, from 2000 hectares a year to 3500 hectares a year,’ says HortNZ Chief Executive, Mike Chapman.

‘The report recognizes that in order for horticulture to achieve its full potential, investments will be needed to remove barriers such as water availability and access to labour.’ Mike says the New Zealand horticulture industry is already one of the most efficient in the world. ‘Horticulture contributes less than 1% of New Zealand’s agricultural emissions. Nevertheless, the industry is committed to working with the Government to enable growers to demonstrate through integrated farm plans, that they are taking action to reduce emissions*.  The article also talks about the challenges for* covered crops growers needing advances in technology and Government support to transition to greenhouse heating methods that do not rely on fossil fuels. *Mike also asks for sufficient labour*, a National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land or National Direction for Vegetable Growing. [Click here](https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/inaia-tonu-nei-a-low-emissions-future-for-aotearoa/)to read the report

[Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9328591/horticulture-s-potential-to-help-new-zealand-respond-to-climate-change-recognised/)



* 1. **Māori land owners are working together to create large farming businesses and economic rangatiratanga**

Māori landowners sharing resources to create large businesses puts them in charge of their own economic future, says Miro chief executive Liz Te Amo. The hi-tech blueberry growing company has 12 orchards and is a partnership between 30 Māori land trusts, iwi, hapū and whānau. It is the kind of business the country is likely to see more of.

Miro was [started three years ago](http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/102281180/moriowned-miro-berry-business-breaks-ground) to produce high-value exports on Māori land, and employ Māori.

[Miro grows a unique variety of Australian blueberries](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/123625580/mori-horticulture-sector-grows-300-per-cent-in-12-years-to-be-worth-220m) chosen for their superfood status and global popularity, using a modern, high-precision system. It also co-owns a packing company, Berry Packers, which owns its own machinery and contracts a pack house during export season.

“It’s economic rangatiratanga. When you can bring those components together, the land and the commerce, the connections and jobs for the people. It’s a model that is not easy to pull together but has genuine commitment to it.”

Massey University professor of ethnobotany and an expert on Māori agribusiness, Nick Roskruge, says this model of different Māori interests coming together to achieve scale, that would otherwise be difficult, has been done in a number of cases.Māori farmers are increasingly moving up the value chain, innovating and focussing on how to make the most of smaller parcels of land, in a push to transition from volume to value, experts say.

Ministry for Primary Industries Māori agribusiness director Andrew McConnell says it is part of his job to help Māori agribusiness move up the value chain. Recent examples include groups coming together to look at niche opportunities like organics and sheep milk, he says. And because the majority of Māori land is held in trust for a bigger list of beneficiaries, generating wealth for the long term, in environmentally sustainable ways, tends to be part of the fabric of how they do business, McConnell says.

Te Amo says money is not the primary concern. “It’s much more important to create livelihoods and a healthy people than it is to hit that target return on investment. We look at finance and the environment but we talk much more about the social fabric of communities and whānau.”

A [March report from economic consultancy Berl](https://berl.co.nz/our-mahi/te-ohanga-maori-2018) shows that of the [$68.7 billion Māori asset base](https://berl.co.nz/our-mahi/te-ohanga-maori-2018), $23b is held in the primary sector, an increase of $12b since 2013, based on census data from 2018.

The increase is across the board, from self-employed farmers to Māori employers, to collectives.

Māori sheep and beef farms are worth $8.6b, dairy $4.9b, and they continue to dominate in fisheries, with 63 per cent of the quota, worth $2.9b. In the last 12 years, Māori [horticultural businesses have increased 300 per cent in value to be worth $1.2b](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/123625580/mori-horticulture-sector-grows-300-per-cent-in-12-years-to-be-worth-220m).

The growth has been especially noticeable in high-value crops like kiwifruit, honey and wine.

Māori Kiwifruit Growers chairman Anaru Timutimu says growing systems have been firmly established, which now provides an opportunity to move “beyond the orchard gate” and invest in businesses that can support the industry such as irrigation or pack houses.[Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/124478036/mori-land-owners-are-working-together-to-create-large-farming-businesses-and-economic-rangatiratanga)

* 1. **New Zealand cherry venture seeks investors for second phase of expansion**

New Zealand cherry development Deep Creek Fruits NZ LP is undergoing a second capital raise to fund a packhouse and expansion at its Central Otago orchards. Once at full production, the development will be one of New Zealand's largest cherry orchards under single ownership. Chief executive officer and director Sharon Kirk said it was a chance for investors to take advantage of the highly profitable global export market; New Zealand cherries are consistently achieving the highest price per kilo on the world market. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9329138/new-zealand-cherry-venture-seeks-investors-for-second-phase-of-expansion/)

* 1. **NZ apple exports negatively affected by lack of labour**

According to the latest ANZ Agri-Focus report, the industry forecast of a $100 million drop in export earnings from apples this season — mainly due to a lack of labour to pick the crop — could be quite conservative. Some three million fewer cartons were expected to be exported and apple export returns to April were down 25% on the same time last year.

