

**PMAC weekly update 20th to 27th January**

1. **Government agencies**: WTO Notifications
2. **New Zealand News:**  NZ’s trade aims advanced at Davos meetings; NZ concludes digital economy trade talks with Singapore and Chile; NZ minister opens Mumbai facility; New Zealand wants to drop regional obesity rates; Primary sector no more; Zespri to relaunch brand; Zespri’s Momentum 2020 conference; Searching for New Zealand’s Outstanding Food Producers; Seeka marks excellence with MOYA in 2020; Kiwifruit company Baygold convicted on environmental charges; Lucrative spur for NZ cherry exports; NZ Cherry Corp partners with Techrock to serve the China market; Iwi catch the horticulture wave; Central Otago orchard owner concerned about minimum wage hikes; Soil compaction a worrying trend; Postharvest Symposium in New Zealand November 2020; New Zealand's "most expensive houseplant" sells for $5000
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; The US PVP: Germplasm deposits are delayed for three years; Iran launches production of vegetable seeds; Japan to fund millions into modernizing horticulture; Chile becomes China's second largest provider of imported fruit; Kuehne + Nagel to accelerate development in Asia Pacific; US: Large-scale and non-family farms dominate production of high value crops; Number of Israeli farms dropped 61% over four decades; Action on biodiversity; Aldi Süd scores with organic fruit and vegetables and fresh products with blemishes; Eat healthy, sleep better

***Editors comments***

*The end of January. The holiday season is nearly over, we are nearly 1/12 th of the way through 2020 and our politicians are back at work. David Parker has been to the EU and continues to work with other countries to support the WTO and a rules-based trading system . This work will take time but I am confident it will remain a priority no matter who is in power in New Zealand after the election.*

*Looking at trade details I have recently started receiving emails re TBT notifications. TBT notifications record technical barriers to trade in a similar way to the SPS notifications that I have listed since this newsletter began (which deal only with plant and animal related notifications). TBT notifications include a wider range of issues such as labelling and grade standards and so I will circulate any that look as though they will have an effect on plant products ( either in short of long- term timeframes).*

*The most interesting articles this week I consider are in the NZ section. Firstly Zespri is relaunching it’s brand to target discerning customers. To me this really underscores the difference for me between a marketer ( Zespri) and exporting companies whose primary role is to export product. This is the Zespri brands first refresh in 22 years- it will be interesting to watch.*

*In the cherry industry Tim Jones ( Chairman of Summerfruit NZ) talks about the need to discriminate New Zealand Cherries from Chilean cherries to ensure they continue to command a premium. The following article reports on the export of cherries that use a blockchain concept and NFU labels that allow the end customers to track their cherry from orchard to plate. This technology should help emphasise the difference between the two products.*

*Lastly there is an article from the* *Marlborough reporting concerns about the compaction between rows of grapes and the environmental impact this may have on freshwater. This is an area some of our other tree and vine crops may need to start managing in the future.*

1. **Agency news**



* 1. **WTO Notifications**

Please find attached the most recent WTO notifications from countries that are considering changes to their plant import requirements for specific products. If you have any concerns about the notifications being presented please contact [Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz) so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country. Changes notified over the last week include:

* MRL’s- Canada , Japan, Chines Taipei

The embedded files for the last week (which has links through to the original notifications)is available here 

A TBT notification from the EU describes the process that will be used to assess Co-formulants for their acceptability for use with plant protection products. . Co-formulants are used together with active substances in plant protection products and adjuvants and are thus spread in the environment in a comparable manner. For the full regulation see here [EN](https://agriculture.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d7af3f807e82c63a8f495e991&id=cc756cc376&e=dc41ca1864)



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **NZ’s trade aims advanced at Davos meetings**

A proposal to cut “trade and production-distorting subsidies” in the agricultural sector by 2030 has set out important measures to ensure a fair agricultural trading system.  The proposal was released by the 19 member “Cairns Group” at the meeting of trade ministers in Davos, Switzerland. “These subsidies are harmful to the environment and prevent countries like New Zealand and many developing countries from competing fairly on the world market,” David Parker said. The Cairns Group members account for more than 25 per cent of world agricultural exports

