

**PMAC weekly update 9th to 16th August**

1. **Government agencies**: Recall to manage Listeria in mung bean sprout products sold Nationwide, WTO and TBT Notifications, MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 13 August 2021
2. **New Zealand News:**  Broad perspectives to inform Trade for All agenda; O’Connor applauds hort industry’s efforts; Mike Chapman wins Bledisloe Cup for horticulture, Several other winners announced at the Horticulture Conference, More New Zealanders eating their 5+ A Day, Big launch for latest New Zealand apple variety in China, Sales surge for JAZZ™ apples driven by partnership with film Spirit Untamed, Standards and protocols improve consumer acceptability for NZ Navel oranges, KiwiSaver provider Booster invests over $10 mln into Darling Group, Low avocado prices are a mixed blessing, New Zealand avocado exporter launches new brand, Total value of NZ potato industry now at $1.16 billion, Zespri taps Deloitte to lead transformation expected to cost up to $160M, New Kiwifruit Breeding Centre to drive innovation, T&G Global launches VentureFruit, T&G Global reports 2021 Interim Results, Australian irradiated tomatoes must be labelled, New Zealand fruit and vegetable prices up 5.1% in July 2021, How food prices affect what, and how much, farmers produce, Profits flow for most rural companies, Technology firm helps 18,000 farms to keep on top of finances, NZ: government continues effort to control tomato disease, First find of leaf-mining fly in Northern Territory
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; New US coalition to support public development banks’ financing of sustainable and equitable food systems, European Commission lowers the maximum residue limits of lead in food, China enhances the protection of plant variety rights, New data management tools helping Australian fruit exporters maintain the best quality through the supply chain, Transparency between growers, service providers, retailers is becoming the new reality, Covid infection closes shipping terminal at Ningbo-Zhoushan Port, Global demand isn’t booming. So why are shipping rates this high?, Reefer container freight rates to outpace dry cargo rates in 2022, Ports facing biggest crisis in 65 years due to Covid, Fresh Produce Safety Centre releases food safety culture fact sheet, "Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying", Teens for Food Justice board adds new members, Nickel-free vegetables help people who suffer from heavy metal allergies, Apples might help combat dementia, 'Digital twins': How computers are changing horticulture

**Comment**

A lot of articles this week. The New Zealand news is particularly interesting in that it mentions significant investment in New Zealand in horticulture. Zespri is committing $60 million over 3-4 years to upgrade its IT system and is also part funding a new Kiwifruit breeding centre. Similarly T&G Global has set up VentureFruit to breed and commercialise New Zealand varieties internationally. This not only says a lot about the confidence of these businesses in horticulture but it also underscores the importance of the breeders at Plant and Food and their part in the success of the Industry. This is reinforced by two articles this week about two New Zealand bred apples ( Dazzle and Jazz).

In the International Section you’ll see articles about food insecurity are increasing with two this week. This is a growing trend . Also of more direct interest to New Zealand exporters are the ongoing concerns about the international cost of freight. One article claims it’s not necessarily high demand that is causing the high costs – more congestion and the fact equipment is not being returned quickly enough. Most articles are predicting a decrease in freight rates for 2022 but not to pre pandemic levels. The other article I’d like to draw you attention too is news that China is enhancing its protection of plant variety rights. Progress in the right direction but as you will see in the article they still have a way to go.

1. **Agency news** 
   1. **Recall to manage Listeria in mung bean sprout products**

New Zealand Food Safety last week advised the public to return a specific brand of mung bean sprouts and sweet mango mesclun salad as they may contain Listeria bacteria. Consumers should return Living Foods Ltd Spring Life brand Mung Bean Sprouts sold in supermarkets in the North Island, included in Woop and The Kai Box meals distributed nationwide, and Pams brand Sweet Mango Mesclun with dressing Salad sold in supermarkets throughout New Zealand. Information about the names of stores selling the affected product, 'best before' dates and packaging is available on MPI's website. [Spring Life brand Mung Bean Sprouts and Pams brand Sweet Mango Mesclun With Dressing](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-safety-home/food-recalls-and-complaints/recalled-food-products/spring-life-brand-mung-bean-sprouts-and-pams-brand-sweet-mango-mesclun-with-dressing/) New Zealand Food Safety have not received any reports of illness. [Living Foods Ltd Spring have initiated the recall of the affected products. Full article available here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news/media-releases/recall-to-manage-listeria-in-mung-bean-sprout-products-sold-nationwide/?utm_source=notification-email)

* 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:

* Barbados changes to the food safety and Plant protection bill
* Canada – inspection techniques for Tomatoes and peppers

See 

TBT notification for the USA -*National Organic Program: 2021 and 2022 Sunset Review and Substance Renewals* This document announces the renewal of substances listed on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List) within the USDA’s organic regulations. See [Full text](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/USA/21_5044_00_e.pdf)

** MFAT**

* 1. **MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 13 August 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-13-august-2021/> . Amongst other entries included in this weeks edition are news of :

