

**PMAC weekly update 8th to 15th November**

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**New Zealand News** Higher vegetable price don't mean more money for farmers, Zespri CEO visited Pagoda to further promote cooperation between the two parties, Last week’s heavy winds disastrous for Ōpōtiki kiwifruit growers, New data tool indicates optimal harvest times for kiwifruit, Two New Zealand fresh produce companies join forces in growing Asia market, Rockit on a roll in Hong Kong, Workers needed in Central Otago, Bumper cherry crop expected this year, New Zealand asparagus growers faced with low local demand and no exports, Croppers counting the cost of storm damage, 'Farming practices have to change to adapt to increasingly volatile weather', Potatoes a crucial and sustainable crop

1. **International news:** GAIN reports; New Chinese regulations result in more barriers to its huge market, The outlook for berries, India doubled apple imports in the 2020/21 season, China: Falling vegetable prices bring consumers relief, K+N introduces sustainable fuel option, Hapag-Lloyd achieves extraordinary strong result in first nine months of 2021, Foodborne Parasites: An Insidious Threat to Food Safety and Public Health, Farmers Take on ‘Post-Apocalyptic’ Food Crisis

**Comment**

A busy week internationally with APEC and COP 26 being held during the same week. As yest there have been few articles in the media about either but I am sure we will see more before the end of November. I have included a very high-level summary of the main outcomes from this year’s APEC meeting. Of interest from a export perspective APEC leaders have endorsed increased digitalisation and committed themselves to finding ways of cutting red tape and reducing the cost of doing business .

In terms of other news it is good to see reports of our exporters professional approach to establishing international relationships and promoting our product even in times when there is a lot of upheaval. These highlights are balanced by more negative reports of cost increases, decreased profitability, the effects of climate change and fears of food insecurity. Four topics which are becoming very common in the both national and international media.

1. **Agency news** 

** MFAT**

* 1. **MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 12th November 2021**

## MFAT update is available at <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-global/weekly-global-economic-round-up-12-november-2021/>

Following the commencement of quarantine-free travel from all of New Zealand from 1 November, Australia is set to open under the same terms to Singapore on 21 November and has also developed a one-way quarantine-free “Pacific Partnership Pathway” for (all vaccinated) travellers from certain low-risk Pacific Island Countries. Travellers from most Pacific jurisdictions (excluding Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste) will be allowed to enter without quarantine, provided they are fully vaccinated with an approved vaccine and return a negative pre-departure test.

* The **Minister for Trade and Export Growth Hon Damien O’Connor** spoke to the **New Zealand business community in Shanghai** at a **virtual roundtable** on 1 November. The discussion focused on our important economic relationship with **China**, New Zealand trade policy, and global trends in a COVID world. It also provided insights into the challenges and opportunities the New Zealand business community is facing in China. The event supported New Zealand’s activities during this month’s **China International Import Expo**, which includes a virtual New Zealand country pavilion and two New Zealand-branded commercial pavilions featuring 19 New Zealand companies, among them Fonterra, Zespri, Silver Fern Farms, Synlait and F&P Healthcare.
* **Indonesia** is in a **good shape for economic recovery** with GDP growth forecasted to rebound up to 3.7% in 2021 and 5% in 2022. There is concern that newly introduced **import regulations** could potentially disrupt the horticultural and beef import processes for New Zealand businesses.
* **Continental Europe** is experiencing **disruption of international supply chains**. Containers are scarce, costly and often arriving late at Europe’s main ports, where further delays occur and cost is accrued. Current issues could last well into 2022 if not 2023, and a return to pre-COVID levels is considered unlikely. A full report will be released shortly on what this means for New Zealand exporters.
  1. **APEC 2021- what did it achieve?**

On the 13th November as New Zealand’s leadership of APEC in 2021 draws to a close, APEC has united the region in a coordinated response to the biggest economic downturn in 75 years, with a series of results that matter to New Zealanders and the region,” Jacinda Ardern said.

