

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

1. **Government agencies**: ICPR Changes, Owners of unproductive land encouraged to grow 'black diamonds, WTO Notifications, MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 23 June 2022, Report on Regulation changes in the Netherlands re nitrogen reduction, Introduction to Spain , Appealing to Spanish consumers , Business culture in Spain , Spanish importing regulations
2. **New Zealand News:**  Next steps for NZ UK free trade agreement, Food science seminar Remote Audits & Assessments - Future Outlook, Nadine -Agribusiness Agenda muddled, opportunity packed, risk burdened story’, HWEN best available option, Seed companies play their part in containing costs, 'European Green Deal could see food become a luxury', Need for Strategy will help farming face change, New Zealand welcomes global avocado community ahead of 2023 World Avocado Congress, Farming to maramataka, the Māori calendar, Weaker Japanese yen a spoiler as orchid sales rebound, Samoa PM looks to 'raise the quality' of RSE programme, Farmer's broccoli kayak caper comes a cropper, NZ's Scientists support move to a billion-dollar avocados, Great growing season has resulted in an early mandarin crop , New Zealand's fresh fruit season in China officially kicks off, Finalists For Major Award Delivered 300,000 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Boxes, Bad weather not inflation responsible for vegetable price increases, Growers are also suffering from increasing fruit and veg prices, Taiwanese mangoes officially launched in New Zealand
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; USDA announces assistance for on-farm food safety expenses for specialty crop growers, The EC wants to reduce the use of chemical pesticides in the EU by 50% by 2030, Global Produce & Floral Show to be held in Florida, COVID, lockdowns and the impacts in China today, Strikes in US, Asian and European ports threaten shippers, Air freight demand begins to decrease amid global economic turmoil, Continued decrease in ocean freight spot rates is positive measure to curb inflation, New climate research shows that ‘clean eating’ is complicated, 'The world can be fed with only plant-based food', Organic the benchmark for advanced regenerative farming, Microplastics decrease lentil seedling growth

**Comment**

A diverse offering of articles this week. From this spread I’d like to point you to a number of articles that highlight growing issues that our exporters will need to address. All of these issues to a greater or lesser extent have to do with concerns about Climate Change.

The detrimental effect of imported food ( as a consequence of the carbon costs involved in its transport to market i.e. the food miles argument) are referred to Nadine’s article and then again in the article in the International section which considers clean eating.

Lain Jager also refers to the changing attitudes brought about by distance and calls for New Zealand Primary Sectors to develop clear strategies which allow them to move quickly and invest in their food systems in such a way that they can stay competitive in the face of changing attitudes and the need for environmental excellence.

Another article worth reading in this context is in the New Zealand section which considers how the EU Green deal could change how we in NZ produce fruit and produce. And as you know more definition is being seen almost weekly about what will be required under the Green deal. This week it is news of a proposal which has been presented to the EC requiring a 50% reduction in chemical pesticide use by 2030 and with a regulatory requirement that some chemical use is replaced by IPM. Another environmental initiative from within the EU can be seen from the Netherlands who released a requirement for reducing nitrogen release from primary producing production units MFAT and a Gain report published in this issues give access to thinking about the impacts of this regulation and the reaction by Dutch growers). As reported above some of these changes will in time also probably become a requirement for our producers as well

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

The ICPR for Great Britain has been updated with added requirements for Gentiana & Gentianella spp. . See [Plant ICPR Great Britain](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/39653)

* 1. **[Owners of unproductive land encouraged to grow 'black diamonds'](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news/media-releases/owners-of-unproductive-land-encouraged-to-grow-black-diamonds/?utm_source=notification-email)**

[Ohiwa Black Diamond Truffles](https://truffles-ohiwa.myshopify.com/) is receiving more than $155,000 of government funding over 3 years to share its knowledge with interested growers so New Zealand can grow enough truffles for a robust export industry. The business is also researching and developing new truffle products that incorporate the health benefits of truffles with traditional Māori rongoā (healing). They have held 3 workshops on truffle growing, with more lined up over the coming weeks. "We've already received orders for around 10,000 inoculated truffle seedlings from several hapū, and we've helped a Kawhia whānau set up their truffière," says Ms Munday.

"The truffles on our Ohiwa plantation are grown beside oak and hazelnut trees, but Pinus pinea trees are also suitable. To grow effectively, truffles need soil with a high level of acidity," says Ms Munday.

"We've been trialling growing spores under New Zealand natives but have found their root system doesn't support truffle growth – although we're still experimenting."

* 1. **WTO 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:

* Canada MRLs for Glufosinate-ammonium and Thifensulfuron-methy
* EU requirements for certain foods risk of contamination of by mycotoxins, including aflatoxins, pesticide residues, pentachlorophenol and dioxins and microbiological contamination
* Russian Federation procedure for Traceability of Quarantined Products
* Thailand approach to GMO’s and relevant labelling

** MFAT**

* 1. **[MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 23 June 2022](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-global/weekly-global-economic-round-up-23-june-2022/)**

Amongst other entries included in this week’s edition are news of :

* **Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is travelling to Europe and Australia for a range of trade, tourism and foreign policy engagements**. Following a five day **Europe** programme, she will travel to **Australia (Melbourne and Sydney)** for a four-day programme **4-8 July**, accompanied by a number of other ministers and a large business delegation. [Read more details](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/prime-minister-travel-europe-and-australia).
* **Travellers to New Zealand will no longer need a COVID-19 pre-departure test from 11.59pm Monday 20 June**. [Read the full announcement](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/pre-departure-tests-removed-june-20).
* **Damien O’Connor will travel to Europe, Canada and Australia** to advance **New Zealand’s economic interests, departing New Zealand on Friday 24 June.** The final leg will see him join the **Prime Minister at the annual Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum in Sydney**.
* **Samoa Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata’afa** visited New Zealand last week. During her visit she met with Prime Minister Ardern, Minister Mahuta, and horticulture leaders in Hawke's Bay. **Prime Minister Fiame** noted that Samoa was undertaking a review of its participation in the RSE scheme to ensure continued alignment with Samoa’s workforce needs. She confirmed there had been no suspension of Samoa’s participation in the scheme and the ongoing importance of labour mobility to Samoa.
  1. [**Report on Regulation changes in the Netherlands re nitrogen reduction**](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-europe/netherlands-nitrogen-market-insight-report/)