* The **New Zealand Government’s** **framework for re-opening borders** and moving to an individualised risk-based model for quarantine-free travel was unveiled at a forum on Reconnecting New Zealanders to the World in Wellington on 12 August. Low-Risk, Medium-Risk and High-Risk travel pathways will be created, and which pathway a traveller takes will be based on the risk associated with where they are coming from and their vaccination status. The full press release can be read [here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-sets-out-plan-reconnect-new-zealanders-world).
* **Minister for Trade and Export Growth Hon Damien O’Connor** will **chair** the sixth **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Food Security Ministerial meeting** on 19 August. Ministers will launch a new APEC Food Security Roadmap towards 2030, which focusses on concrete work APEC economies can do to support inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and productive outcomes.
* The **UN Food Systems Pre-Summit** took place in hybrid format from 26-28 July from the FAO Headquarters in Rome.  With more than 22,000 participants from 183 countries, including 120 “high level government representatives. **New Zealand’s** core substantive messages were set out in Minister O’Connor’s pre-recorded [statement](https://vimeo.com/user112716545/download/579033425/8b47406548). The statement emphasised the role of well-functioning international markets in global food security, and stressed the importance of indigenous leadership, biodiversity and national frameworks and tools for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector.
* The **Biden Administration** has proposed detailed **changes to “Buy American” rules** including increasing US content in products procured by the federal government. The [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/07/30/2021-15881/federal-acquisition-regulation-amendments-to-the-far-buy-american-act-requirements) would immediately increase the required US content for a product to be considered “domestic”, apply enhanced price preferences for critical goods, and increase reporting requirements for suppliers. There is now a 60-day consultation period before the Administration finalises the rules.
* A report on opportunities for New Zealand products in Cambodia, prepared by the New Zealand Embassy in Bangkok has been published [here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-asia/cambodia-opportunities-for-new-zealand-premium-products/).
* A report on the European Union’s proposal for a carbon border adjustment mechanism can be read [here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-europe/european-union-proposal-for-a-carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism/).



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **Broad perspectives to inform Trade for All agenda**

Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O’Connor has appointed a Trade for All Ministerial Advisory Group to help chart the course for New Zealand trade policy. Its membership includes, business, civil society and Māori representatives who will give feedback directly to the Minister on trade policy and trade issues of importance to the sectors and communities they represent.

“Our goal is a trade policy that works alongside other government policies, to support sustainable and inclusive economic development,” Damien O’Connor said. The Group will also advise on the implementation of the Trade for All Advisory Board’s 2019 recommendations, building on the significant contribution Board members have made to the development of trade policy that benefits all New Zealanders. The members of the Ministerial Advisory Group are: Catherine Beard, Chelsea Rapp, Marcus Driller, Tupe Solomon-Tanoa'I, Mat Hocken, Carrie Stoddart-Smith, Samuel Huggard, Simon Tucker, Suzannah Jessep, Craig Tuhoro, Kenneth Leong, Leeann Watson and Hone McGregor

More information on the Trade for All Agenda and the Trade for All Advisory Board report can be found at [www.mfat.govt.nz/trade-for-all-agenda/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/trade-for-all-agenda/). [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/broad-perspectives-inform-trade-all-agenda)

** Commentary**

* 1. **O’Connor applauds hort industry’s efforts**

Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor has paid tribute to the horticulture industry for its work over the past 18 months, which has been one of the toughest periods the sector has had to endure. He thanked the industry for its work at Horticulture New Zealand’s annual conference at Mystery Creek, as it battled chronic worker shortages and adverse events.

He says there are 60,000 people working across the horticulture sector and labour shortages will continue to be a challenge; New Zealand was unique in that it has the highest reliance on migrant workers per head of population in the OECD. “It does leave us exposed ... in international events like covid. These events unfortunately are likely to occur in the future,” he said. The recent announcement to allow workers from Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu for quarantine-free travel will take some pressure off the labour shortages.

To critics who said it was too late, O’Connor says the world was still very much facing covid.

“Fiji has not been so lucky and any covid introduction into those islands will be devastating. We have been hard-nosed in ensuring there is proper protection for that two-way travel,” he said.

While the Government will continue to support growers needing RSE workers, he says it needed to think about making a longer-term worker transition so it was less reliant on these workers.

On trade, O’Connor says they are making progress in free trade agreements (FTAs) with the UK and EU. He hoped to have further news on the agreement by the end of this month. On the Commerce Commission’s supermarket report, O’Connor said it had exposed a few realities and the Government was considering the report very carefully. [Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/horticulture/view/oconnor-applauds-hort-industrys-efforts)

* 1. **Mike Chapman wins Bledisloe Cup for horticulture**

Mike Chapman, until recently Chief Executive of Horticulture New Zealand, has won the Bledisloe Cup for significant services to horticulture for more than 20 years.  HortNZ President, Barry O’Neil, says Mike's advocacy for the horticultural industry has been untiring, forceful, and balanced.

‘Mike always acts with the aim of achieving the best outcomes for growers and orchardists, and indeed, the New Zealand economy and health of its people through access to nutritious, locally grown food.

‘Mike has firmly stood for growers on key issues such as protecting elite soils, ensuring growers maintain their social license to grow and, hand in hand with that, ensuring growers remain economically viable in a fast-changing environment.’

Swapping his legal-focused work for kiwifruit, Mike took up the role of Kiwifruit New Zealand Chief Executive in 2002 and then in 2005, he became New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated Chief Executive.  Ten years later in 2015, Mike picked up the reigns as Horticulture New Zealand Chief Executive, a position he held until June this year.  But after stepping down, Mike has continued to work on the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme.  [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9343181/nz-mike-chapman-wins-bledisloe-cup-for-horticulture/)

* 1. **Several other winners announced at the Horticulture Conference**

Several other people important to the New Zealand horticulture industry . They included:

### ***Environmental Award*** Emma and Jay Clarke of Woodhaven Gardens in the Horowhenua won the Environmental Award. The Clarkes are leaders in research for the vegetable industry – contributing time, money and land in order to measure and provide evidence.  Their large-scale fresh vegetable growing operation is driving change in environmental sustainability, shifting growing areas to reduce nitrogen loss and minimise the impact on freshwater quality.