APEC Leaders issued a joint declaration which recognised that in New Zealand’s host year APEC has:

* Rejected vaccine nationalism, with APEC members lowering tariffs on vaccines and related products to combat COVID-19, speeding them through customs, and shunning export bans
* Digitised trade processes to reduce paperwork and save businesses valuable time and money, with most of APEC making these measures permanent
* Taken practical steps to transition away from carbon, with APEC agreeing a plan to halt the increase in subsidies to fossil fuels that today amount to NZ$500 billion a year
* Highlighted Indigenous economies as a driver for recovery, bringing the perspective of the region’s 270 million Indigenous people inside APEC prominently for the first time ever
* Committed to find ways to cut red tape, reduce the cost of doing business, and make it faster to start a business.
* [See here for the full web page](https://www.apec2021nz.org/apec-nz-2021/apec-news/prime-minister-concludes-apec-economic-leaders-summit) on what was achieved

At its most recent meetings leaders agreed on a detailed plan to help build the peace, prosperity, well-being and resilience of its 2.7 billion people, now and into the future. The plan sets out clear individual actions for economies to work on through their domestic policy. One example is for economies to develop tools to help businesses operate across borders easily and cost effectively.

There are also larger, collective actions, where economies will work together. Two examples are for APEC to consider climate change when making all decisions, and to recommit economies to double their renewable energy use by 2030. It has measurable elements so progress can be monitored and tracked. And it’s flexible to make sure that APEC stays relevant and responsive. The world is changing fast and APEC will need to keep pace and adapt as new challenges emerge over the next 20 years.

To read the Aotearoa Plan of Action in full, visit: <http://aotearoaplanofaction.apec.org/>

[See here for the full webpage](https://www.apec2021nz.org/apec-nz-2021/apec-news/agreement-on-long-term-action-plan-for-asia-pacific-region)



1. **New Zealand News**

** Commentary**

* 1. **Higher vegetable price don't mean more money for farmers**

Higher vegetable prices are not translating into an equally large bump in prices at the farm gate, farmers say. Stats NZ says vegetable prices have increased by 19 per cent over the past year, influenced by higher prices for tomatoes, lettuce, and broccoli.

But Jay Clarke, a director at Woodhaven Gardens, a vegetable producer in the Manawatū-Whanganui region, said commercial vegetable growers had faced higher costs across all parts of their businesses over the past three years. “Some of the increases have been driven by regulatory changes, such as the increase in minimum wage and environmental compliance costs. Others have been driven by supply constraints of fertilizer, seed and equipment costs, and some by changes demanded by customers such as mandating smaller crate sizes, which drives up handling and freight costs,” Clarke said.

Labour costs increased by about 50 per cent since 2017, with other production costs were up about 40 per cent over the same period, he said.

A 19 per cent increase was not typical over a year. However, with increased production costs many growers struggled to keep their businesses economically sustainable and the movement over the past year was partly a reflection that they were no longer able to absorb the cost increases, Clarke said.

Vegetable prices have increased by 19 per cent over the past year. Farmers say this does not translate into a 19 per cent increase in farm gate prices. “Growers will have experienced an increase in farm gate prices this year, as retail pricing is usually based on a percentage markup above the farm gate price. However, this hasn’t led to a bumper year as growers are attempting to offset increased production costs. Consumers have been somewhat sheltered from the reality of cost increases experienced on farms,” Clarke said.

A report by the Commerce Commission in 2019 showed that farmers received between 16 per cent to 18 per cent of the price of vegetables and that a variety of factors throughout the supply chain influenced the final price. A vegetable grower in Waiuku, Waikato, who wished to remain anonymous, said he did not see a 19 per cent farm gate price increase for his produce and that supply and demand still affected price. “All my costs have increased. Freight increased by about 200 per cent over the last year,” He said the price he received for potatoes from supermarkets was negatively affected by Covid-19 lockdowns, as growers who would traditionally sell potatoes to fast food operations, or sell for processing into potato chips, were also selling to supermarkets. The oversupply drove down farm gate prices. *This article provides details about prices and examples of supply and demand further limiting growers income*

Increasing compliance costs also added to overall production costs, with the need for more and more audits growing, and some fast food clients increasingly requiring spray residue testing, he said. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/300448818/higher-vegetable-price-dont-mean-more-money-for-farmers)



* 1. **Zespri CEO visited Pagoda to further promote cooperation between the two parties**

Recently, Daniel Mathieson, CEO of Zespri Group, Jiang Shijie, general manager of Jiape Greater China, and Lu Tao, sales director, visited the headquarters of Baiguoyua Pagoda Group. The two sides conducted in-depth discussions on the development strategy and brand concept at the exchange meeting and reached a consensus.