Earlier in June, the Dutch government presented its [**long-awaited plan to tackle the country’s ‘nitrogen crisis’**](https://govt.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee12ff73e0bbcb23b01a60631&id=7b9fcbf1cc&e=f1812fde89). The bold plan zeros in on the Netherlands’ agriculture industry, calling for scaled emissions reduction across the country, including **up to 95 percent reductions near vulnerable natural areas.** However, **strong pushback from farmers’ interest groups** and others will test the future of the plans.



* 1. [**Introduction to Spain**](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pw8wwjR-2FnDX6pmJBR0zg7HDq-2Bki9VIPJKHYOCV-2B35xBhQ-3D-3DgazK_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgpexoiHOwJe6W5azxXhWHXC9ZuZ6CbMPdn0LmbUuxMkZJmuz-2FgVdABZnStIsX0-2BFjI7kxPGs6qbUIEzAs52Uf1Ecr0NCmhkF2ZKgnZahcZX6P9UbhwQnSZK-2FNdRjCE4TWxiBqzNsQxE1S-2B-2F-2B50WpkgyQHSdmyLFJM9n0zfLZiezdbd-2BsrVsixnHfCTfNXH23xG-2FQq7e9gnmbHOZ3zwACtzGm1nJVHUuTBgEwzD2-2BISOGwr5Pg3TRqFDY-2BoJKWl294-2Bzu39pecxtc0DYT9etvotO2NSUB3nlH1bsgZ4muiHqJW7k95h2t9mt1Wod75-2B-2BrTU5TIem5UkpDqcNH5RknSak-3D)

#### [The EU's fourth largest economy, Spain has 17 culturally distinct regions.](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pw8wwjR-2FnDX6pmJBR0zg7HDq-2Bki9VIPJKHYOCV-2B35xBhQ-3D-3DVi39_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgpexoiHOwJe6W5azxXhWHXC9ZuZ6CbMPdn0LmbUuxMkZJmuz-2FgVdABZnStIsX0-2BFjI7kxPGs6qbUIEzAs52Uf1Ecr0NCmhkF2ZKgnZahcZX6P9UbhwQnSZK-2FNdRjCE4TWxiBqzNsQxE1S-2B-2F-2B50WpkgyQHSdmyLFJM9n0zfLZiezdbd-2BsrVsixnHfCTfNXH23xE9bAYb-2FHtIBQ7noSONSAWTahCpcUgWfhw-2B1q13aHT5kMs0C2dhDxA2T-2BPrtymeh5f-2BAL2jYLdeMDTdzZupzFHFc1RyhhfKKnkOp1e1-2BQHTM6r92MN3HSIol4c7XSgktyXHcc-2FHXFsa-2B3n5mtZtXL-2Bc-3D) and is a gateway to Latin America, North Africa and the Middle east.

* 1. [**Appealing to Spanish consumers**](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6py3VzkzqLVckjxCAgNY4BU-2BRBdvhzemspBLpvPaD7JDr6nuZtuSESssQfNwjTXmf2g-3D04CT_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgpexoiHOwJe6W5azxXhWHXC9ZuZ6CbMPdn0LmbUuxMkZJmuz-2FgVdABZnStIsX0-2BFjI7kxPGs6qbUIEzAs52Uf1Ecr0NCmhkF2ZKgnZahcZX6P9UbhwQnSZK-2FNdRjCE4TWxiBqzNsQxE1S-2B-2F-2B50WpkgyQHSdmyLFJM9n0zfLZiezdbd-2BsrVsixnHfCTfNXH23xDqdbgzrXCQ0SYu4VufkgQCj9aia63LekYJr1Fey8uJZ3bw-2Fl78rsysnAHNRdH2mSs-2FoA6iNUFtn5YAXdQuSL44neBEuFYO00658S4TDzz1uDxXWpDNKQR2ud33tRCI6wIKxaDysGyXtGM3NWgvJhWw-3D)

[What are Spaniards looking for? And how do they view New Zealand products & services.](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6py3VzkzqLVckjxCAgNY4BU-2BRBdvhzemspBLpvPaD7JDr6nuZtuSESssQfNwjTXmf2g-3DSkPM_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgpexoiHOwJe6W5azxXhWHXC9ZuZ6CbMPdn0LmbUuxMkZJmuz-2FgVdABZnStIsX0-2BFjI7kxPGs6qbUIEzAs52Uf1Ecr0NCmhkF2ZKgnZahcZX6P9UbhwQnSZK-2FNdRjCE4TWxiBqzNsQxE1S-2B-2F-2B50WpkgyQHSdmyLFJM9n0zfLZiezdbd-2BsrVsixnHfCTfNXH23xNCTnjmZeYQjAkZucaYT-2F-2BJTRtVAej-2F-2FfsfLaMTwfA9lEO4XNZEJd5iQKpLtF4M-2BV1TsZghbgwkHbc8eKKH6bR2egrJdbSY09p8X7zyon6rtjWfqoWV5TmODBuHG9pUkEzHva-2BaNI56jOIEajJS0NZQ-3D)