In the apple industry, the focus had gone on harvesting higher-value fruit. This means lower-return varieties such as Braeburn had been hit the hardest. Braeburn exports were forecast by New Zealand Apples and Pears to be 44% lower this season. Export returns for apples shipped to Asia were down 18% year-to-date while exports to Europe were down 63%. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9328639/nz-apple-exports-negatively-affected-by-lack-of-labor/)

* 1. **Hawke's Bay cool stores filled with fruit as exporters struggle to get it shipped**

As New Zealand's supply chain to the rest of the world remains critically constrained, Hawke's Bay growers are concerned over produce getting to market. Exporters are no longer able to make forward freight bookings between Australia and New Zealand as international shipping companies are abandoning the relatively remote and marginal trans-Tasman routes, choosing the profitable routes between China, Europe and the United States instead.

Maersk Oceania head of market Therese Blank said: "Our expectation remains that the disruption to the New Zealand supply chain will remain throughout the export peak season." The company had recently made a significant investment to expand its service in New Zealand, with the addition of a seventh ship to support its Southern Star Service, she added.

Still, according to Blank, the problem facing New Zealand was not just from a shortage of ships. "We are also experiencing impact from port congestion at overseas ports, impacting on time arrivals to New Zealand ports as the vessels are delayed.” [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9328256/hawke-s-bay-cool-stores-filled-with-fruit-as-exporters-struggle-to-get-it-shipped/)

Minister of Transport Michael Wood said it was a "challenging international situation" that was "likely to persist for some time" ."There are no quick or easy fixes to this... New Zealand's experiencing it but so are other countries, and one of the particular challenges that New Zealand and Australia have is that we're at the long tail of international supply chains."

Export NZ executive director Catherine Beard said the problem had been building since the Ever Given, a 20,000 TEU container ship, ran aground and blocked the Suez Canal for six days at the end of March. Beard said previous supply chain concerns had been on the import side with a large international spike in online shopping, but exporters were now finding themselves in an impossible situation. "We've got some regions such as Nelson, who are being completely bypassed by some of the shipping lines," she said, adding the ships that did call in were leaving behind containers with confirmed bookings.

Beard said the situation was critical, particularly for exporters with products with short shelf lives that needed to be kept cool, while bigger companies were finding the going a bit easier. Zespri has got enough scale to charter their own ships, and they are getting on okay, but that's because they're big enough to be really taken seriously by the shipping industry," Beard said.  [Full article available here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/444236/exporters-seek-urgent-solutions-over-constricted-global-supply-chains)

* 1. **Young fruit growers win regional titles**

The CentralPac orchard manager and harvest manager was named 2021 Central Young Grower of the Year the week before last .Mr Carrol worked in orchards during school and university holidays before realising horticulture was the industry for him. He started as a trainee and worked his way up to orchard manager. Jordan Carrol will represent Central Otago at the national final of the 2021 Young Grower of the Year in Wellington, September 22 to 23. [Full article available here](http://www.thenews.co.nz/uncategorized/working-in-fruit-led-to-top-roles-in-horticulture/)

Regan Judd has won the Hawke's Bay Young Fruitgrower of the Year for the second time.

The 25-year-old T&G Global orchard foreman won the 2021 competition – qualifying him for the national final in Wellington in September. [Full article available here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/regan-judd-crowned-hawkes-bay-young-fruitgrower-of-the-year-for-second-time/LK2WE4L2VKDHI2QILFEVFS5VSI/)

* 1. **New Zealand Earth Gems and yams available for export for the first time**

Earth Gems or Ulluco (similar to yams) in their native language have been further developed in New Zealand to produce an earthy flavour similar to baby beetroot, but with the texture of a new potato. The variety is exclusively grown by Fresh Direct LTD and exported by JP Exports to for the first time this season. They are being shipped via air or sea freight from Auckland.  [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9327851/new-zealand-earth-gems-and-yams-available-for-export-for-the-first-time/)

* 1. **New Zealand's avocado industry continues strong growth**

New Zealand’s avocado industry value eclipsed $227m in the 2020-21 season, with $167m delivered by avocado exports and $60m in sales in the New Zealand market. The 2020 New Zealand avocado season produced a record export volume and total crop volume. 44,000 tonnes of avocados were harvested, with 5.1 million trays (5.5kg) exported to 11 export markets, an increase of 10% on the previous season.  54% of New Zealand’s avocado production came from the Bay of Plenty region in 2020 with 39% coming out of the Northland.