At the exchange meeting, Yu Huiyong, the founder and chairman of Pagoda Group, introduced to Daniel the development strategy of Pagoda, namely, two ways (category branding and channel branding) and three pillars (financial capital, information technology, and R&D).Pagoda started to build a fruit brand in 2016 and plans to create 100 fruit brands in 20 years. It has already launched Red Ballet Strawberry, Big Cat Musang King Durian, Liangzhi Apple, etc., which are very effective. At the same time, Pagoda has built more than 5,000 online and offline integrated stores close to the community with the support of technology, bringing more convenience to consumers in the community.

Daniel, CEO of Zespri, believes that the development strategy and brand concept of Pagoda and Zespri are highly compatible. In addition, Zespri also believes that, in addition to providing high-quality products and providing consumers with warm-hearted services, sustainable development and environmental protection, are also an indispensable element for an excellent company. Therefore, Zespri proposed the goal of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2030.[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9371654/zespri-ceo-visited-pagoda-to-further-promote-cooperation-between-the-two-parties/)

* 1. **Last week’s heavy winds disastrous for Ōpōtiki kiwifruit growers**

Gusts of up to 120km/h hit the town of Ōpōtiki last week, bringing down shelter belts in kiwifruit orchards and blowing buds off the vines. According to Brett Wooten of Aspen Horticulture, the winds could not have come at a worse time. He expects a six-figure loss of income from the damage. " We're still assessing the damage, we need to decide if we will go through and remove the dead material but it might not be financially viable so we might just let nature take its course." He added that the damage was devastating, but the area of damage was localized, so the impact was not widespread.[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9371750/last-week-s-heavy-winds-disastrous-for-opotiki-kiwifruit-growers/)

* 1. **New data tool indicates optimal harvest times for kiwifruit**

If kiwifruit is harvested at the optimal moment, it would better survive shipping and get to market looking and tasting great, says Zespri chief digital officer Dave Scullin. Now, a new automated system for testing the quality and maturity of kiwifruit will tell growers the optimal time to harvest. Zespri worked with the data, analytics and AI arm of Spark, called Qrious, to develop the system.

Qrious was able to manage complex back-end data and statistical analysis requirements, as well as developing an application growers and pack houses could use. The system had been developed from scratch starting in June and would be ready to start testing fruit in January, in time for the new season.

[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9372788/new-data-tool-indicates-optimal-harvest-times-for-kiwifruit/)

* 1. **Two New Zealand fresh produce companies join forces in growing Asia market**

Zealand organic apple grower, Bostock New Zealand, has teamed up with fresh cherry exporter Pure Pac, to supply the growing demand for New Zealand cherries in the Vietnam market.The collaboration has come after Bostock New Zealand established an offshore company, Bostock Asia, in Vietnam at the end of 2020, as part of the ongoing company strategy to invest staff and resources in key export apple markets.

Bostock New Zealand International Market Manager Jane Maclean, manages the Vietnam operation and confirms the Ho Chi Minh office has been successful, delivering strong results and increased market share in just one year. “Having our in-market representative, Huong Nguyen, on the ground for the 2021 season has proven invaluable to Bostock. The covid pandemic has continued to impact on our ability to travel in and out of New Zealand and so Huong has been able to keep Bostock close to our existing customers as well as knock on doors to secure new business. “Despite the many and varied challenges, we were rewarded to see Bostock apple volumes to Vietnam increase 185% this season from 2020,” says Ms Maclean.