### ***President’s Trophy*** Kylie Faulkner, who was elected as the first woman president of the Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association in 2019, won the President’s Trophy.  This award recognises passion for working on behalf of New Zealand’s horticulture industry, as well as commitment to developing as a business leader and successful grower. Twelve years ago, Kylie returned to the family business and says that ‘to be successful, growers always need to be smarter about the way they grow’.

As president of the Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association, Kylie has strenuously advocated for growers in the areas of land use, the environment and labour.  During Auckland’s lockdowns, Kylie helped ensure that Pukekohe growers could continue to pick, pack and transport their produce, to New Zealanders around the country.

### ***Industry Service Awards*** Industry Service Awards are for people who have provided long-standing and significant service to the New Zealand Horticulture Industry.  There were three winners this year.

* Tim Jones has just stepped down as Chair of Summerfruit New Zealand, a position he held for five years.
* Brent Mathieson started his horticulture career in 1979.  He has focused on seed, in particular, sweetcorn and dwarf bean varieties for processing but as Brent has neared retirement, he’s looked at outdoor crops such as cauliflower, onions, broccoli, lettuce and carrots.
* David Watts has filled many grower representation roles, at New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated and the Katikati Fruit Growers’ Association, as chairman and as an executive member.  submissions and has only just stepped down as Fruit News editor and advertising manager.

### ***Life membership award*** is awarded to people who have provided distinguished and honourable services to Horticulture New Zealand and the industry for at least 10 years.  Two industry stalwarts have been bestowed life membership this year.

* Leon Stallard has made an enormous contribution to the apple and pear industry for more than 20 years.  Leon became President of the Hawkes Bay Fruit Growers Association in 2005 and in this role, established the Young Grower of The Year Competition as a national event and has been oin the HortNZ Boards since 2014.
* Lex Dillion retired last year after 38 years of working in the horticulture industry.  He was involved in the introduction of plastic crate pooling and returnable packing in New Zealand.  [Full article available here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/media-releases/several-other-winners-announced-at-the-horticulture-conference/)
  1. **More New Zealanders eating their 5+ A Day**

New research shows that more New Zealanders than ever are eating the recommended daily intake of fruit and vegetables, but many struggle to find the time to prepare fresh produce. A survey in June this year by independent research company NielsenIQ\* found 40% are getting at least five servings of each day while the 13% who only ate one serving in 2017 has decreased to just 9% of the population.

Other findings include since our last survey in 2017, the number of families concerned about the price of fruit and vegetables has dropped significantly while concerns about the time involved in food preparation is becoming a much more important factor for shoppers. Even with rising inflation, only 36% remain concerned about prices of fruit and vegetables, a drop of 12 % since 2017. Meanwhile, nearly 20 % found they lacked the time to prepare or cut up fresh produce. Around 20 % are also worried about storage with New Zealanders throwing away an estimated $2.4 billion worth of food each year, much of it fresh produce that has gone to waste. [Full article available here](https://www.5aday.co.nz/news-events/news/more-new-zealanders-eating-their-5plus-a-day/)



* 1. **Big launch for latest New Zealand apple variety in China**

New Zealand’s newest apple variety ‘Dazzle’ has arrived in China, seeing large celebrations at wholesale markets. Joy Wing Mau’s International Buyer, Li Bin, was involved in the launches at Guangzhou and Shanghai Wholesale Markets and says it is very exciting to have access to larger volumes of Dazzle Apples for the Chinese Consumers this year. New Zealand Trade and Enterprise Trade Commissioner Pete Frost officially launched Dazzle apples to the China market, saying New Zealand’s apple industry is rated the best in the world. “ [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9342553/big-launch-for-latest-new-zealand-apple-variety-in-china/)

* 1. **Sales surge for JAZZ™ apples driven by partnership with film Spirit Untamed**

New Zealand bred JAZZ™ Apples and DreamWorks Animation teamed up for a wildly successful partnership this past spring with the cross promotion of the release of the film Spirit Untamed. The result was an unprecedented sales surge for JAZZ™ thanks to a strong in-store and online presence. JAZZ™ apples jumped numerous positions in the Total Apple sales ranking by category, with an outstanding +19.7% growth in dollar sales and +18.6% growth in volume for the 24-week period ending June 19, 2021. *The balance of this article talks about the marketing efforts that were undertaken to amplify demand*. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9342452/sales-surge-for-jazz-apples-driven-by-partnership-with-film-spirit-untamed/)

* 1. **Standards and protocols improve consumer acceptability for NZ Navel oranges**

The New Zealand navel orange industry’s ongoing commitment to optimum eating quality has resulted in a record 97% consumer acceptability in the first three weeks of the season. These strong early season results were generated by post-harvest maturity data analysis carried out for the Citrus New Zealand by crop quality specialists. In 2015, before the new clearance protocols and BrimA standards were adopted, consumer acceptability was only 67%. Since then, consumer acceptability has tracked north of 82% each season, despite significant variations in weather-related growing conditions. Mark says, “Having clearance processes in place enables fruit to be harvested and sent to market at the right maturity, every season, no matter how challenging the growing season.” [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9342694/record-early-season-consumer-acceptability-for-new-zealand-navel-oranges/)

* 1. **KiwiSaver provider Booster invests over $10 mln into Darling Group**

The private equity investment arm of KiwiSaver provider Booster has invested more than $10 million into buying a 42 per cent stake in Katikati-based avocado grower and exporter Darling Group.