David Parker also said he was very pleased that Switzerland has been included as a negotiating partner to the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS) initiative, joining New Zealand, Costa Rica, Fiji, Norway and Iceland. The ACCTS statement is available in the:  [Trade Ministers’ Joint Statement](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/ministry-statements-and-speeches/trade-ministers-express-support-for-the-agreement-on-climate-change-trade-and-sustainability-at-the-world-economic-forum-davos-2020/)

“Both the Cairns Group proposal and ACCTS developments represent progress in advancing our strategic trade interests at a time when there is considerable threat to the rules that underpin the trading system,” David Parker said.  [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/nz%E2%80%99s-trade-aims-advanced-davos-meetings)

* 1. **NZ concludes digital economy trade talks with Singapore and Chile**

A new trade agreement concluded last week helps New Zealand exporters and consumers take advantage of opportunities from digital trade.   Minister for Trade and Export Growth David Parker together with Chile’s Vice Minister of Trade Rodrigo Yañez and Singapore’s Minister of Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing, have announced conclusion of talks on a Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA).

“New Zealand has played a key role in this new initiative to support digital trade. It’s an important step in making sure trade rules better reflect this digital era,” David Parker said*.( Note this will facilitate uptake of the digital transfer of phytosanitary information)*

“DEPA will help make it easier for our businesses and consumers to take advantage of digital trade opportunities, while protecting public and private interests. “We’ve ensured issues of importance to New Zealanders such as the Treaty of Waitangi, personal privacy, consumer protection, data management, transparency and openness are appropriately protected.

DEPA complements and supports the ongoing WTO-based negotiations on e-commerce, as well as work within APEC and the OECD.  Consistent with our support for multilateral rules, the DEPA is an ‘open plurilateral’ agreement, meaning it is open to other WTO members. More information on DEPA is available at [www.mfat.govt.nz/depa](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/depa) [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/nz-concludes-digital-economy-trade-talks-singapore-and-chile)

* 1. **NZ minister opens Mumbai facility**

New Zealand’s agriculture minister officially opened Indian produce distributor Suri Agro Fresh’s latest cold storage facility in Mumbai during a two-day trade visit to India last week. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, minister Damien O’Connor and his New Zealand trade delegation toured the US$7.8m fully palletised storage and packing facility, said to be the first of its kind in the region. The warehouse has the capacity to handle 4,000 pallets, including temperature-sensitive products like kiwifruit and stonefruit, and features customised Maf Roda grading and packing machines, according to the firm.

Speaking to the delegation during the tour, Manav Suri, Suri Agro Fresh chief operating officer, offered New Zealand companies some advice on tackling the Indian market. “India is a big market – with 29 states it is like 29 countries within one country,” For most New Zealand companies, Delhi and Mumbai are good starting points.” Delhi-headquartered Suri Agro Fresh, which is a joint venture between the Suri family in India and Irish distributor Total Produce, opened a similar state-of-the-art storage and packing facility in Himachal, northern India, last year. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/180675/nz-minister-opens-mumbai-facility)

** Commentary**

* 1. **New Zealand wants to drop regional obesity rates**

In New Zealand's Bay of Plenty, more than two-thirds of the population is overweight or obese ( *NZ stands at number 10 internationally for obesity levels*). It was reported this week that the cost of fruit and veg prices jumped 2.1 per cent in December 2019. This was mainly due to seasonal produce such as spuds, apples, onion and kiwifruit.

If healthy food such as fruit and veg is too expensive, how are we supposed to drop the obesity rate? Of course, it's up to each individual to look after their own health but this also depends on family budgets. Low-income families who are struggling to put any food on the table might only be thinking about what is the cheapest. Perhaps the government should remove GST on fruit and veg to make it that little bit easier for people to eat healthily. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9182833/new-zealand-wants-to-drop-regional-obesity-rates/)

* 1. **Primary sector no more**

The Primary Sector Council believe that the primary industries should no longer be referred to as ‘’the primary sector’’ as this often brings up images of a volume over value commodity production. The Council believe that the sector needs to be reframed, and that the title of ‘’agriculture food and fibre sector of Aotearoa’’ will help to achieve this. They believe that high-value food and fibres is the way of the future. [Full article available here](https://ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/primary-sector-no-more)



* 1. **Zespri to relaunch brand**

Zespri is set to unveil a new brand vision, identity and positioning next month at Fruit Logistica in Berlin. The relaunch marks the first time the global kiwifruit marketer has refreshed its brand in its 22-year history.