Pure Pac has one of the largest cherry packhouses in New Zealand and solid expansion plans for new plantings. Unlike apples, the cherry season is action packed but short lived – having its own representative was not viable. Bostock New Zealand has agreed to contract Bostock Asia to Pure Pac for the 2021/2022 NZ Cherry season to provide in-market representative services in the Vietnam market. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9371857/two-new-zealand-fresh-produce-companies-join-forces-in-growing-asia-market/)

* 1. **Rockit on a roll in Hong Kong**

Innovative snack-sized apple company, Rockit Global has been turning heads on the streets of Hong Kong in recent weeks, with a high impact marketing campaign to launch its energetic new brand to the local market. *This article provides details of the campaign the company has recently launched in Hong Kong.* [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9372347/rockit-on-a-roll-in-hong-kong/)

* 1. **Workers needed in Central Otago**

A repeat of last year’s ‘‘Spare Room, Spare Time’’ campaign launches in Central Otago this week.

The aim is the same as before — to combat seasonal labour shortages across the district’s orchards and vineyards as worker numbers are again expected to be severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Central Otago District Council-led campaign aims to help the horticulture and viticulture sectors to meet labour shortfalls and targets locals, as well as their friends and family from out of the district. At the peak of demand in December and January, Central Otago requires about 6000 seasonal workers to assist in horticulture and viticulture for the summer season.

As part of the campaign the council would be producing ‘‘Wish you were here?’’ postcards, which would be available at local libraries, iSites and service centres. There would also be a social media video clip to watch out for on the Central Otago District Council and centralotagonz social media pages, and more details could be found at centralotagonz.com/seasonal-work. [Full article available here](https://www.odt.co.nz/regions/central-otago/campaign-find-workers-returns)

* 1. **Bumper cherry crop expected this year**

Central Otago is heading towards producing its largest crop of cherries ever produced in the region.

That's the word from Tim Jones, chief executive of 45 South, which manages and owns more than 400 hectares of cherry orchards around Cromwell in Central Otago. He says the crop could be in the order of 7000 tonnes of cherries for export.

Jones says the trees are in bloom right now and with nice weather, the bloom is good and the bees are actively pollinating the crop. He says it looks like a great crop but cautions that there is still the potential for frost in the coming weeks. The actual picking of the crop is still a few weeks away.

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In the period before harvest, Jones and other cherry growers are busy trying to recruit people to pick the potentially record crop. He says they have been on social media and advertising on their websites earlier than normal. "The word I have is that everyone is pleasantly surprised at the level of enquiry," he says. "The recent announcement by the Government that it's extending the supplementary seasonal employment work visas (SSE) for another six months is welcome news for everyone - so growers are now able offer jobs to those people who have applied for that."

The other good news is that a cohort of RSE workers from the Pacific Islands have arrived in the country under a special scheme which allows them to isolate on orchards rather than in MIQ. Jones says some of these people have been isolated on their properties and once they get clear Covid tests they will be free to work in the orchards.

Despite all the promising signs of having a good labour workforce, Jones says there is still a degree of nervousness among growers. He says while there is interest in jobs, many have still to sign up yet.

He says added to the problem is the lack of backpackers in the country who in the past have been an important part in the seasonal workforce. "There are also concerns that if there are various levels of lockdowns around the country, people might be put off travelling to come down for a short period of time to harvest the crop," he adds. "There is also the unknown of how many RSE workers will remain in NZ. "We won't have a level of comfort until the fruit is picked."

A potential 7000 tonne crop will stretch what is already a fragile logistics chain, according to Tim Jones.

He says the option of using sea freight is very risky this year simply because of the delays of getting vessels and containers. "I think the bulk of the fruit will be airfreighted and the capacity will have to be more than it's ever been because of the size of the crop," Jones told Hort News. "So, I can see a lot more charter aircraft being used this year because of the lack of passenger planes around."