NZ Avocado Growers’ Association Chair Linda Flegg says “Returns to growers for export and domestic avocados were very pleasing given the uncertainty at the beginning of the season around the impacts of Covid on our markets, and the disruption to global freight and logistics. Our avocado exporters and NZ marketers did extremely well to achieve successful outcomes for growers despite the challenges.”

Demand for avocados from New Zealand was strong in export markets Australia, Thailand and Taiwan with avocado volumes to Australia up 45% on the previous season. A combination of a short Australian domestic avocado supply and good New Zealand export pack outs contributed to the increase. Australia was New Zealand’s largest market for exports receiving more than 4.2 million (5.5kg) trays.

Around 500,000 trays of avocados were exported to eight markets across Asia. Of those Thailand was the largest market, followed by Taiwan and Singapore. Volumes were down in some markets, where sea and air freight disruption had a major impact on New Zealand’s avocado exports.

Further developing markets for avocados from New Zealand will remain a priority in 2021, with Australian domestic supply forecast to increase considerably this year and over the coming five years. “Demand for avocados continues to increase in markets across Asia, the key challenge will be meeting export plans and delivering premium quality New Zealand avocados to these markets during a time of continued disruption to global freight and logistics,” says Flegg. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9329055/new-zealand-s-avocado-industry-continues-strong-growth/)

* 1. **Horticultural plastic pots on government's radar**

Farm plastics and plastic packaging have been declared 'Priority Products' by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE). Under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, regulatory product stewardship schemes will need to be developed for these products to minimize waste to landfills. Joint industry-government stakeholder working groups are being formed to co-design schemes that fit. The farm plastics working group has already developed the voluntary scheme Plasback, which is aimed at retrieving used silage wrap. A larger program is underway by AgRecovery to look at product stewardship schemes for irrigation, frost, and ground cloths.

Horticultural pots and bags are next on the agenda. Dana Peterson from MfE is leading this work and is keen to see NZ Plant Producers in the stakeholder working group. It is important that our industry is fully involved in co-designing any accreditation schemes to make sure our perspectives are considered.

NZ Plant Producers are planning to hold workshops across the country later in the year, to bring together all of the stakeholders across the plant production industry to look at this issue. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9328568/nz-horticultural-plastic-pots-on-government-s-radar/)

** Bits and pieces**

* 1. **Teaming up to stop and fight melanoma**

FMG has announced a partnership with Melanoma New Zealand to help prevent avoidable suffering and deaths caused by skin cancer. FMG’s chief client officer Andrea Brunner said “our farmers and growers are among the most at risk of melanoma in the world due to New Zealand’s UV radiation intensity”. Increasing the awareness in New Zealand’s rural communities of how to protect your skin when outdoors, and the importance of having regular skin checks will save lives, says Melanoma New Zealand chief executive Andrea Newland. [Full article available here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/teaming-up-to-stop-and-fight-melanoma)

* 1. **AgriTech New Zealand appoints two new Executive Council members**

AgriTech New Zealand is pleased to announce the appointment of Kylie Horomia and Maria Jose Alvarez to the Executive Council, further supporting the organization's goals.

Kylie Horomia is the Head of Industry Transformation for global agritech firm WayBeyond. Her role is focused on championing sustainability and advocating for diversity and further educational experiences highlighting the possibilities that agritech has to offer.

Maria Jose Alvarez is an Investment Manager at NZ Growth Capital Partners and founder of a biotech startup applied in the agritech sector. Her mission is to support the commercialization and investment of Kiwi deep-tech companies with high growth potential. [Both appointments are for one year and effective from 8 June 2021. Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9329179/agritech-new-zealand-appoints-two-new-executive-council-members/)

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. **Austrian Parliament Adopts Partial Ban on Glyphosate** [Austrian Parliament Adopts Partial Ban on Glyphosate\_Vienna\_Austria\_06-01-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Austrian%20Parliament%20Adopts%20Partial%20Ban%20on%20Glyphosate_Vienna_Austria_06-01-2021)
2. **EU Adopts Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution** [EU Adopts Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution \_Brussels USEU\_European Union\_05-18-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=EU%20Adopts%20Action%20Plan%20Towards%20Zero%20Pollution%20_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_05-18-2021)
3. **Japan 241st Food Safety Group R**evisions to Japan’s maximum residue levels for 6 agricultural chemicals (2,4-D, Dimethenamid, Spinetoram , Benzovindiflupyr, Fosthiazate, and Metaflumizone) for various agricultural commodities have recently been announced. [Japan 241st Food Safety Group\_Tokyo\_Japan\_06-09-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Japan%20241st%20Food%20Safety%20Group_Tokyo_Japan_06-09-2021)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **EC launches public consultation on review of the EU agricultural marketing standards**