* 1. [**Business culture in Spain**](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pxLRMw-2Bli68VROHg5jjXUw6G4sZcUqF-2BVYxFLW1rqqIOyqARzl6iKyxQuXp3bz30g8-3D8fRg_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgpexoiHOwJe6W5azxXhWHXC9ZuZ6CbMPdn0LmbUuxMkZJmuz-2FgVdABZnStIsX0-2BFjI7kxPGs6qbUIEzAs52Uf1Ecr0NCmhkF2ZKgnZahcZX6P9UbhwQnSZK-2FNdRjCE4TWxiBqzNsQxE1S-2B-2F-2B50WpkgyQHSdmyLFJM9n0zfLZiezdbd-2BsrVsixnHfCTfNXH23xOFJVmX-2F7dNiayiyvKLUZO7lSDJfoueysbxY882MxmMs951NLHXQy340GO-2BOkQd-2BqtScsX-2FP07r80zw13qUZZO0aAwwHAhT2E5AUjnk-2Fs1-2FxgTFQc5Akt7DQ11spQgmq4J92jWl-2BANflaAY-2BQLj6bBU-3D)

[Friendly but formal, business contacts will expect you to put in the time to build relationships.](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pxLRMw-2Bli68VROHg5jjXUw6G4sZcUqF-2BVYxFLW1rqqIOyqARzl6iKyxQuXp3bz30g8-3DPDts_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgpexoiHOwJe6W5azxXhWHXC9ZuZ6CbMPdn0LmbUuxMkZJmuz-2FgVdABZnStIsX0-2BFjI7kxPGs6qbUIEzAs52Uf1Ecr0NCmhkF2ZKgnZahcZX6P9UbhwQnSZK-2FNdRjCE4TWxiBqzNsQxE1S-2B-2F-2B50WpkgyQHSdmyLFJM9n0zfLZiezdbd-2BsrVsixnHfCTfNXH23xEK3x4GRaK0iUxtzE7kj3PXrSsvyzipET0Ga9Ze-2B2CTYnpI-2FeXKcTW6eUVDVPzBZaevLAoLeLVGgZ-2FgpZma3WfFuEsvyBGrYdSCU-2BDIYNCv-2BUs-2FmzRbGQRG0Dnpz-2Fv5xUew-2FgbuNpa3d38Zctmjv-2Ftc-3D)

* 1. [**Spanish importing regulations**](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pxuUdD8h-2FC2srmUtyo3Kk-2BXLkP7GlrkfX-2FVBQawb-2Bhkbvw-2BfXebUmyoFa5ix4dhnoI-3D6P6N_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgpexoiHOwJe6W5azxXhWHXC9ZuZ6CbMPdn0LmbUuxMkZJmuz-2FgVdABZnStIsX0-2BFjI7kxPGs6qbUIEzAs52Uf1Ecr0NCmhkF2ZKgnZahcZX6P9UbhwQnSZK-2FNdRjCE4TWxiBqzNsQxE1S-2B-2F-2B50WpkgyQHSdmyLFJM9n0zfLZiezdbd-2BsrVsixnHfCTfNXH23xJk4UPvyWWLQPY4Z-2BSVCtWD85pn6xK2bYpHyx0eCSLiBRBBKpk7t1RHkSE0Ulrgdv8E12KZIGyUJzl9KlzRnjq0eO6kvoSIhz-2FVFOg-2F56ZvjJQKVUQXSgz36Y7-2FKITALF4m1yVeYLeWWcESmUa5U-2Fj0-3D)

[What to know about tariffs, regulations, product standards and labelling requirements in Spain.](http://url7370.nzte.govt.nz/ls/click?upn=Owp1uw3vMpPcEy4FDu-2Fc9aOjQSuIDfK6iMI4zhd-2F6pxuUdD8h-2FC2srmUtyo3Kk-2BXLkP7GlrkfX-2FVBQawb-2Bhkbvw-2BfXebUmyoFa5ix4dhnoI-3D3jNi_r95Xg7-2BqhKQOvO-2B4rh9LgpexoiHOwJe6W5azxXhWHXC9ZuZ6CbMPdn0LmbUuxMkZJmuz-2FgVdABZnStIsX0-2BFjI7kxPGs6qbUIEzAs52Uf1Ecr0NCmhkF2ZKgnZahcZX6P9UbhwQnSZK-2FNdRjCE4TWxiBqzNsQxE1S-2B-2F-2B50WpkgyQHSdmyLFJM9n0zfLZiezdbd-2BsrVsixnHfCTfNXH23xLZf4RNWjsfGtKidxMBGQhibeOtNrZy6Dj5Dv1WLxQlMxWRVI0BdHsKeek1VIQWBNaUlbKOhB3X8wJxy2outaIAuQYtpomBY0l7CCC-2BUvtvfxTo7clLHrxi12WErNbQs45Gpy2Qu-2Be09smcZ2E0BzTE-3D)



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. [**Next steps for NZ UK free trade agreement**](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/next-steps-nz-uk-free-trade-agreement)

The Government’s strong trade agenda is underscored today with the introduction of the United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement Legislation Bill to the House, Trade and Export Growth Minister Damien O’Connor announced last week “Today takes us a step closer to our exporters and businesses enjoying the benefits of this excellent deal, which we signed in March.

The Bill will align New Zealand’s domestic law with obligations in the FTA, including amendments to the Tariff Act 1988, the Tariff, the Customs and Excise Regulations 1996, the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act 2001, the Overseas Investment Act 2005, the Overseas Investment Regulations 2005, and the Copyright Act 1994. The Bill also creates new regime required to administer a transitional apple export quota. The United Kingdom is undertaking a similar process and once both countries have completed their respective ratification processes, the FTA can enter into force.

The Bill will be set down for first reading in the following weeks, before going through Select Committee, with the aim to complete New Zealand ratification processes for entry into force by the end of 2022.