Zespri already stands out as one of the world’s most recognisable fresh produce brands amongst consumers and retailers, having leveraged its global scale and its commitment to investment in marketing and branding. But the kiwifruit marketer’s chief growth officer Jiunn Shih, who has led the team on this project, says no brand can afford to stand still in a rapidly changing world.  “Today, consumers are looking for brands that go beyond just selling the functional attributes of their products,”. “Our research indicates people are making more considered choices to buy from companies that stand for a purpose they personally identify with, and that reflects their values and beliefs.”

As part of this brand journey, Zespri undertook an extensive market research project to validate its new direction and we’ve partnered with well-known global market research agencies to validate our new brand identity and positioning across many key markets. “One example was a study commissioned with Kantar to test the stopping power and recognisability of our new design in Spain, Taiwan, Germany, Japan, China and the US.  “The results were really reassuring. Not only is our newly designed brand identity perceived as more differentiated, but also consumers are able to recognise the brand faster.”

The brand will be unveiled to Zespri’s customers and the global fresh produce industry at Fruit Logistica on 5-7 February in Berlin, while it will also be showcased back in New Zealand at Zespri’s Momentum conference the following week. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/180681/zespri-to-relaunch-brand)

* 1. **Zespri’s Momentum 2020 conference**

Among the topics on the agenda for Zespri’s Momentum 2020 conference at Mount Maunganui in February are: climate change, futures research and playing “the Infinite Game”. The conference is expected to attract some 400 New Zealand and international delegates. It is also a chance for kiwifruit marketers to focus on their future.

“Standing Up and Standing Out” is the conference theme and Zespri CEO Dan Mathieson says it is about resetting the industry “in the midst of a period of real growth and success”. “We’re challenging ourselves to continue to grow and do even better in the years ahead. It means looking at new products and new thinking, while reminding ourselves of the values and principles that have helped us get here today and that will continue to help us reach our goals by working together.”

“We’ll do that by standing up - demonstrating our leadership by addressing some of the challenges we’re seeing today, like helping reduce the use of plastics and looking after our waterways, and by ensuring our industry continues to look after our people, our communities and our environment.”

“And we’ll also do it by standing out – making sure we continue to innovate so that we stay ahead of our competition and ensure Zespri’s brand continues to be recognised as the world’s leading provider of premium quality kiwifruit.” [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9182509/we-re-challenging-ourselves-to-continue-to-grow-and-do-even-better-in-the-years-ahead/)

* 1. **Searching for New Zealand’s Outstanding Food Producers.**

The Outstanding NZ Food Producer Awards – celebrate Kiwis who harvest, grow and make food and drinks. Each year a team of specialist judges assess around 200 products, awarding the best products with an Outstanding NZ Food Producer Awards Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal. Awards relevant to fruit and vegetables include:

* **Farro Earth**
* **NZ Life & Leisure Spirit of New Zealand Award** for the entry showing excellent Kiwi ingenuity.
* **Outstanding Sustainability Award** for the food or drink producer championing sustainability.
* **Label & Litho Outstanding Drink,** awarded to the highest scoring drink produce
* **FMCG Business Outstanding New Product**, for products launched in 2018 (before March 2019)
* **Outstanding Start-Up Producer**, for a producer who has started a new food business in the past 18 months.

Entries for the 2020 Outstanding NZ Food Producer Awards must be made by 5pm Friday 28 February 2020. The entry fee is $100 plus GST per product ($115 including GST). [Enter here](https://outstandingfoodproducer.co.nz/)

* 1. **Seeka marks excellence with MOYA in 2020**

PMA Australia-New Zealand (PMA A-NZ) and Produce Plus Magazine are pleased to announce Seeka as the sponsor of the Marketer of the Year Award (MOYA) in 2020. A diversified horticulture business with operations in both Australia and New Zealand, Seeka recognises the important role marketing plays within the fresh produce industry.  
   