Booster, which has around $3 billion invested in its KiwiSaver scheme and is the tenth largest provider, is one of the few KiwiSaver schemes which invests in unlisted private companies through its Tahi LP fund. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9344019/kiwisaver-provider-booster-invests-over-10-mln-into-darling-group/" \t "_blank)

* 1. **Low avocado prices are a mixed blessing**

As New Zealand has a glut of avocados at the moment, they are quite cheap. But while this year’s bumper crop is very good news for fans of smashed avo on toast, it is turning out to be a mixed blessing for the country’s 1,600 avocado growers. Similar avocado-growing success in Australia (where production is up 65 per cent on last year) is also expected to have a negative impact on returns for New Zealand avocados exported to Australia this season. This situation is exacerbated  by the continued disruptions to global sea and air freight, which has the New Zealand avocado industry preparing for a challenging season of exports. As a result of this, New Zealanders are being encouraged to eat as many avocados as they can. There have been almost 200,000 more trays of avocados harvested for New Zealand this month compared to the same period last year. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9342691/new-zealand-low-avocado-prices-are-a-mixed-blessing/)

* 1. **New Zealand avocado exporter launches new brand**

The New Zealand avocado harvest for the local market started in mid June. The Honeytree Farms orchard situated in the Far North region where, Fresh Solutions Group's avocados are grown delayed harvest until export started last week. This season sees the launch of The Honeytree Farms brand, and Marie Nelmes, Director at Fresh Solutions Group said they are really proud of it. "We have had an excellent growing season with good fruit set. The healthy trees will provide good volume and fruit size," said Marie. "Asian countries are our main export markets.  A large volume of New Zealand fruit also goes to Australia."

Marie explains that they are focused on supplying the Asian markets, and diverting fruit to Asia away from Australia where possible, but they are now competing with Australian avocados in many markets.

The company also supplies a range of customers in the New Zealand domestic market. Fresh Solutions Group exports stonefruit, cherries, berries, citrus, grapes, apples and avocados from New Zealand, Australia, USA, South Africa and Chile. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9344074/new-zealand-avocado-exporter-launches-new-brand/)

* 1. **Total value of NZ potato industry now at $1.16 billion**

The potato industry of New Zealand remains a billion-dollar-plus industry despite a year of crises. The total value of the NZ potato industry now sits at $1.16 billion, which amounts to a growth rate of 58 per cent since targets were set in 2013. Chris Claridge, CEO of Potatoes New Zealand says the result shows ‘the immense value of our processing sector’: “Fifty-five per cent of our locally grown potatoes produce fries and another 12 per cent produce crisps. A strong domestic market for NZ processed potatoes underpins our industry and maintains our growers’ resilience.”

According to Claridge, the findings in the MBIE Final Report into European Dumping are very disappointing for growers and the Potatoes NZ board. MBIE found the confirmed dumping of imported potato fries into the NZ market as not of material threat to the local industry, which Chris says signals to New Zealand importers and EU exporters that the Government is leaving the gate open. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9344334/total-value-of-nz-potato-industry-now-at-1-16-billion/)

* 1. **Zespri taps Deloitte to lead transformation expected to cost up to $160M**

Zespri has selected Deloitte as its design and implementation partner for the kiwifruit cooperative's Horizon transformation programme. The programme was expected to cost up to $160 million over four years, chair Bruce Cameron told investors today. Horizon is an important investment and had been designed to modernise the foundations of its business processes and systems. This will help the coop to become more agile and efficient, allow it to continue to support the growth of the industry and help to ensure it continued to deliver stronger returns to growers. Deloitte will be leading a New Zealand-based consortium that combined expertise from SAP specialist Zag and Sysdoc. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9343653/zespri-taps-deloitte-to-lead-transformation-expected-to-cost-up-to-160m/)

* 1. **New Kiwifruit Breeding Centre to drive innovation**

Plant & Food Research and Zespri last week confirmed a new 50/50 joint venture Kiwifruit Breeding Centre has been formally approved and will commence operating from 1 October 2021. The Kiwifruit Breeding Centre (the Centre) will be based in Te Puke, as well as operating out of Kerikeri, Motueka and Mt Albert, and have a presence offshore in selected kiwifruit regions globally. Its focus will be driving greater innovation within kiwifruit breeding, focusing on creating healthier, better tasting and more sustainability-focused varieties.

The Centre has now received approval from both the Boards of Zespri and Plant & Food Research, as well as the shareholding Ministers of Plant & Food Research, which is a New Zealand Government-owned Crown Research Institute. It will be jointly funded by Plant & Food Research and Zespri, with the organisations sharing royalties from any future commercialised new varieties. Zespri and Plant & Food Research also announced that experienced agrifood and innovation sector director Michael Ahie has been appointed to Chair the Kiwifruit Centre Board. Mr Ahie is Chancellor of Massey University and a former Chair of Plant & Food Research. Mr Ahie said the Board expects to announce the appointment of a CEO for the Kiwifruit Breeding Centre in the coming month. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9343892/new-kiwifruit-breeding-centre-to-drive-innovation/)

* 1. **T&G Global launches VentureFruit**

T&G Global has launched VentureFruit, a global genetics and variety management business. Built off T&G’s experience in creating value from new fruit varieties. T&G chief executive Gareth Edgecombe said unique plant genetics were critical to the future of a sustainable fresh produce sector, which needed to deliver on taste, nutrition, convenience and sustainability.