 **Semminars**

* 1. [Food science seminar Remote Audits & Assessments - Future Outlook](https://massey.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3sIkI69KTl6AKaBQ1F7STQ)

A panel discussion about remote auditing will be held at **10 am on Friday the 8th of July** to hear Professor Pavel Castka from the University of Canterbury and Chris Hewins from New Zealand Food Safety at MPI share their insights on this important topic. Professor Castka will outline some of the key challenges and opportunities related to remote auditing as well as discussing the implications for food companies and for regulators. Chris Hewins will cover aspects from his work to develop remote verification under the Food Act 2014 providing insights on how the tried-and-tested remote verification process was invaluable to MPI for maintaining verification services during the COVID-19 response.[Register here](https://massey.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3sIkI69KTl6AKaBQ1F7STQ)

** Commentary**

* 1. [**Nadine Agribusiness Agenda muddled**, **opportunity packed, risk burdened story’**](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/muddled-opportunity-packed-risk-burdened-story/)

Nadine Thatcher comments that KPMG released its annual Agribusiness Agenda for 2022 last week.

*She feels the following paragraph from the Agenda summarises how many horticulturalists are feeling*

‘There is no single theme, trend, or story that nicely summarises the perspectives we heard from industry leaders. It is a muddled, opportunity packed, risk burdened story of high highs and almost as low lows. But it is one of an industry where each leader is working their way through the fatigue we wrote about last year (which has gone nowhere and, if anything, is just… more draining)…’

Everyone is tired and uncertain about the future, even if there is a strong belief that the food and fibre sector in New Zealand has a bright future – but only if we can find pragmatic ways through the current challenges, so growers can return to profitability so they can invest in the future envisaged. This is a Catch 22 and the entire food and fibre sector is facing it, if not the whole of the New Zealand economy in a post-Covid world context.

Worldwide debt has risen due to the world’s response to Covid and now inflation is taking a hold, driving up costs and prices for everything. I am frustrated by the current debate in New Zealand around rising vegetable prices because it ignores the fact that the cost of growing vegetables and transporting them to market has increased significantly, putting a squeeze on returns to growers – returns that have not increased for more than a decade.

Ian Proudfoot goes on in his foreword to talk about ‘curated facts’ and ‘political populism’ in the context of trade and the need to reconnect now with the world and consumers in overseas markets. Debate about where food comes from and how it is produced will only continue, as climate change becomes more pronounced and parts of the world fight, either through greed for more resources or for survival.

Debate about how food is produced in New Zealand is increasing overseas. The day after the KPMG report was published, New Zealand commentator, Rod Oram wrote a piece titled ‘If everybody ate the average New Zealander’s diet, we’d need another planet to sustain us’. This piece was a review and analysis of British writer, George Monbiot’s latest book [Regenesis: Feeding the world without devouring the planet](https://hortnz.sharepoint.com/sites/Communications/Shared%20Documents/General/02%20Newsletter/2022%20Newsletter/2022-06-22%20Jun/Rod%20Oram_%20'If%20everybody%20ate%20the%20average%20NZer’s%20diet%20we'd%20need%20another%20planet%20to%20sustain%20us'%20_%20Newsroom.pdf),

* 1. [**HWEN best available option**](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/hwen-best-available-option)

Michael Ahie says the farm-level system will enable each farmer and grower to clearly see the direct impact of their on-farm decisions. *And is the best option for dealing with* on-farm emissions .

Ahie told Rural News that it's important to remember that NZ has a biological economy and that the ETS is not the answer to dealing with agricultural emissions. Ahie believes the HWEN recommendations enable sustainable food and fibre production for future generations, while playing a fair part in meeting the country's climate commitments, and is the simplest, best system. He hopes politicians will support it. The balance of the article talks about Beef and Lambs support and concerns

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* 1. [**Seed companies play their part in containing costs**](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/media-releases/seed-companies-play-their-part/)

Seed companies are trying to manage their costs to growers in an effort to reduce their spending.

New Zealand Grain and Seed Trade Association (NZGSTA) vice-president, Charlotte Connoley, says seed costs are continually increasing due to factors such as testing, logistics and particularly airfreight.

“It’s pretty difficult. All companies are aware of the situation and they’re putting in place processes that can reduce costs where they can,” she says.

Some companies are buying in two years’ supply of some seeds rather than just one, in the hope that will avoid future price increases and reduce the cost at which they can supply seed to growers.

“They are taking on a lot more risk in trying to manage costs,” Charlotte says. “There’s pressure on everyone and seed companies recognise they’ve got to play their part to keep a lid on it.”

* 1. [**'European Green Deal could see food become a luxury'**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9438244/european-green-deal-could-see-food-become-a-luxury/)

Is food set to be a luxury of the wealthy? This is the question that resounds from reviewing the agricultural policies that Europe seeks to adopt - policies that will have major implications for New Zealand food producers exporting to Europe .With 800 million people going to bed hungry every night and an expected rise in global population from 7.8 to 9.5 billion by 2050, food security must be at the heart of any political agenda for agriculture.

New Zealand exports over NZ$1.1 billion in horticultural products to Continental Europe, making it one of our top export markets. The 'chemical strategy' for sustainability - part of the Farm to Fork strategy of the EU Green Deal – risks the loss of tools to manage pests and diseases and disregards the importance of affordable and healthy food for human survival. Europe will demand more regulation on all food as imported food must comply with the same environmental standards as food produced in Europe - meaning that countries must 'mirror' the EU's standards.

The Deal will affect our food exports, especially if crop protection products are banned from use on the continent due to rules preventing the manufacture and export of some substances. The products it bans will not be able to be used for growing food destined for the continent due to a risk of 'illegal' residues. This imposes a change in the products that can be used for managing pests and diseases. It also forces exporters to produce all food the same way or face increasing complexities for exporting to the EU and other nations – as it's not always practicable, or even possible, for one farmer to produce food differently for different markets.

The Deal sets a precedent for all countries, especially those who rely on exports to the continent, to follow suit. Many, especially developing nations, will not have access to the same means or tools to meet those standards – ultimately hindering food security and economic growth for those who need it the most. Not all farmers are as heavily subsidized as their European counterparts.