He says this will inevitably lead to higher freight costs, not only because air freight is more expensive, but because the charter flights coming to take the cherries back overseas won't have much incoming freight, which will push up costs. However, Jones says the positive side is that they have built up good relations with some of the airlines and hope to have similar arrangements in place this season. He says not all the increased costs can be passed on to consumers and the growers will have to take a hit as well. [Full article available here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/hort-news/hort-general-news/bumper-cherry-crop-expected-this-year)

* 1. **New Zealand asparagus growers faced with low local demand and no exports**

In New Zealand, more than 100 hectares of asparagus are being left unpicked this season. With restaurants in Auckland and Waikato closed or scaled back, and supermarket sales too quiet, local demand has plummeted. Any possible exports, which in the past have absorbed some of the production, are not coming about. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9372870/new-zealand-asparagus-growers-faced-with-low-local-demand-and-no-exports/)

* 1. **Croppers counting the cost of storm damage**

# THE Gisborne district's croppers have been significantly impacted on by the storm two weeks ago with a lot of young squash, sweetcorn, maize and other crops drowned in paddocks. Some of the lost crops will be replanted but some will not, and that means lost production for the likes of Cedenco this summer.

# For example Coxco managing director Omi Badsar said they were still assessing the situation.“It will certainly put our planting programme behind by a week to 10 days.” Mr Badsar said they would have lost 40 to 50 hectares of squash and grain crops. “They will have to be replanted, so that's at a cost, because we've lost all the ground work we had done, we've lost fertilizer, and the plants themselves.

# [.” Full article available here](https://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/local-news/20211106/croppers-counting-the-cost-of-storm-damage/)

* 1. **'Farming practices have to change to adapt to increasingly volatile weather'**

Last week’s flooding in Gisborne damaged Leaderbrand crops, that were due to soon be covered by a large greenhouse. The unfortunate timing has left the company cleaning up and assessing damage to its spinach, rocket and corn crops. Leaderbrand chief executive Richard Burke said there could be supply gaps early next year for corn.

Farming practices have to change to adapt to increasingly volatile weather, Burke explained. “Monitoring weather is a daily practice for us and we’re continuously looking to mitigate negative weather impacts where possible. We’re also extremely lucky to be able to distribute our crop supply across our multiple farms growing across the country.” [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9373293/farming-practices-have-to-change-to-adapt-to-increasingly-volatile-weather/)

* 1. **Potatoes a crucial and sustainable crop.**

A World Potato Market article has been republished on the Potatoes New Zealand web site

The key takeaway for NZ Potato Industry is that potatoes will play a major role in helping sustainably feed Aotearoa and the world, using less resources and requiring less land. Nutritional value per hectare is key. The high yields per hectare of potatoes make spuds an impressive food staple. Potatoes are low in calories, high in fibre, a source of protein and loaded with vitamins like Vitamin C and potassium.

Potatoes score very well on environmental impact, producing less CO2, lower nitrate leaching and requiring less water to produce than legumes, wheat, or rice. Spuds also require less area to grow, and 5kg can be produced in 1m², about ¼ of the area for equivalent in rice and much less than needed to produce a kilogram of legumes.

The Barilla Center’s (sic) double food pyramid depicts the nutritional value of food and its environmental impact, with potatoes appearing in the base layer of the nutrition pyramid denoting high nutritional value and in the tip of the environmental pyramid denoting low impact. [Full article available here](https://potatoesnz.co.nz/news-info/articles/wpm-special-report-potatoes-a-crucial-and-sustainable-crop/)



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. **Australia Exporter Guide** [Exporter Guide\_Canberra\_Australia\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Canberra_Australia_12-31-2021)
2. **GACC Issues Interpretation of Decree 248** [GACC Issues Interpretation of Decree 248\_Beijing\_China - People's Republic of\_11-06-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=GACC%20Issues%20Interpretation%20of%20Decree%20248_Beijing_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_11-06-2021)
3. **Decree 248 Unofficial Self-Registration Guide for Overseas Food Facilities** [Decree 248 Unofficial Self-Registration Guide for Overseas Food Facilities \_Beijing\_China - People's Republic of\_11-02-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Decree%20248%20Unofficial%20Self-Registration%20Guide%20for%20Overseas%20Food%20Facilities%20_Beijing_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_11-02-2021)
4. **EU Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual** [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Berlin\_European Union\_11-01-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Berlin_European%20Union_11-01-2021)
5. **Taiwan Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual** [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Taipei\_Taiwan\_11-01-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Taipei_Taiwan_11-01-2021)
6. **Vietnam Issues Green Growth Strategy 2021-2030 Vision to 2050** [Vietnam Issues Green Growth Strategy 2021-2030 Vision to 2050 \_Hanoi\_Vietnam\_11-02-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Vietnam%20Issues%20Green%20Growth%20Strategy%202021-2030%20Vision%20to%202050%20_Hanoi_Vietnam_11-02-2021)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **New Chinese regulations result in more barriers to its huge market**