MOYA is open to any individual or marketing team, with nominees sought from all parts of the value chain. The prestigious award is judged on each marketer’s ability to develop and execute a highly visible, effective marketing campaign. This year’s award will be presented at the Hort Connections conference and trade show in Brisbane on 15-17 June 2020. Self-nominations and nominations by third parties are welcome and must be received by 24 April 2020. More information and entry forms are available [here](https://www.pma.com/global-pma/anz/news/2019/moya-landing-page). [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/produceplus/article/180679/seeka-marks-excellence-with-moya-in-2020)

* 1. **Kiwifruit company Baygold convicted on environmental charges**

Kiwifruit company Baygold has been convicted on two charges of restricted land use, being fined just under $50,000. The company previously pleaded guilty to both charges and has been ordered to pay 95 per cent of the imposed fine to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The ruling comes after the company was sentenced in Tauranga District Court on Tuesday.

# Council describes the charges as being in relation to earthworks carried out that contravened the conditions of Baygold’s resource consent and for discharging a contaminant onto or into land in circumstances where it may enter water. The judge said she considered the defendant acted responsibly by sourcing consent but they should have taken more care in ensuring this was complied with. She says the case was moderately serious in context of the site’s proximity to the wetlands and the defendant was “highly careless” but not reckless. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9182838/kiwifruit-company-baygold-convicted-on-environmental-charges/)

* 1. **Lucrative spur for NZ cherry exports**

This year’s cherry crop is expected to be smaller than usual due to wet weather and cold temperatures during growing time. However strong prices and better weather recently has meant that the remaining fruit is of a high quality according to Summerfruit New Zealand Chairman Tim Jones. This is key, as Chinese New Year is coming up, and New Zealand cherries receive a large premium. The return for growers can be good with the margin for a grower of $8 to $10/kg but it’s not quite enough to make up for the low volume. New Zealand’s main competitor in cherry exports is Chile, which often have a high volume of cherries but at a lower quality meaning that New Zealand’s cherries have an advantage. While Chile needs only a small percentage of its crop in the premium space to start affecting NZ more than 90% of its fruit still goes by sea. Chile expects to export 180,000 tonnes to China this season. NZ’s total cherry exports were about 4935 tonnes last season.

Another advantage for NZ growers is the number of tourists coming from Asia, which makes it possible to ship freight back to China and Taiwan using the planes they are returning on. All New Zealand cherries are sent by air freight.

Summerfruit New Zealand chairman Tim Jones says “What we really need to do is differentiate ourselves from them and play in a different part of the market. We have to understand our part of the market just as much as we need to understand theirs.” [Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/horticulture/view/lucrative-spur-for-nz-cherry-exports)

* 1. **NZ Cherry Corp partners with Techrock to serve the China market**

New Zealand Cherry Corp. announces the launch of a new partnership with Techrock to protect fresh cherries as they travel from the pack-house and orchards in Cromwell, in the South Island of New Zealand, to consumers in the China market.

Techrock is a 'safe product' ecommerce channel for Chinese consumers. NZ Cherry Corp. will employ the unique anti-counterfeiting technology used on Techrock, and throughout the Tael ecosystem, to protect Chinese customers. Once prepared and packed, their cherries will be protected by Tael's high-tech labels and blockchain ledger technology. NFC labels will be applied to the cherry cartons at the NZ Cherry Corp. pack-house in Cromwell, Central Otago.

This technology provides consumers in China with verifiable proof that they are not dealing with fraudulent products. Techrock enables Chinese consumers to 'tap' the NFC label on the packaging with their smartphone to view information about the product's journey through the supply chain.