* 1. [N**eed for Strategy will help farming face change**](https://www.farmersweekly.co.nz/strategy-will-help-farming-face-change/)

Te Puna Whakaaronui Thought Leaders group chair Lain Jager says our competitors are investing to adapt to global food system and technological change and NZ should be too. He says there is a short window of opportunity to invest and make progress.

Strategies that are incomplete will not attract investment and if you can’t invest in them then you can’t move forward. “Without clear strategy and capacity to implement change this country will go backwards,” Jager told the E Tipu Boma Agri Summit in Christchurch.

“We know the politics of environmental excellence and licence to operate, we have four drivers of success.” Jager outlined these as: absolute commitment to environmental excellence; alignment of incentives, investment and policy to enable and accelerate innovation; sustaining the current strong natural foods position; and sustained leadership to realise potential in new sectors and markets.

Referring to Well NZ – reframing NZ’s food sector opportunities, Jager pointed to the three drivers of change impacting food and fibre value chains as climate change, consumer needs and rapidly developing technology.

Well NZ describes the evolution of global food and fibre value chains, identifying risks and opportunities.

* 1. **[New Zealand welcomes global avocado community ahead of 2023 World Avocado Congress](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9438622/new-zealand-welcomes-global-avocado-community-ahead-of-2023-world-avocado-congress/)**

New Zealand’s growing avocado industry will take the spotlight in April 2023 when the country hosts the World Avocado Congress for the first time ever. The global avocado market worth approximately $8 billion (USD) in 2020, and expected to grow to $17 billion (USD) by 2025, the World Avocado Congress has become the most prestigious global event to celebrate the sector.  
  
Taking place from 2-5 April 2023 at the Aotea Centre in Auckland, the congress is anticipated to attract over 1000 people from 50 countries, including some of the brightest minds in avocados; international growers, researchers, marketers, retailers, tech innovators and investors.  
  
“The World Avocado Congress will showcase New Zealand’s leadership in avocado growing, sustainable environmental practice, beautiful orchards, ethical work treatment and great tasting avocados. We’re excited to have the scientific, technical and marketing brains of the global avocado community in NZ, sharing their knowledge, hearing about our industry, and being part of the collective approach seeking to increase both supply and demand of avocados.” Super early bird tickets are now available on the World Avocado Congress website [www.wacnz2023.com](http://www.wacnz2023.com). Information regarding exhibition space, abstract submission, accommodation, sponsorship packages and field day bookings can also be found on the website.

* 1. **[Farming to maramataka, the Māori calendar](https://www.farmersweekly.co.nz/farming-to-maramataka-the-maori-calendar/)**

Before the first European explorers came to Aotearoa, Māori already had well-established māra kai (gardening for food) practices to feed themselves. “Māori were always ‘gardeners’ in that they grew or managed plants for food. Early colonial contacts introduced new foods, but also the settler lifestyle relied very heavily on self-sufficiency-type lifestyle,” author and Massey University Professor in Ethnobotany, Horticulture and Māori Resource and Environmental Management Nick Rāhiri Roskruge said.

However, one notable difference between Māori farming practices and European farming is that Māori ancestors farmed according to maramataka (the lunar calendar), with Matariki marking the start of a new year. “Matariki is a celebration of the new year through the recognition of the star constellation as a tohu (to mark) of that period. It recognises the māra kai activity, which should mostly be resting at that time and preparation for the future growing season is being thought out,” he said.

Traditionally, Māori measured time according to the nights rather than the days. Nightly cycles began with the new moon. Each night of a lunar month was named and described according to how favourable or unfavourable it was for fishing, eeling or planting.  Modern day farming practices in NZ differ vastly from traditional Māori practices. He recommends his book The Introduction to Establishing a Māra Kai – Ko Mahinga O Toku Māra Kai as a good starting point for those looking to learn more about traditional farming practices.



* 1. [**Weaker Japanese yen a spoiler as orchid sales rebound**](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/469526/weaker-japanese-yen-a-spoiler-as-orchid-sales-rebound)

Covid-19 lockdowns [forced the industry to shift into survival mode,](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/covid-19/414311/2020-a-year-for-survival-not-money-making-for-flower-exporters) but the head of NZ Bloom, the country's largest flower exporter, said the industry rebounded with sizeable payoffs for growers last year. Managing director David Ballard told RNZ growers were getting strong prices, but international demand for orchids was mixed.

"The big change this year from last year, is that the yen has weakened a lot; it's sitting at, I think, nearly a 30-year low against the US dollar," he said. "Japan is the largest market for cymbidium orchids, so that means the returns out of Japan aren't as good as we would like them to be, which really means we're trying to move more product into other markets." Many growers were pivoting to export to the strong North American market instead, but it was not all plain sailing there either, Ballard said.

Lile other sectors labour and freight continue to challenge the Industry

* 1. [**Samoa PM looks to 'raise the quality' of RSE programme**](https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/469270/samoa-pm-looks-to-raise-the-quality-of-rse-programme)

The Prime Minister of Samoa has confirmed her government is looking at halting the open recruitment process for RSE workers. In her address to horticulture industry leaders in Hawke's Bay on Thursday, Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa made it clear that Samoa's government wants to strengthen the RSE scheme, not stop it.

She said this is why there is a review into the recruitment process. Having arrangements with villages or organisations may be the way to go, Fiamē said.

[Fiame wraps up Aotearoa visit duration 5′ :28″](https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/programmes/datelinepacific/audio/2018846297/fiame-wraps-up-aotearoa-visit)

"When groups travel and they come from the same village there is a greater level of success because there are built in controls and support systems," Fiamē said.She also highlighted concerns around labour mobility at the function. "Samoa is a small country and labour mobility is important in terms of us having access to work here but we also have to keep the balance so that the workforce is also in a good place back at home", Fiamē said.

He said the issues cropping up in Australia and New Zealand were the same, including drinking alcohol. Fiamē thanked New Zealand's employers for supporting workers throughout Covid-19 and acknowledged the tough time Samoan RSE workers have had throughout the pandemic.