Coinciding with its launch, VentureFruit has signed two key partnerships. It is co-investing alongside science organisation Plant & Food Research in a range of new and unique berries, of which  
VentureFruit will be the exclusive global commercialisation partner. In addition, it is also partnering with Plant IP Partners to test and evaluate new varieties of apples which have been bred in New Zealand.

“Over the course of T&G’s 124-year history, it has established a track record in global IP management and commercialisation, built from its deep expertise in plant varieties and extensive network of the world’s best genetics and scientific partners. This has seen it create premium brands from exclusively licensed varieties, including Plant & Food Research’s cultivar ‘Scilate’ marketed as Envy™, which is today one of the leading apple brands in the United States and Asia. More recently, it commercialised the world’s first climate-adapted apple from the Hot Climate Programme, a collaboration between Plant & Food Research, IRTA, and Fruitfutur, to breed apples and pears tailored for warm environments.  
  
In addition to its two new partnerships, VentureFruit has established an extensive pipeline of premium apple, pear and berry varieties and will work with global customers, as well as providing its variety management services to T&G Global. VentureFruit has also partnered with Plant & Food Research to co-invest in the development and breeding of a range of unique new berries, including raspberries, boysenberries, blackberries and hybrid berries. This is being called the Rubus programme. VentureFruit will be the strategic global commercialisation partner for this new range. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9343180/t-g-global-launches-venturefruit/)

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* 1. **T&G Global reports 2021 Interim Results**

# *“First half of the year has been challenging, with ongoing uncertainty and volatility’*

T&G last week announced its Interim Results for the six months to 30 June 2021, showing how the Group has not been immune to the pressure of continuing industry-wide challenges. Total revenue for the Group decreased by 2.9% to $652.1 million, compared to the same period last year, and operating profit decreased to $10.9 million from $19.5 million. Profit before income tax decreased 63% to $5.1 million, down from $13.7 million.

Chief Executive Gareth Edgecombe has stated that while COVID-19 continues to impact the business, T&G has stayed absolutely focused on what it can control and its long-term strategic growth plans.

“The first half of the year has been challenging, with ongoing uncertainty and volatility. Our T&G whānau responded strongly to this, supporting each other, delivering on our strategy and keeping fresh produce flowing to consumers and customers around the world. I’m incredibly proud of our people and our growers,” says Gareth. T&G’s Apples business reported a decrease in revenue for the period to $425.0 million, down $15.5 million from the corresponding 2020 period. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9342857/first-half-of-the-year-has-been-challenging-with-ongoing-uncertainty-and-volatility/)

* 1. **Australian irradiated tomatoes must be labelled**

Irradiated Australian tomatoes are on the shelves of fresh produce stores now, and TomatoesNZ is reminding retailers and the hospitality sector to ensure that produce is clearly labelled as "irradiated".

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) requires anyone selling irradiated produce to clearly label it at point of sale. The regulation applies to any irradiated tomatoes and products containing them, both raw and cooked. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9342863/australian-irradiated-tomatoes-must-be-labelled/)

* 1. **New Zealand fruit and vegetable prices up 5.1% in July 2021**

According to data from Statistics NZ, food prices were up 1.3% in July 2021 compared with June 2021. This rise was mainly influenced by higher prices for fruit and vegetables and grocery foods. The rise in fruit and vegetable prices was mainly influenced by higher prices for tomatoes (up 21%), broccoli (up 39%), and strawberries (up 34%). The weighted average price of a 350g broccoli head was $4.13 in July, an all-time high, and $0.43 more expensive than the previous high in May 2017.Fruit and vegetable prices rose 5.1% in July 2021, but only up 0.8% after adjusting for seasonality effects. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9344007/new-zealand-fruit-and-vegetable-prices-up-5-1-in-july-2021/)

* 1. **How food prices affect what, and how much, farmers produce**

According to New Zealand Institute for Economic Research, farmers shouldered, on average, 20% of the retail price of food in staple items in 2019, and despite fluctuating food prices and the rising cost of labour, this has not changed in over a decade. Horticultural industry bodies say that the supermarkets dictate what growers are paid for their produce. In contrast, high export prices are reported to have a larger effect on farmers’ decisions as the average orchard gate return per tray has grown from NZ$7.66 in 2012 to NZ$12.46 in 2021. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/125936466/how-food-prices-affect-what-and-how-much-farmers-produce)

* 1. **Profits flow for most rural companies**

Profits for many rural companies have increased in what is expected to be a successful financial year for primary production, processing and servicing. PGG Wrightson’s earnings before tax increased by 25% from the previous year, Skellerup’s net profit increased by 50%, Delegat Group’s by 6%, Comvita’s by around 23%, and Zespri, Seeka and Scales Corporation had strong growth in their share price. In contrast, A2 Milk and Synlait suffered a fall in revenue and share price. [Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/agribusiness/view/profits-flow-for-most-rural-companies)