For fresh 'cold-chain' products (meaning they are refrigerated at 0-2C through to the consumer) such as NZ Cherry Corp. cherries, supply chain visibility is even more important. Customers are now able to see how long it has been since the cherries left the pack-house and that they have not been tampered with along the way. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9183303/nz-cherry-corp-partners-with-techrock-to-serve-the-china-market/)

* 1. **Iwi catch the horticulture wave**

Rakau Ora has started planting a 20 hectare avocado orchard near Kaitaia despite a debate continuing over the sustainability of irrigation to keep that new development and many others in the region productive and alive. Further planting of 40ha is planned over the next two years and 200ha in total in a decade, Ngai Takoto Chief Executive Rangitane Marsden stated. Rakau Ora Board Member Murray Jamieson stated that avocados have the potential to boost Kaitaia’s economy, employment and education levels. Environmental Court hearings will be held soon. Many locals are in objection due to the widespread land use change and use of water. [Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/horticulture/view/go-north-for-horticultural-scope)

* 1. **Central Otago orchard owner concerned about minimum wage hikes**

A Central Otago Orchard Owner with up to 200 workers each picking season has spoken against minimum wage increases, stating that instead, reducing the income tax of these earners would help them more and do less harm to small businesses. The minimum wage is rising to $18.90 in April, working towards the Government’s goal of a $20 minimum wage by 2021[. "What is the point of more money in a pay packet if the result of that is that it is going to cost jobs, and it gets swallowed up by higher prices for the basics, like rents and groceries?" Full article available here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=12300271)

** Bits and pieces**

* 1. **Soil compaction a worrying trend**

A 19-year soil monitoring programme in Marlborough is showing viticultural use is leading to more compact soils, increased nutrient loss and a decrease in organic matter. It may mean vineyard managers and owners have to change their approach to viticultural practices.

Marlborough District Council Land Resources Scientist, Matt Oliver, says the soil monitoring began back in 2000 as part of a national programme called 500 soils. Ninety-six different sites within the province are monitored, with 25 of those being part of the programme since it began. They monitor three separate areas; under vine, mid-row and wheel tracks. It is in the wheel tracks that the heaviest compaction is occurring and that is something that needs to be addressed.

“The harder the soil, the more run-off you get,” Oliver says. “Your irrigation may not be going where you want it to, or it is evaporating more. There could be a loss of nutrients and sediment into waterways.”

It is not just the environmental risk facing growers, Oliver says. There is also an economic impact within the vineyard through decreased production. *The article then provides a number of suggestions that may be useful in decreasing or remediating compaction*. [Full article available here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/wine-grower/wg-regional-updates/soil-compaction-a-worrying-trend?utm_source=Rural+News+Group+Weekly+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=923c5c0735-Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_20_JAN_2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fb79f8bfe8-923c5c0735-59798541&ct=t(Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_20_JAN_2020))

* 1. **Postharvest Symposium in New Zealand November 2020**

**L**eading professionals in the field of postharvest research will convene in Rotorua, New Zealand in November this year, for the 9th ISHS International Postharvest Symposium. The symposium will focus on the biological and technological postharvest research of fresh horticultural produce.

This will include discussion on postharvest storage, treatments and underpinning mechanisms, quality evaluation, and packaging, handling and distribution of fruit, vegetables and flowers.   [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/180642/postharvest-symposium-heading-to-new-zealand)

* 1. **New Zealand's "most expensive houseplant" sells for $5000**

An Auckland botanist has walked away with almost $5000 after her monstera sparked a bidding war on Trade Me. (monstera deliciosa albo variegate) [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9182984/new-zealand-s-most-expensive-houseplant-sells-for-5000/)



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 on the Gain web site (<https://gain.fas.usda.gov/>) search for the country and any reports released in the last month. This week see:

1. **Updated Exporter Guides** for Malaysia; Pakistan, Taiwan,
2. **Updated Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report** forBulgaria, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Lithuania, Malaysia, Philippines, Romania ; Singapore ; UK
3. **Updated Import Regulations and Standards Country Report-**for Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Ethiopia , France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Italy, Korea, Lithuania, Malaysia, Philippines Turkey, Romania, Singapore, UK
4. **France New French Pesticide Buffer Zone Regulation Angers French Farmers and NGOs** After months of debate, in December 2019 France announced required no-pesticide buffer zones between treated crops and inhabited areas. This zoning angers French farmers who see their livelihood threatened and NGOs who feel the new regulations do not go far enough. The policy will likely further erode the competitiveness of French agriculture and widen the divide between French farmers and rural-non-farmers and urban consumers.
5. **Japan 230th Food Safety Group** On January 16, 2020, Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) announced revisions to Japan’s maximum residue levels for seven agricultural chemicals (Aldrin/Dieldrin, Isofetamid, Ipflufenoquin, 1,3-Dichloropropene, Dazomet, and Metam/Methyl isothiocyanate), and a pesticide/veterinary drug (Carbaryl). MHLW also revised the analytical method for two veterinary chemicals, Betamethasone and Dexamethasone, in food.