"I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you as employers. I appreciate the efforts that have

* 1. [**Farmer's broccoli kayak caper comes a cropper**](https://hortnz.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=aecda7aaa04d433b3c1267c8e&id=35ff76091b&e=2b699d0a67)

A RNZ story about a Pirongia Farmers that used a kayak to harvest his flooded broccoli but then ditched the harvest because of public health concerns

* 1. **[NZ's Scientists support move to a billion-dollar avocados](https://hortnz.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=aecda7aaa04d433b3c1267c8e&id=dc7c9e2de6&e=2b699d0a67" \t "_blank)**

*Article about work underway within Plant and Food research to help make avocado orchard systems more productive, PFR is tackling the most pressing challenges, including a big focus on irregular bearing and post-harvest rots*

* 1. [**Great growing season has resulted in an early mandarin crop**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9437693/great-growing-season-has-resulted-in-an-early-mandarin-crop-with-high-yields-and-quality-fruit/)

Northland is one of New Zealand’s largest mandarin growing regions. This year T&G will harvest over 80,000 crates of satsuma mandarins from the area with additional production from Auckland and Gisborne regions. *This article talks to the main producers of Satsumas about the crop and their current concerns about labour . Seeka has been using gifts and prizes to encourage people to turn up to work.*

* 1. [**New Zealand's fresh fruit season in China officially kicks off**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9437584/new-zealand-s-fresh-fruit-season-in-china-officially-kicks-off/)

*Long article that talks about NZTE’s event to support New Zealand fruit sales in* *China* New Zealand has a unique natural environment and excellent research and development capabilities for new products and has always been rich in various high-quality fruits. It’s healthy, safe and delicious characteristics are becoming more and more important to the public, and a variety of fruits from New Zealand are becoming more and more popular in the market.

Coinciding with the official upgrade of the China-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement and the new season of New Zealand fruit being fully launched in 2022, New Zealand Trade Development Agency will join hands with China’s leading fruit and vegetable industry leader, Joy Wing Mau Fruit Technology Group, and major New Zealand fruit exporters to join forces to further help New Zealand fruit to further develop into the Chinese market. On June 18, a 2022 New Zealand fresh fruit launch conference was held with the themes of "New" and "Healthy New Life", the conference brought together 8 well-known fruit exporters from New Zealand: Bostock, Mr Apple, Zespri, Rockit, Freshmax, Golden Bay Fruit, T&G Global, Freshco, to present a feast of "new" fresh New Zealand fruits to consumers.

At the conference, a New Zealand gift box specially customized for the Chinese market was also launched, containing more than ten kinds of fine fruits, which were jointly launched by the above-mentioned 8 well-known New Zealand fruit exporters.

* 1. [**Finalists For Major Award Delivered 300,000 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Boxes**](https://www.unitedfresh.co.nz/news-events/newsletters/united-fresh-news/finalists-for-major-award-delivered-300-000-fresh-fruit-and-vegetable-boxes-to-wh-nau-during-lockdown)

As the country prepared to lockdown in March 2020, the small team of just five staff at United Fresh New Zealand Incorporated quickly realised the impact that a nationwide shutdown would have on the country’s $6 billion horticulture industry. Their immediate actions to redirect hundreds of tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables to food banks and community organisations, ensuring the country’s most vulnerable had access to nutritious food, has resulted in a place in the finals of the Primary Industries New Zealand Awards.  
  
Within days, the small team had sought Ministry of Health approval to divert FIS funding, presented a funding proposal to the Ministry for Primary Industries for further assistance, and liaised with United Fresh member, Foodstuffs, to secure a donation of 700 boxes of fruit and vegetables. “We contacted foodbanks and City Missions to gauge demand for fresh produce  amongst their communities. As word spread, a number of smaller organisations asked to be included in the project. The most efficient way to move produce out to communities was to work with large foodbank organisations that in turn distributed the produce to smaller groups,” says Dudley. *The balance of the article talks about what was needed to get the system up and running*.

The Fruit and Vegetable Box Project Statistics 10 regions , 25 food distribution centres, 125 satellite organisations, 294,000 boxes delivered in 2020 and 50,000 boxes delivered in 2021

* 1. **[Bad weather not inflation responsible for vegetable price increases](https://hortnz.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=aecda7aaa04d433b3c1267c8e&id=cfbc802450&e=2b699d0a67" \t "_blank)**

***RNZ story with Leader brands manager saying bad weather will force up the short term availability and price of vegetables over the next few months***

* 1. [**Growers are also suffering from increasing fruit and veg prices**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9439164/growers-are-also-suffering-from-increasing-fruit-and-veg-prices/)

As consumer confidence in the produce industry is dropping, some customers are wondering if growers are now reaping big rewards. This does not seem to be the case. Allan Fong's family has been in the horticulture business for nearly 60 years. He said there has never been a more difficult time to be a grower:

A few years ago many of his buyers were in hospitality, but Covid-19 took away almost all of these clients. "We basically lost up to or between 80-100 percent of our food service business. "Fertiliser's between a 60-80 percent increase this year; crop protection products, probably anything from 25 to 30 percent increase, diesel got up to a 25 percent increase. So these are all impacted on us. Our freight rates have gone up because of the diesel surcharges." So despite many shoppers assuming growers are putting up their prices due to these overheads, that is not the case.

* 1. [**Taiwanese mangoes officially launched in New Zealand**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9438021/taiwanese-mangoes-officially-launched-in-new-zealand/)

On June 17, the Auckland Office held a mango promotion conference from Taiwan to showcase the high-quality fresh mangoes that were directly delivered to New Zealand by air from Taiwan that week, and to promote the development of Taiwanese agricultural products in the New Zealand market.