* 1. **Technology firm helps 18,000 farms to keep on top of finances**

A financial software and Xero add-on ‘Figured’ is being used by around 18,000 farms nationwide as it helps farmers make better financial decisions and face new challenges such as stricter environmental regulations and increasing compliance costs. It helps to calculate the impact of losing animals to winter frosts and predict how incoming regulations could affect profitability. Additionally, the service produces financial plans and creates reports to help farmers see whether they are on track or not and what might need to change. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/125990116/technology-firm-helps-18000-farms-to-keep-on-top-of-finances)

 **Biosecurity**

* 1. **NZ: government continues effort to control tomato disease**

Authorities working to contain a tomato plant disease are hopeful exports can resume to some countries before the season starts in October. Last month the Ministry for Primary Industries stopped exports to six countries after the Pepino mosaic virus (PepMV) was found on plants here. The countries - Australia, Japan, Thailand, Fiji, Tonga, and New Caledonia - consider the disease a quarantine risk.

"The key efforts will be in preventing the spread between different operations between different greenhouse complexes, and particularly between indoor and outdoor tomato growing units.

"We will be looking at having non-farm biosecurity plans for individual operators. Those will include measures such as good hygiene around equipment, and properties, for example, keeping equipment sterilized, keeping records of peoples movements, around the farm and onto other properties," Yard said. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9343650/nz-government-continues-effort-to-control-tomato-disease/)

* 1. **First find of leaf-mining fly in Northern Territory**

The Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade is intent on increasing plant surveillance after a confirmed single sample of American serpentine leafminer in the Katherine region. Earlier, there were multiple detections of American serpentine leafminer in far-north Queensland’s Torres Strait and in Kununurra, Western Australia.

The pest poses a significant economic impact to Australia’s plant production industries. It has a wide host range including beans, celery, cucumber, lettuce, potato, tomato and many more. Leaf damage by ASLM occurs through puncture wounds from the adult feeding and laying eggs. Damage is also caused by larvae tunnels or leaf mines within the leaf tissue. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9343231/first-find-of-leaf-mining-fly-in-northern-territory/)



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. **Brazil Retail Foods -**the top 500 supermarkets have seen a 21% increase in sales over the last year.[Retail Foods\_Sao\_Paulo\_ATO\_Brazil\_8-5-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods_Sao_Paulo_ATO_Brazil_8-5-2021)
2. **Germany Overview on the German Cherry Sector 2021** [Overview on the German Cherry Sector 2021\_Berlin\_Germany\_08-05-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Overview%20on%20the%20German%20Cherry%20Sector%202021_Berlin_Germany_08-05-2021)
3. **Malaysia Exporter Guide** Top U.S. products in the market include dairy, potatoes, fresh fruits, pet food, and tree nuts. [Exporter Guide\_Kuala Lumpur\_Malaysia\_12-31-2020](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Kuala%20Lumpur_Malaysia_12-31-2020)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **New US coalition to support financing of sustainable and equitable food systems**

Creating sustainable and equitable food systems that benefit the world’s most vulnerable people will require substantial investments. By some estimates as much as US$350 billion per year over the next decade but this would also generate potential economic gains of $5.7 trillion annually. Public Development Banks (PDBs) have the potential to help finance this, and generate exponential social and economic returns. Investments are required to change how we grow, process, sell and consume food so that food systems deliver nutritious food for all, provide decent livelihoods for those who work in them, and protect the environment and biodiversity.

PDBs are financial institutions controlled or supported by central or local governments that aim to deliver on public policy objectives to support economic development in a country or region. Currently, PDBs who invest in food and agriculture as part of their portfolio account for almost two thirds of the formal financing for agriculture. The planned coalition will not only bring together PDBs, but also governments, research institutes, the private sector and civil society working together to strengthen the capacity of PDBs to reorient, optimise and scale-up their financing for social and green investments, and to benefit the rural small-scale producers working in some of the world’s poorest countries.

To do this, many PDBs need to repurpose their investments, improve their governance, targeting, risk assessment and management, and better track and report on environmental and social impact. Many also need to develop more attractive instruments to stimulate investments from the private sector, and accessible and affordable financial products for rural producers and small and medium-sized agri-businesses. This requires better sharing of expertise to be able to access public climate finance and mobilize green investment capital. The first concrete action of the coalition will be the establishment of a platform for PDBs to share best practices and know-how, facilitate technical cooperation and set up innovative partnerships.  [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9342849/new-us-coalition-to-support-public-development-banks-financing-of-sustainable-and-equitable-food-systems/)

* 1. **European Commission lowers the maximum residue limits of lead in food**

The European Commission has approved lowering the maximum lead content in certain food products, including different fruits, vegetables, and tubers, due to the potential negative impact that this heavy metal can have on health.[(EU) Regulation 2021/1317](https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=DOUE-L-2021-81118), It establishes that the food products that appear in the annex to the Regulation and that have been legally marketed before its entry into force - effective twenty days after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union - "may remain on the market until February 28, 2022." [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9343790/european-commission-lowers-the-maximum-residue-limits-of-lead-in-food/)

* 1. **China enhances the protection of plant variety rights**

A new judicial interpretation issued by China’s Supreme Court took effect on 7 July 2021. The interpretation clarifies the application of the law in disputes over the infringement of plant variety rights (PVRs). China accounts for one-third of plant variety applications that were filed worldwide in 2019. Key provisions include:

* Clarifying that the act of planting propagating material may constitute an infringing act.
* Expressing an intention to sell through advertising and exhibiting propagating material may constitute an infringing act.
* Contributory infringement for those who knowingly provide services to infringers including acquisition, storage, transportation, processing, and provision of certification materials.
* The alleged infringer is obliged to provide relevant account books and materials relating to the infringement and preserve evidence. If the infringer fails to provide such information, gives false accounting, or destroys evidence, or hinders establishing proof of infringement, then the court may calculate compensation based on the PVR owner’s claims and evidence.