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **The US PVP: Germplasm deposits are delayed for three years**

USDA has announced the publication of the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Regulations final rule in the U.S. Federal Register on January 6, 2020. The final rule implements the 2018 Farm Bill amendment to add PVP protection for asexually reproduced plants. Effective immediately, PVPO accepts applications for asexually reproduced plants. You can find the final rule at the Federal Register (search for Docket No: AMS-ST-19-000). [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9182578/the-us-pvp-germplasm-deposits-are-delayed-for-three-years/)

* 1. **Iran launches production of vegetable seeds**

Iran has launched the production of vegetable seeds, according to the Agriculture Ministry’s caretaker, Abbas Keshavarz. Keshavarz noted that 29 million tons of different kinds of vegetables are produced in Iran annually but some 90% of the seed required for this amount of production are imported. [Read more at the Financial Tribune](https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/101842/iran-launches-production-of-vegetable-seeds)

* 1. **Japan to fund millions into modernizing horticulture**

Climate change is a major threat to food supplies for Japan. Typhoons, earthquakes, floods and rising temperatures have a major impact on food supplies in Japan. In the coming years, the Abe Cabinet wants to invest millions of euros in Kochi in order to transform the underdeveloped agricultural and horticultural sector into a productive sector capable of increasing self-sufficiency. *The balance of this article describes a visit by Japanese officials to the Netherlands to look at horticultural technologies.* [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9180874/japan-to-fund-millions-into-modernizing-horticulture/)

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **Nuffield International welcomes Bayer as Global Strategic Partner**

Nuffield International Farming Scholars announces its newest Global Strategic Partner, Bayer. As a Global Strategic Partner, Bayer supports the work done by Nuffield International to develop the capacity of farmers around the world, including its eight member countries (Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe) and four associate countries (Brazil, Chile, Japan, and United States of America).

The investment by Bayer will help also contribute to two significant conferences hosted by Nuffield International, NI’s Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC) and Triennial Conference, both of which bring together scholars from all types of agriculture. The CSC is the organization’s annual gathering of all selected Nuffield Scholars (typically up to 70 Scholars per year) and features workshops, field visits, and speakers designed to engage participants in discussions and debates about critical topics in agriculture around the world. The 2020 CSC will be held 14-20 March in Queensland, Australia.

Once every three years the Nuffield network gathers for the organization’s Triennial Conference where they explore agriculture in the host country, exchange ideas, and spend one conference day delving into key challenges and opportunities facing agriculture. The 2020 Triennial runs 21-29 March in New Zealand. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9183332/nuffield-international-welcomes-bayer-as-global-strategic-partner/)

* 1. **Chile becomes China's second largest provider of imported fruit**

Chile's fruit export value during the 2018-2019 season is estimated at 18 billion US dollars. With the cherry harvest nearing its end, China is still Chile's main cherry export destination. Chile is China's second-largest provider of imported fruit, second only to Thailand and closely followed by Vietnam.

[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9181338/chile-becomes-china-s-second-largest-provider-of-imported-fruit/)

* 1. **Kuehne + Nagel to accelerate development in Asia Pacific**

Logistics provider Kuehne + Nagel sets path for further and accelerated growth in Asia Pacific. In order to target an even stronger role in logistics all over Asia, the company has decided to concentrate strengths and to combine its so far two Asian organisations into one strong region. With immediate effect, the new Asia Pacific region with about 10,000 professionals will be headquartered in Singapore. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9181587/kuehne-nagel-to-accelerate-development-in-asia-pacific/)

* 1. **US: Large-scale and non-family farms dominate production of high value crops**

A recent USDA report describes characteristics of different types of U.S. farms, titled [America’s Diverse Family Farms: 2019 Edition](https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=95546). Farms are classified based on ownership of the farm, annual gross revenue, and the primary occupation of the principal operator.