China is no longer an easy market and if other nations’ businesses don’t change their strategies, it will be more difficult to enter the huge market. “China is no longer a market that is easy to please,” said Ngo Xuan Nam, Deputy Director of SPS Vietnam, amid a series of new regulations set by China on selling farm produce and food to the Chinese market.

According to Nam, China released 42 notices on the changes with regulations on food safety and plant and animal quarantine in the first 10 months of 2021. Most recently, China released the new standard GB 2763-2021, setting 10,092 limits on maximum residue levels for 564 plant protection products on a list of 376 foods.As such, there are 81 more plant protection chemical products in the new standard and 2,985 more plant protection residue limits (42 percent).In addition, China now controls imports under the protocol mode, and asks exporters to declare growing area codes and packaging facilities. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9372466/new-chinese-regulations-result-in-more-barriers-to-its-huge-market/)

 **Business/ Industry**

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* 1. **The outlook for berries**

A Rabobank report states that international berry trade has grown tremendously over the last few years, berry breeding has made major steps forward and the consumer appetite for berries seems unstoppable. For the berry industry, a focus on quality is of utmost importance to retain consumers’ strong appetite for berries. At the same time, businesses need robustness to cope with challenges like growing competition, increasing costs, and labor issues. The latest edition of the Global Berry Congress (GBC), which has been held since before the berry boom in Europe really took off, brought five main themes, which we discuss below.

***The unstoppable consumer appetite for berries*** There are several factors that will drive further consumption in berries: increasing availability, improved quality and consistency, growing health consciousness, and the ongoing preference for convenience and affordability.

***Blueberry expansion and flattening prices – seen in both the EU and USA*** For the coming years, we expect further expansion in global blueberry supplies, along with flattening prices, as investments in blueberry plantings have not ended yet and recent plantings have not reached their full production capacity. The potential upside of lower price levels is that this will encourage consumption. Increased availability will result in larger and lower-priced package sizes.

***Unwrapping the packaging challenge***  Berries need packaging so the identification of sustaiuable replacements to plastic packaging will continue to be a challenge.

***Availability and costs of labor, other inputs and logistics Rising costs for packaging and other*** factors in production and distribution, including energy, labor, transportation, and fertilisers have skyrocketed recently. In the case of labor, the lack of it is even more of a concern than just the rise in costs. Increasingly, the lack of people willing or available to work in the berry sector is a global issue.

The various cost increases will either result in lower margins for growers or higher retail prices for berries. One of the questions raised during the GBC is whether higher prices will impact berry consumption. Opinions on this differ. Some industry players believe that consumers might move away from berries towards more affordable fruits like apples and bananas. Some believe that flavor, snackability, and healthy attributes will continue to drive the consumption growth of berries, despite potential price increases.

***Nothing but quality*** The solution to many (but not all) of these challenges is quality. The industry unanimously agrees on the importance of quality and consistency in berries supplied. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9372359/five-berry-important-topics/)

* 1. **India doubled apple imports in the 2020/21 season**

The largest increase in fresh apple imports in the 2020/21 season (August-July) was noted in India. The volume of apple exports to India during the season exceeded 400 thousand tonnes for the first time and reached 403.4 thousand tonnes, having doubled compared to the 2019/20 season.