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. **Canada Publishes Final Regulations Banning Single-Use Plastics** [Canada Publishes Final Regulations Banning Single-Use Plastics\_Ottawa\_Canada\_CA2022-0016](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Canada%20Publishes%20Final%20Regulations%20Banning%20Single-Use%20Plastics_Ottawa_Canada_CA2022-0016)
2. **Hong Kong Retail Foods** [Retail Foods\_Hong Kong\_Hong Kong\_HK2022-0047](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods_Hong%20Kong_Hong%20Kong_HK2022-0047)
3. **Italy Retail Foods** [Retail Foods\_Rome\_Italy\_IT2022-0012](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods_Rome_Italy_IT2022-0012)
4. **Netherlands Government Presents National Program to Reduce Nitrogen Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Rural Areas**  [Government Presents National Program to Reduce Nitrogen Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Rural Areas \_The Hague\_Netherlands\_NL2022-0035](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Government%20Presents%20National%20Program%20to%20Reduce%20Nitrogen%20Greenhouse%20Gas%20Emissions%20in%20Rural%20Areas%20_The%20Hague_Netherlands_NL2022-0035)
5. **Saudi Arabia Retail Foods** [Retail Foods\_Riyadh\_Saudi Arabia\_SA2022-0007](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods_Riyadh_Saudi%20Arabia_SA2022-0007)
6. **Vietnam Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report\_Hanoi\_Vietnam\_VM2022-0039](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Country%20Report_Hanoi_Vietnam_VM2022-0039) a**nd Export Certificate Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report\_Hanoi\_Vietnam\_VM2022-0040](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Export%20Certificate%20Report_Hanoi_Vietnam_VM2022-0040)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. [**USDA announces assistance for on-farm food safety expenses for specialty crop growers**](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9438153/usda-announces-assistance-for-on-farm-food-safety-expenses-for-specialty-crop-growers/)

The Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) will assist specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and related expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 and 2023. For each year, FSCSC covers a percentage of the specialty crop operation’s cost of obtaining or renewing their certification, as well as a portion of their related expenses.

Specialty crop operations may receive assistance for the following costs:

* Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.
* Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.
* Food safety certification.
* Certification upload fees.
* Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments, and water.
* Training

* 1. **[The EC wants to reduce the use of chemical pesticides in the EU by 50% by 2030](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9438860/the-ec-wants-to-reduce-the-use-of-chemical-pesticides-in-the-eu-by-50-by-2030/)**

On Wednesday, the 22nd of June, the European Commission (EC) presented a proposal to force a 50% reduction in the use of chemical pesticides in the European Union by 2030, which will translate into different national targets, depending on the starting situation of each Member State.

To compensate for the impact on farmers, who will have to make a special effort to comply with the new rules, Brussels also proposed that they could benefit from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) support for five years.

According to Brussels, the existing pesticide legislation has proven to be too weak and has been applied unevenly .In addition, it proposes new rules on pest control, which will ensure that all farmers and other professional users practice integrated pest management. The measures also include mandatory record-keeping for farmers and other professional users. In addition, Member States should lay down specific rules for crops and identify alternatives to be used in place of chemical pesticides.

Another novelty is the total ban on pesticides in sensitive areas, such as urban green areas, including public parks and gardens, playgrounds, schools, and sports centers, as well as protected areas of the Natura 2000 network and any ecologically sensitive areas to be preserved for threatened pollinators.

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. [**Global Produce & Floral Show to be held in Florida**](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9436471/global-produce-floral-show-launches/)

The International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) has officially launched The Global Produce & Floral Show. The show will be held October 27-29 in Orlando, Florida. Registrations and hotel reservations are open, and there are still opportunities to join the show floor.

The show will be three days of the global produce and floral supply chains coming together to share innovative solutions, network, and hear from global leaders and experts. The schedule, travel and hotel information, and registration are available [here](https://www.freshproduce.com/events/the-global-produce-and-floral-show/).

* 1. [**COVID, lockdowns and the impacts in China today**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9438923/covid-lockdowns-and-the-impacts-in-china-today/)

While the world began reopening in early 2022, one country still maintains many pandemic policies and travel restrictions. Vanguard connected with the head of its Shanghai office, Timothy Li, to chat about China’s COVID lockdowns and how these are impacting the produce industry in Asia.

 Shanghai is a key market for produce imports in China and as such, the lockdowns have had major impacts on sales, particularly in the eastern China regions. The lockdown checkpoints on the highways and exit route closures set limitations for logistics to transfer products out of Shanghai to nearby cities and provinces. Every checkpoint requires drivers to have a valid permit and a 48-hour COVID test. The driver limitation and slow clearance of containers limits container storage space at the Shanghai port. This has led to congestion of containers at the port and importers experiencing a minimum of a one-week delay to clear their containers, if not longer.

All restaurants and supermarkets in China are also closed leading to less demand for imported fresh produce. But they are seeing very high demand for fresh fruit and vegetables domestically inside China, especially for produce with a long shelf-life such as apples and pears. This has led to a rise in prices for these items. Another layer, which is a familiar one globally, is the limited empty containers available due to the congestion at the port. This is coupled with various shipping line cancellations, schedule changes and increased ocean freight rates. The most impacted fruits are imported grapefruit and grapes.

Importers and wholesalers both feel positive about the future market demand, even though it is predicted to take at least one month to recover back to pre-lockdown status. The summer season is the peak sales period for fruit and hopes of an improved recovery in July.

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

* 1. [**Strikes in US, Asian and European ports threaten shippers**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9437743/strikes-in-us-asian-and-european-ports-threaten-shippers/)

The latest strikes in ports of Asia, Europe and the US represent a threat to shippers, precisely in the high season. Specifically, problems were recorded in Germany, South Korea and the west coast of North America. The article provides a small amount of information on these strikes

* 1. **[Air freight demand begins to decrease amid global economic turmoil](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9437866/air-freight-demand-begins-to-decrease-amid-global-economic-turmoil/)**

The strong cargo demand that helped airlines stay afloat during the Covid pandemic is showing signs of softening amid growing economic uncertainty. The latter, in part, has been fuelled by decades high inflation. A potential weakening of the air freight market coincides with growing concern in the aviation industry that a resurging passenger traffic situation, which has reduced airlines' reliance on cargo revenue, may be fleeting.