The research found that family farms remain a key part of U.S. agriculture, making up 98% of all farms and providing 88% of production. Most farms are small family farms, and they operate almost half of U.S. farm land, while generating 21% of production. Midsize and large-scale family farms account for about 66% of production; and non-family farms represent the remaining 2.1% of farms and 12% of production.

Large-scale and non-family farms dominate production of beef production and high value crops which include vegetables, fruits/tree nuts, and nursery/greenhouse products. [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9183486/us-large-scale-and-non-family-farms-dominate-production-of-high-value-crops/)

* 1. **Number of Israeli farms dropped 61% over four decades**

Israel is still supplying most of its own fresh produce, meat, chicken and milk, but the number of farms in the country plunged by 61% between 1981 and 2017, according to the first census of the industry taken by the Central Bureau of Statistics in four decades. The drop in the number of farms, however, didn’t mean reduced acreage. Instead, the average farm size grew during the period.

The Israel Farmers Association attributed the decline in the number of working farms to the lack of profitability. “Nearly two-thirds of all farmland are used for growing fruit and vegetables. Another 19% is used for livestock and 17% for mixed uses, the statistics bureau said

[Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9182046/number-of-israeli-farms-dropped-61-over-four-decades/)



* 1. **Action on biodiversity**

On 6 May 2019, a UN summit in Paris on [biodiversity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity) concluded with a [new report](https://www.ipbes.net/news/ipbes-global-assessment-summary-policymakers-pdf) endorsed by all member countries. The report found that one million of the eight million animal and plant species on earth are threatened with extinction, and averting such an outcome requires us to reshape our economic system away from one based on unbridled economic growth. Three quarters of land-based natural environments and two-thirds of the oceans have been altered by humans. Eighty-five per cent of wetlands have vanished. Almost half of all ecosystems on land and in the oceans have been severely affected by human activity such as agriculture, fishing, exploitation of species and natural resources, climate change and pollution. [This also poses a threat to our own future](http://en.biodiversiteit.nl/biodiversiteit-is-levensbelang). This has only come about in the past 50 years, so it’s happening at a very rapid pace.”

The report, published by the intergovernmental UN panel [IPBES](https://www.ipbes.net/), had 145 scientists from 50 countries looking at 15,000 studies. However, there are solutions that we can start working on right away, and other long-term solutions that we need to give serious thought to,” she says. Something that countries can do right now is to honour existing treaties and commitments on environmental protection and sustainable production, for example. The report also underlines the importance of new bottom-up plans, such as the [Deltaplan for Biodiversity](https://weblog.wur.eu/spotlight/large-scale-collaboration-on-nature-restoration/) and initiatives for sustainable agriculture such as Herenboeren, and how important it is for governments to, “immediately step it up a gear”.

[Full article available here](https://www.hortibiz.com/news/?tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=32305&cHash=c14a7e03aab30d67d581cea9c553a9c8)

* 1. **Aldi Süd scores with organic fruit and vegetables and fresh products with blemishes**

A New Year, and new resolutions: At the top of the list for many people is the desire for a more sustainable and conscious diet. A glance at the purchasing behaviour of ALDI SÜD (german) customers in 2019 confirms that this is not just a trend at the beginning of the year. Last year, ALDI SÜD sold more fresh fruit and vegetables as well as meat from sustainable animal husbandry.

ALDI SÜD offers more than 350 organic products from almost all product areas. In 2019, the discounter has also greatly expanded its range in this area. With the larger assortment, demand is also increasing - especially for organic fruit and vegetables.

ALDI SÜD customers also took home "crooked" apples with small blemishes particularly often. This is proof they taste just as good as their flawless siblings. It was only last December that ALDI Nord and ALDI SÜD extended their range of crooked fruit to include apples with hail damage. The so-called 'weather apples' are apples that have suffered from extreme weather conditions this season, having been marked by too much sun or hail.

The demand for vegetarian products, labelled with the V-label, has grown compared to 2018. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9181815/aldi-sued-scores-with-organic-fruit-and-vegetables-and-fresh-products-with-blemishes/)

  **Health**

* 1. **Eat healthy, sleep better**

Studies have confirmed that various food stuffs (lettuce, nuts, kiwis, and cherries, and much more) increase sleep duration and sleep quality. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9182425/eat-healthy-sleep-better/)

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