The interpretation also addresses the issue of the “farmers’ exemption” under the current law which allows farmers to propagate protected plant varieties for their own use without seeking permission of paying royalties to the PVR holder. The interpretation provides that the exemption only applies to reproduction by farmers on their own land. [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9343987/china-enhances-the-protection-of-plant-variety-rights/)

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **New data management tools helping Australian fruit exporters maintain the best quality through the supply chain**

*An article about the Australian Serviced Supply Chains project that designed to increase the profitability and reputation of Australia's horticulture exports. It talks about the importance of monitoring and interpreting the resulting data to make improvements.* [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9343608/new-data-management-tools-helping-australian-fruit-exporters-maintain-the-best-quality-through-the-supply-chain/)

* 1. **Transparency between growers, service providers, retailers is becoming the new reality**

Fruit and vegetable trading sometimes used to be known for the bickering between suppliers and the cloud between grower and buyer. Not anymore, according to commercial director Leon van den Hombergh of Frankort&Koning. Growers, traders, and retailers are increasingly pulling together. That's instead of trying to push each other out.

"It's been happening for a few years already. But it's recently intensified significantly. Logistics, packaging, and labor costs have increased considerably. That's created a new reality. There's now a high degree of transparency between producers and retailers. ". "The call for transparency began with supermarkets. Their shoppers compel them to be transparent. They want to know where products come from and who grows them. They preferably want to see what these farmers look like. Growers, in turn, are eager to no longer be anonymous. Financiers drive this move away from anonymous production."

"The intermediary trade needs continuity too. These companies want to avoid unnecessary costs. Requirements are becoming stricter. So, it's no longer feasible to pay for extra handling costs, like repackaging, in the chain," explains Leon.[. Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9344059/high-level-of-transparency-between-growers-service-providers-retailers-has-become-the-new-reality/)

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

* 1. **Covid infection closes shipping terminal at Ningbo-Zhoushan Port**

On Wednesday, an employee at the Meishan Terminal of China’s Ningbo-Zhoushan Port tested positive for the coronavirus despite being fully inoculated; it was an asymptomatic infection. Now, the world’s largest shipping port by cargo tonnage has shut down one of its key terminals following a confirmed case of Covid-19. However, the Ningbo-Zhoushan Port, which is also the world’s third-busiest port in terms of container traffic, remains open, and Meishan’s shipments can be redirected to other terminals, according to industry insiders. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9344255/covid-infection-closes-shipping-terminal-at-ningbo-zhoushan-port/)

* 1. **Global demand isn’t booming. So why are shipping rates this high?**

*Freight experts are saying* there is no COVID-era surge in global cargo demand. There’s a lengthy albeit temporary spike in congestion compounded by a localized, stimulus-and-savings-driven demand boom in America. That explanation for skyrocketing rates gained more traction Friday when liner giant Maersk released details of its quarterly performance. Maersk — which [pre-reported record Q2 2021 results on Monday](https://www.freightwaves.com/news/maersk-posts-blockbuster-q2-results-and-q3-looks-even-better) — estimates that global container shipping demand was up only 2.7% in the second quarter versus the same period two years ago, prior to the pandemic. And yet, Maersk’s average freight rate (including both contract and spot business) was $3,038 per forty-foot equivalent unit, up 63% from $1,868 per FEU in Q2 2019. The Drewry World Container Index of spot rates rose to $9,371 per FEU this week, 6.7 times what it was two years ago.

Ocean freight capacity is being heavily curtailed by congestion, with equipment tied up both on land and at sea. Maersk sent out a customer advisory last Wednesday titled, “Critical help needed — congestion increasing.” The advisory pleaded with U.S. customers to return equipment more quickly, stating: “We do not anticipate the congestion decreasing any time soon. On the contrary, the industry overall is forecasting higher [U.S.] volumes into early 2022 and beyond.” Maersk confirmed that its own effective fleet capacity was down versus pre-pandemic due to congestion.

Vincent Clerc, executive vice president of Maersk, said on Friday’s conference call: “Our fleet has grown by 2% from 2019 but our volumes are down by 3%. It basically takes more TEUs [twenty-foot units of fleet capacity] to transport each FFE [forty-foot boxload of cargo]. That will go away when congestion goes away.” On the capacity side of the equation, congestion drivers have just kept on coming — “one domino after the other” — from the anchorage situation off California to the Suez Canal blockage to the closure of the port in Yantian, China. The next threat on the horizon [is the delta variant outbreak in China](https://www.freightwaves.com/news/covid-threatens-chinese-exports-as-us-struggles-to-restock-inventories). *The article states this is further compounded by a lack of spare vessels so if one breakdowns it has an impact along the chain.*