It is notable that the former long-term leader in apple supplies to India, the United States, continues to lose its position in this market. The United States fell to the eighth position in the ranking of exporters in the 2020/21 season, leaving ahead Iran, Turkey, Chile, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, New Zealand and even Afghanistan. By the way, all the top 10 apple supplying countries to India, except for the USA, have increased their export volumes. China supplied 119 tonnes of apples to India in the 2020/21 season, but there have been no new deliveries since May 2021. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9371361/india-doubled-apple-imports-in-the-2020-21-season/)

* 1. **China: Falling vegetable prices bring consumers relief**

Vegetable prices are falling nationwide after recent good weather relieved tight supplies, according to agriculture officials and experts. Since late September, rising prices for vegetables across China had triggered concern among consumers and vendors, with some leafy greens reportedly costing more than pork.In the final week of last month, the average price for 19 varieties of vegetable rose by 49.1 percent from a year ago, and was up by 13.5 percent from the previous week.

Since late September, main vegetable producing areas in the north of the country, including Liaoning, Shandong and Hebei provinces and Inner Mongolia autonomous region, experienced torrential rain, which left fields waterlogged. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9371276/china-falling-vegetable-prices-bring-consumers-relief/)

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

* 1. **K+N introduces sustainable fuel option**

**K**uehne+Nagel has become the first air logistics provider to offer its customers the option to purchase Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) for each shipment and thus instantly avoid carbon emissions.

This new add-on is available on all Kuehne+Nagel air freight quoting platforms and channels, allowing customers to choose carbon neutral transport via their preferred online or offline quoting method.

With the newly launched offering, all Kuehne+Nagel customers can opt for SAF to be used instead of fossil fuel for air transport and benefit from net zero carbon emissions air freight services - regardless of airlines used, origin or destination. As SAF still produces some CO2 emissions, carbon neutrality is achieved by substituting each litre of jet fuel kerosene used with 1.33 litres of SAF.

SAF is currently the most effective measure to significantly reduce the environmental footprint of shipping. While the carbon lifecycle of fossil fuels is linear and results in the release of additional CO2 emissions, the carbon lifecycle of SAF is circular and allows for the reuse of waste or biomass and emissions .[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/186749/kuehnenagel-introduces-sustainable-fuel-option)

* 1. **Hapag-Lloyd achieves extraordinary strong result in first nine months of 2021**

Hapag-Lloyd has concluded the first nine months of 2021 with an EBITDA of USD 8.2 billion (EUR 6.8 billion). Revenues rose in the first nine months of 2021 by approximately 70 percent, to USD 17.9 billion (EUR 15.0 billion). This significant increase is mainly the result of persistently high demand for container transports with scarce capacities at the same time. In addition, transport volumes were up to 8,980 TTEU and thereby 3 percent higher than the comparable figure for the previous year.[The financial report for the first nine month of 2021 is available online here.](https://www.hapag-lloyd.com/en/ir/publications/financial-report.html)  
[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9373192/hapag-lloyd-achieves-extraordinary-strong-result-in-first-nine-months-of-2021/)

 **Food safety**

* 1. **Foodborne Parasites: An Insidious Threat to Food Safety and Public Health**

The list of foodborne parasites is long, and the morbidity and mortality they cause are very consequential.

Foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis, for example, have been reported in the United States since the mid-1990s and have been linked to various types of imported fresh produce, including raspberries, basil, snow peas, lettuce, and cilantro. In 1996, there was a major foodborne disease outbreak occurring in raspberries imported from Guatemala. The outbreak was attributed to “small spherical bodies” observed via microscopy. “

Cyclosporiasis is caused by ingestion of the oocysts of Cyclospora cayetanensis, a parasite that was first recognized in the late 1970s. The clinical picture of cyclosporiasis is often indistinguishable from that of giardiasis, cryptosporidiosis, and isosporiasis. The main symptom is watery diarrhea that occurs in a relapsing, cyclical pattern, lasting for several days to weeks; it is often associated with weight loss and fatigue. In immunocompromised hosts, the duration and severity of illness may be increased.[4](https://www.food-safety.com/articles/7398-foodborne-parasites-an-insidious-threat-to-food-safety-and-public-health#references) Between 2000 and 2017, there were 39 reported foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis in the United States, involving a total case count of 1,730 individuals. In 17 of the outbreaks, food was identified as the vehicle of infection.