The Commission launched a [public consultation](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/81a527b1-fa6d-9f48-aaae-b405fb4b5e9f), which aims to gather views on policy options for a possible revision of the EU marketing standards for agricultural products. The consultation addresses in particular the potential of marketing standards to increase the supply of sustainable products and to streamline the current legislation. The consultation is open for 12 weeks, from 8 June to 31 August 2021.

The consultation targets operators in the food supply chain such as producers, traders, retailers, and their associations, consumers, civil society organizations, and national authorities. Announced in the Farm to fork strategy, the review follows an [overall evaluation process](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/1457-Evaluation-of-marketing-standards-Regulation-EU-No-1308-2013-) of the EU marketing standards laid down in the common market organization, the ‘breakfast directives’ and Commission acts.

The ‘breakfast directives’ are a number of Directives establishing rules on description, definition, characteristics, and labelling of a number of agricultural and food products usually consumed for breakfast, hence the name. Adopted in May 2020 by the Commission, the [Farm to fork strategy](https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork_en) aims to accelerate our transition to sustainable food systems. It includes the objective for marketing standards "to ensure the uptake and supply of sustainable products. "[Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9328571/ec-launches-public-consultation-on-review-of-the-eu-agricultural-marketing-standards/)

* 1. **Fees introduced for import of EU high-priority goods and update to Defra's PEACH system**

Fees and charging for plant health controls (documentary, identity and physical checks) on imports of EU high-priority plants and plant products was introduced earlier this week on 1 June 2021 in England, Wales and Scotland. From 1 June 2021 all PEACH applications for a category of plants and plant products defined as ‘high priority’ will need to include a Declaration Unique Consignment Reference (DUCR) number.  *This article contains information about the PEACH systems and appropriate links.*  [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9327528/uk-fees-introduced-for-import-of-eu-high-priority-goods-and-update-to-defra-s-peach-system/)

* 1. **Global food prices rise at rapid pace in May**

Following a series of price increases, global food prices have risen again in May, growing at the highest monthly rate in over a decade. Prices increased 4.8% from April to May 2021, and were 39.7% higher than May 2020. Sugar price, Meat price and Dairy price increased 6.8%, 2.2% and 1.8% respectively from April to May 2021. [Full article available here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-world-news/global-food-prices-rise-at-rapid-pace-in-may)

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **Agribusiness Remains a Target for Hackers**

Ransomware attacks are expected to increase, and agribusinesses are particularly vulnerable due to their important role in providing food, and the continued increase in technology use. The recent cyber attack on JBS is estimated to have reduced the world’s largest meat producers production by almost 20[%. Full article available here](https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/agribusiness-remains-a-target-for-3282844/)

* 1. **Blueberry’s via sea freight**

United Exports recently announced that a container of fresh OZblu® blueberries transited the Pacific ocean – from the port of Manzanillo in Mexico to the port of Hong Kong – spending 51 days at sea and arriving fresh and ready for sale in Hong Kong, on 20 May 2021. The article describes were OZblu is produced in the Southern hemisphere and notes that it is particularly suitable for long sea freight.

[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9328540/for-fruit-to-be-on-the-water-for-51-days-and-still-be-sold-as-a-premium-product-is-unheard-of/" \t "_blank)

 **China**

* 1. **Pandemic changed patterns for the imported fruit market in China**

The global market for imported fruit has suffered the negative consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic since its outbreak early last year. Extended customs clearance procedures slow down the processing speed in ports, and the progression of the pandemic can lead to sudden changes in trade policy and other unforeseen control measures. These unpredictable factors greatly increase trade risks and add to the cost price of operations. At the same time, all of these developments cause great uncertainty in the future of international fruit trade.

A growing number of fruit varieties from various countries have received permission for export to the Chinese market in the last few years. At the same time, Chinese domestic fruit has seen impressive advancements in terms of product quality, as well as product variety and innovative plantation technology, or packaging methods and other innovative developments. The level of domestic fruit is slowly catching up with imported fruit.