When congestion does eventually clear, which appears more likely to be a 2022 event, spot rates could pull back quickly from ultra-high levels if more effective capacity is injected amid unexceptional global demand growth. “ [Full article available here](https://www-freightwaves-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.freightwaves.com/news/global-demand-isnt-booming-so-why-are-shipping-rates-this-high/amp)

* 1. **Reefer container freight rates to outpace dry cargo rates in 2022**

Drewry’s Global Reefer Container Freight Rate Index is a weighted average of rates across the top 15 reefer intensive deep-sea trade routes. It went up 32% over the year to 2Q21 and by the end of 3Q21 these gains are expected to reach as much as 50%. According to [hellenicshippingnews.com](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/reefer-container-freight-rates-to-outgun-dry-cargo-rates-in-2022/)¸ the key driver of reefer freight rate inflation has been capacity related, as perishables shippers have competed with higher paying dry freight BCOs for scarce containership slots, despite ample reefer plug capacity provision. The contraction in overall seaborne perishables trade in 2020 was much milder than for dry cargo. The trade was particularly impacted by a locked down hospitality sector which reduced demand for deciduous fruit, fresh vegetables and frozen potatoes. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9343153/reefer-container-freight-rates-to-outpace-dry-cargo-rates-in-2022/)

* 1. **Ports facing biggest crisis in 65 years due to Covid**

All over the world, ports have taken center stage during the pandemic. While many airports, roads, and trains ground to a halt during the peak of the pandemic last year, authorities continued to wave ships into ports. According to Kuehne+Nagel, 353 container ships are currently anchored outside ports around the world, more than doubling the number from earlier this year.. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9344266/ports-facing-biggest-crisis-in-65-years-due-to-covid/)

 **Food safety**

* 1. **Fresh Produce Safety Centre releases food safety culture fact sheet**

The Fresh Produce Safety Centre ( an Australian / new Zealand initiative) has announced the release of its Food Safety Culture fact sheet. It identified food safety culture as a key area for the improvement of fresh produce food safety across the supply chain, and the Food Safety Culture fact sheet was developed for use in businesses of all sizes.

[You can find the fact sheet here.](https://agfstorage.blob.core.windows.net/misc/FP_com/2021/08/10/Fact.pdf) [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9343233/fresh-produce-safety-centre-releases-food-safety-culture-fact-sheet/)



* 1. **"Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying"**

Scientists are observing changes in the Earth’s climate in every region and across the whole climate system, according to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, released today. Many of the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already set in motion—such as continued sea level rise—are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years.

However, strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change. While benefits for air quality would come quickly, it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilize, according to the IPCC Working Group I report, Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis, approved on Friday by 195 member governments of the IPCC,

“Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways. The report projects that in the coming decades climate changes will increase in all regions. For 1.5°C of global warming, there will be increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons. At 2°C of global warming, heat extremes would more often reach critical tolerance thresholds for agriculture and health, the report shows. But it is not just about temperature. Climate change is bringing multiple different changes in different regions – which will all increase with further warming. These include changes to wetness and dryness, to winds, snow and ice, coastal areas and oceans.

The new report also reflects major advances in the science of attribution – understanding the role of climate change in intensifying specific weather and climate events such as extreme heat waves and heavy rainfall events. [Full article available here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9342815/climate-change-widespread-rapid-and-intensifying/)

* 1. **Teens for Food Justice board adds new members**

*An article about Teens for Food Justice (TFFJ)* who have welcomed three new Board Directors who will contribute to its mission of ensuring access to healthy, fresh, and affordable foods grown with 21st-century hydroponic farming techniques. [Full article available here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9344316/teens-for-food-justice-board-adds-new-members/) TFFJ was formed in 2009 to end food security in a generation, by galvanizing a youth led movement to bring good quality, affordable, fresh, healthy food access to the communities across New York. For more information [see here](https://www.agritecture.com/blog/2021/4/6/empowering-a-food-secure-generation-with-teens-for-food-justice)

  **Health**

* 1. **Nickel-free vegetables help people who suffer from heavy metal allergies**

Although nickel-free products are not included in the official pharmacopoeia, they are a great help to people who are allergic to this heavy metal (approximately 5-6% of the population). *This article describes how a grower in Sicily produces certified nickel free vegetables.* [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9342823/nickel-free-vegetables-help-people-who-suffer-from-heavy-metal-allergies/)

* 1. **Apples might help combat dementia**

In a recently published Harvard study it claims there is mounting evidence suggesting that flavonoids are powerhouses when it comes to preventing your thinking skills from declining with age. The study claims that many flavonoid-rich foods, such as apples and pears, and others fruits and vegetables like strawberries, citrus, celery, peppers, bananas as well as red wine were significantly associated with lower odds of SCD, Subjective Cognitive Decline.The writer concluded that “our findings support a benefit of higher flavonoid intakes for maintaining cognitive function in US men and women.” [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9343990/apples-might-help-combat-dementia/)

 **Innovation**

* 1. **'Digital twins': How computers are changing horticulture**

Scientists from the University of Queensland are creating 'digital twins' of mango and macadamia orchards with integrated environmental and management simulators to help boost food production. "Digital modelling provides untapped opportunities for users to rapidly trial new ideas and acquire a reliable indicator of how to best optimise production system" lead researcher Dr Liqi Han said. The ‘DigiHort’ platform was designed as a decision-support service for the industry and will be accessible via the internet. [Full article available here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/digital-twins-how-computers-are-changing-horticulture/EIKSWL47KUYHLSJ7U7PPYFLUFE/)

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