Epidemiologic studies have shown that parasite contamination of food and food ingredients may occur at several points along the supply chain, starting from the use of contaminated water for irrigation and contact with animal and human excrement during cultivation through contaminated harvesting equipment and including unhygienic practices of farmworkers or others handling the food material prior to consumption. Parasite transmission stages, like the oocysts of Cyclospora, tend to be robust and therefore likely to survive through the stages from harvesting to packaging to consumption. Foodborne parasitic diseases are often overlooked or neglected in various food safety control schemes, even though they are known to pose a severe threat to human health. Parasitic diseases in humans are notoriously difficult to detect, diagnose, and treat. This may account for this class of foodborne disease-causing agents being left out of the risk-assessment equation.

Risk assessment, with the passage of the Food Safety Modernization Act, has become the fulcrum of food safety assurance. All potential threats to public health that may associated with the consumption of human food must be identified, quantified, and mitigated when food safety is the objective. Primarily because of the public health burden attributable to foodborne diseases where bacteria are the etiological agents, most food safety plans have a bias toward bacterial agents, such as Salmonella, Listeria, and E. coli. This emphasis on bacterial pathogens appears to be justified based on the available outbreak and incidence data. However, in this category of biological foodborne agents are the foodborne parasites. Worms and protozoa are important in the transmission of foodborne disease in humans. Foodborne parasites affect the health of millions of people every year, infecting muscle tissues and organs, causing epilepsy, anaphylactic shock, amoebic dysentery, and other problems. Many can live in our bodies for decades. Despite their huge social costs and global impacts, information is generally lacking regarding just where these parasites come from, how they live in the human body, and—most importantly—how they make us sick. This information is critical for conducting a comprehensive and reliable risk assessment. In 2014, the WHO and the Food and Agriculture Agency of the United Nations (FAO) published a multicriteria-based ranking of risk for the management of foodborne parasites.[23](https://www.food-safety.com/articles/7398-foodborne-parasites-an-insidious-threat-to-food-safety-and-public-health#references) The WHO/FAO risk ranking profile for the top 10 foodborne parasites and food sources is listed below:

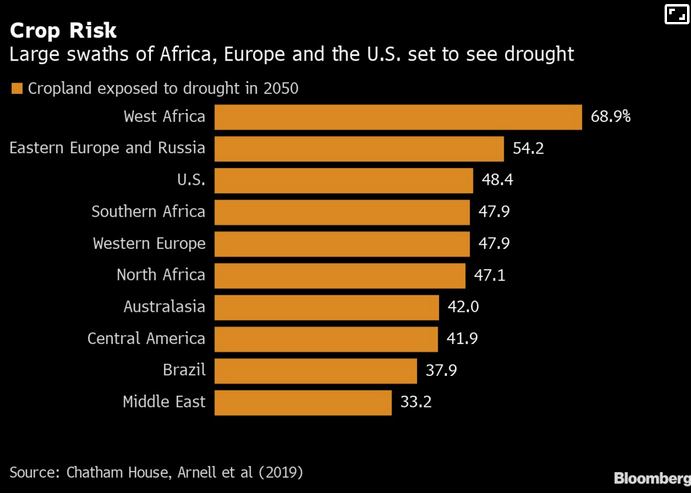
1. Echinococcus granulosus (hydatid worm or dog tapeworm): In fresh produce
2. Echinococcus multilocularis (tapeworm): In fresh produce
3. Cryptosporidium spp.(protozoa): In fresh produce, fruit juice, milk
4. Entamoeba histolytica (protozoa): In fresh produce
5. Ascaris spp. (small intestinal roundworms): In fresh produce
6. Trypanosoma cruzi (protozoa): In fruit juices

[Full article available here](https://www.food-safety.com/articles/7398-foodborne-parasites-an-insidious-threat-to-food-safety-and-public-health)



* 1. **Farmers Take on ‘Post-Apocalyptic’ Food Crisis**

An article that identifies that global crop yields could fall about 30% because of climate change, while food demand is expected to jump 50% in the coming decades, according to United Nations’ estimates.

The article talks about extremes of weather and steps some farmers are making to change the way they farm to adjust   


[Full article available here](https://www.bloombergquint.com/global-economics/farmers-battle-climate-change-food-crisis)

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