The trade in import fruit already faced many difficulties in the last few years, and the pandemic only exacerbated the situation. *The article provides examples of American apples, American cherries and Egyptian citrus that are no longer being imported in high volumes.* [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9328477/pandemic-changed-patterns-for-the-imported-fruit-market-in-china/)

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

* 1. **Yantian port congestion impedes container shipping more than Suez Canal incident**

Container shipping analyst Lars Jensen, CEO of the Danish shipping consultancy company Vespucci Maritime, claims that the ongoing container disruption in the Chinese Port of Yantian, caused by the Covid-19 outbreak, has already blocked a larger number of containers than the number of boxes that were unable to move due to the recent Suez Canal blockage by Ever Given. Furthermore, the impact of the Port of Yantian situation is still ongoing, while there are also significant effects on Nansha and Shekou ports. In the meantime, Hapag-Lloyd has announced the following additional omissions at the Port of Yantian on its Transpacific services, aiming to "minimize vessel idle time and port congestion. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9328690/yantian-port-congestion-impedes-container-shipping-more-than-suez-canal-incident/)

* 1. **MSC and Hapag-Lloyd increase rates to Europe**

Major shipping lines have announced increased charges to Europe, which are expected to take effect in July. In addition, Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) has published the following new Freight All Kinds (FAK) rates from 1 July until further notice but not beyond 31 July 2021. The new prices will be applied for the trade Australia and New Zealand to Europe. [Click here to view the various routes and rates.](https://container-news.com/msc-and-hapag-lloyd-push-up-rates-to-europe/) [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9329501/msc-and-hapag-lloyd-increase-rates-to-europe/)



* 1. **McCain Foods commits to regenerative agricultural practices for all its potatoes by 2030**

Last week McCain’s released its 2020 Global Sustainability report Together, Towards Planet-Friendly Food, the company is pledging that it will be implementing regenerative agricultural practices across 100 per cent of its potato acreage — some 148,000 ha worldwide — by 2030. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9327864/mccain-foods-commits-to-regenerative-agricultural-practices-for-all-its-potatoes-by-2030/)

* 1. **Switzerland might become first European nation to ban synthetic pesticides**

Following a referendum June 13, Switzerland could become the first European country to ban artificial pesticides. Another initiative to be voted on the same day aims to improve the quality of Switzerland's drinking water and food by stopping direct subsidies to farmers who use artificial pesticides and antibiotics in livestock. Switzerland has been starkly divided by an unusually bitter debate over the initiatives and the votes look set to be close. A recent Tamedia poll showed 48% of voters favoured the drinking water initiative and 49% supported the pesticide ban.

If adopted, the proposals give farmers up to 10 years to make the transition, which would allow Switzerland to become a pioneer in organic food as well as an example to the rest of the world. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9327826/switzerland-might-become-first-european-nation-to-ban-synthetic-pesticides/) An article based on the same concerns but with Farmers comments outlining their concerns that this initiative is being driven by urban communities that do not understand the challenges of being a food producer. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9327719/romantic-image-of-farming-threatens-food-security/)

* 1. **Sustainable, safe, traceable: EU produce takes centre stage**

**I**talian company Apo Conerpo’s new IN&OUT project has been given the green light for promotional campaigns in Italy, Austria and Denmark from June. Funded by a contribution from the European Union, it is aimed at promoting the quality, healthiness and sustainability of European fruit and vegetables and at enhancing the role of producer organisations. In the next three years, IN&OUT, will reach over fifty million consumers, telling them about our commitment to environmental, ethical and economic sustainability

One of the main focuses of the promotion and dissemination operation is undoubtedly the website [www.ineout.eu](http://www.ineout.eu), available in Italian, German and Danish. The emphasis is placed on a section devoted to the subject of sustainability in production chains, divided into six macro-areas: conscious agriculture, respect for the environment, circular economy, food safety, traceability, and nutrition. These are backed up by short articles providing more in-depth information about various aspects of the project.[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/185442/sustainable-safe-traceable-eu-produce-takes-centre-stage)

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**Floral news**

* 1. **Innovative vacuum container slows down aging of flowers, provides new shipping opportunities**

RipeLocker containers are based on an innovative technology that extends the postharvest life of flowers by slowing down the aging process. For example, Peonies remained looking fresh after being stored in a RipeLocker container for five weeks. *This article, explains how exactly they are able to achieve slowing down the aging of flowers and the impact this has on the floriculture industry and the environment.*

One important advantage of RipeLocker containers is that they provide the opportunity to ship flowers over the ocean, instead of using air freight. “Not only is this more affordable, it is also much more environmentally friendly, as shipping by air emits about 44 times more carbon

[Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9328530/innovative-vacuum-container-slows-down-aging-of-flowers-provides-new-shipping-opportunities/)

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