* 1. [**Continued decrease in ocean freight spot rates is positive measure to curb inflation**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9438920/continued-decrease-in-ocean-freight-spot-rates-is-positive-measure-to-curb-inflation/)

With demand cooling from both the consumer and retailer segments, ocean freight spot rates between China and North America are seeing new lows. The ocean freight rates are intrinsically connected to the retail industry as it makes up over half of all imports into the country. While global container lines have tried measures like blanking sails and removing capacity from the market, falling retail demand has pulled down ocean spot freight rates.

“The issue of increased freight rates and inflation has been a major topic of discussion in the U.S. markets including the efforts by the U.S. Government and Congress who have been actively involved in trying to curb ocean freight prices including the recent passing of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022 (OSRA22),” said Levy.

This aside, the growth of new import orders has also slowed down, which points to an extended period of volumes staying lower than expected. While it was anticipated that order numbers into China would pour in at high volumes with the loosening of restrictions in Shanghai, it was not to be, as it received a lukewarm response from shippers.

The sheer number of disruptions to production in China due to the country’s strict COVID zero restrictions is another cause for a fall in Chinese volumes reaching the U.S. Data , also, indicates that the hike in interest rates by the Fed is another blow to consumerism, as other industries, including services and real estate, see a hit in fortunes. Mortgage rates going up significantly from last year can result in slowing house construction starts, further reducing related retail spending.

here



* 1. [**New climate research shows that ‘clean eating’ is complicated**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9439105/new-climate-research-shows-that-clean-eating-is-more-complicated-than-we-thought/)

For a while now, climate-conscious consumers have embraced plant-based diets as a way to avoid the emissions-heavy meat industry. However, new research suggests a low-carbon diet is more complicated than it seems. The global transportation of food produces up to 7.5 times more greenhouse-gas emissions than previously estimated, according to a peer-reviewed study published in the journal Nature Food. More than one-third of those emissions are generated by the international trade of fruits and vegetables, nearly twice what’s produced by growing them, according to the paper.

Demand by wealthy countries for year-round fresh fruits and vegetables, plus other agriculture products, is responsible for 46% of “food-mile” emissions even though those nations account for only 12.5% of the global population. The study complicates carbon calculations around plant-based diets. While livestock raised for meat is responsible for the bulk of agricultural production emissions, fruits and vegetables are particularly carbon-intensive to ship due to their bulk and the need for refrigeration during transport, according to the researchers.

* 1. **['The world can be fed with only plant-based food'](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9438195/the-world-can-be-fed-with-only-plant-based-food/)**

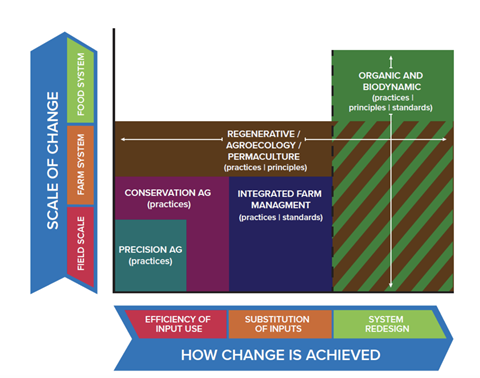
Sufficient plant proteins are produced in the world to feed todays world's population, says Dr. Stacy Pyett, Program Manager Proteins for Life at WUR. If all consumers on earth switch to a plant-based diet, more plant proteins will become available for human consumption, says Pyett, because currently roughly half of the plant proteins are used as animal feed. The amount of available vegetable proteins is more than sufficient *The article contains her rationale the calculations which show t*he worldwide availability of vegetable proteins (346 million tons) is more than sufficient to meet the worldwide need for proteins in the human diet(227 million tons). Further the current diet requires an average of 0.17 hectares of agricultural land per person per day, while the vegan diet only requires 0.12 hectares. So with a completely plant-based diet you need almost 30 percent less agricultural land in the world,

* 1. [**Organic the benchmark for advanced regenerative farming**](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/organic-the-benchmark-for-advanced-regenerative-farming/246518.article)

OF&G (Organic Farmers & Growers), the largest certifier of organic land in the UK, has published a policy paper to clarify the position of organic within the context of regenerative agriculture.

According to chief executive Roger Kerr, the term ‘regenerative agriculture’ has gained traction in recent years, but risks creating confusion. More than 85 per cent of OF&G’s licensees express concern over the lack of a clear definition.

An analysis of 279 published articles on regenerative agriculture by researchers at Wageningen University showed that different principles and practices were being used to guide their interpretation, OF&G stated.



“For over 70 years, organic production has focused on strengthening the health of soils,” said Kerr. “Organic producers already undertake regenerative practices, day in, day out, as they implement clear and legally binding organic production standards. Organic prohibits the use of artificial fertilisers and synthetic biocides that are known to impact climate change and biodiversity loss. According to OF&G, organic management has a proven positive impact on soil-based greenhouse gas emissions and soil health. “On average the climate protection performance of organic results in 1,082kg CO2-equivalent per hectare per year, due to lower greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration in soils,” it stated.

* 1. [Microplastics decrease lentil seedling growth](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9439007/shedding-light-on-the-impact-of-microplastics-on-lentil-seedling-growth/)

Microplastic pollution is known to negatively impact seed germination and seedling growth. Although some studies have demonstrated the effects of microplastics on seed germination, the impact of microplastics on the internal biological activity of seeds remained unknown. Now, a group of researchers has used biospeckle optical coherence tomography to reveal that microplastics significantly hinder the internal activity in lentil seeds during germination and can lead to stunted growth at later stages---. This is likely due to the physical blockage of pores, which leads to stunted growth at later stages,” says Prof. Rajagopalan, one of the researchers 

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