

**PMAC weekly update 21st to 28th June**

1. **Government agencies**: ICPR changes, Fit for a better world update, WTO and TBT Notifications, MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 25 June 2021

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1. **New Zealand News:**  Face to face meeting delivers significant progress on NZ-UK FTA , Foreign Minister speech to the India New Zealand Business Council Summit, Phasing out fossil fuels for greenhouse heating, Chunbo signs strategic cooperation agreement to see NZ apples, T&G’s AGM 2021 is even more challenging than 2020, McCains requires food produced using regenerative practices, NZ couple launch "My Greens" hydroponic garden initiative, Tongan RSE worker fatally stabbed in Blenheim, Campaign aims to retain horticultural workers in Cromwell community, Cheaper loans for sustainability initiatives, PepMV brings a halt to New Zealand tomato exports, Fruit fly larvae discovery halts mango and lychee imports from Taiwan
2. **International news:** GAIN reports; UK starts negotiations to join trans-Pacific trade deal, How will new German law on due diligence affect Latin American banana producers, EU and US pass climate laws, Focusing on value, not production volume, David Hughes, - the latest in food trends , Qatar addresses food security, Blueprint for food security projects in Bahrain, ‘Food shortages inevitable in UK’, Three steps towards local food security, Producing proteins using microalgae to give optimum efficiency, Barriers to vertical farming, Growing insects in a shipping container, Is vertical farming the future of food?, Covid outbreak at Chinese ports further hit global shipping operations, Environmental impact assessment of local decoupled multi-loop aquaponics in urban context, SHAFFE What a sustainable produce industry could look like by 2030, Sustainability drives consumer purchases, Watch The Flower Council of Hollands 2022-2023 Year Presentation, US: Will consumers continue buying flowers and plants in 2021?, Potato nutrients may reduce risk of hypertension, Australian Fruit & Vegetable Consortium asks parties to invest in a happier, healthier & wealthier Australia; Dutch technology for reefer transport reduces fruit waste on a global scale, Biobest using AI and robotics to support IPM"

Comment

Recently I looked at the statistics for this weekly update and found 60% of the emails are opened on a mobile rather than a laptop. As a consequence, I’ve reviewed the updates format to see if I can make it more mobile friendly . What I would like to do is provide you direct access to each article in the update . This however would be a huge undertaking each week . Instead, I am going to trial (for a month) still producing the update but expanding it by providing direct access to the original articles (where possible) vis the email you receive

You’ll see the PMAC weekly update with the summarised articles will still be down loadable from the email you receive. However, if instead, you want to go straight to the full article you can. I’d be very interested in comments or suggestions for further improvements at info@pmac.co.nz

As things have turned out this trial coincides with a bumper lot of articles so in some respects it will also be a stress test for the new approach. There’s one particular group of articles I’d like to point you to this week that deal with Food security. You’ll see there are articles from Qatar, Bahrain and UK raising concerns about their food security. This is followed by an article/ video about three steps towards local food security which is promoting vertical farming. It contains a video which is designed to scare people about food security and will help you appreciate the pressure some Governments must be under to boost/ replace imports with domestic production. It’s a movement I suggest will significantly influence where and how food is produced. This article is followed by several articles that look at various sorts of production that can be used for ultra-local food. .

# Agency news

# ICPR changes

The ICPR for Great Britain has been updated with a range of change – most associated with life plant material – see [Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPRs)](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/export/export-requirements/icpr-importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/?utm_source=notification-email)

# Fit for a better world update

In July 2020 the New Zealand Government released the food and fibre sector roadmap, [Fit for a better world – accelerating our economic potential](https://apo.org.au/node/306768). The roadmap sets out three ambitious targets to achieve a more productive, sustainable, and inclusive economy within the next decade. At Fieldays this year MPI released an update for fit for a better world This document sets out the key challenges and opportunities facing the food and fibre sector, outlines how the Government, food and fibre sector, and Māori are partnering to take forward the roadmap, provides a snapshot of highlights to date and shows how the sector is contributing to the roadmap vision over the next year. [The update can be down loaded here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/45445-Fit-for-a-better-world-2021-progress-update)

# 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:

* Dominica has set standards for the international trade on growing media ([Full text](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/DMA/21_4110_00_e.pdf)), seed ([Full text](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/DMA/21_4111_00_e.pdf)), categorisation of a commodities according to pest risk ([Full text](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/DMA/21_4112_00_e.pdf)), Integrated Measures for Plants for Planting ([Full text](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/DMA/21_4113_00_e.pdf)) , Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management of Fruit Flies ([Full text](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/DMA/21_4114_00_e.pdf)) , and Pest Free Potato (Solanum Spp.)( [Full text](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/DMA/21_4115_00_e.pdf))
* EU has released draft requirements for organic product imports [Full text](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/EEC/21_4184_00_e.pdf) [Full text](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/EEC/21_4184_01_e.pdf))

** MFAT**

# MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 25 June 2021

MFAT update is available at <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-global/global-economic-and-trade-update-for-new-zealand-businesses-25-june-2021/> . Amongst other entries included in this week’s edition are news of :

* **Australia w**ill [commence(external link)](https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/wto-action-defend-australias-wine-makers) **dispute resolution proceedings** at the **World Trade Organization (WTO) against China** over its imposition of anti-dumping duties on Australian **wine**. Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan Minister said Australia’s use of the WTO in this matter “is consistent with its previous use of the WTO and aligns with our support for the rules-based trading system”; and Australia remains open to engaging directly with China to resolve this issue.
* **China** Agencies are monitoring ongoing **disruptions at Yantian Port in Shenzhen, China** caused by a recent localised COVID-19 outbreak. Port operations have reportedly recovered to 70%, however delays were not expected to be resolved until at least the end of this month. Neighbouring Shekou Port has also shown some pressure and reduced in-gate confirmation times. **NZTE** continues to scan for New Zealand businesses which might be impacted.
* **South Korean** health authorities announced on 14 June that **quarantine free entry for vaccinated people** from countries that do not have an ongoing major outbreak or significant variant cases of COVID-19 will come into effect from early July. You can contact the South Korean Embassy [here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/es/countries-and-regions/asia/republic-of-korea-south/embassy-of-the-republic-of-korea/) for more information on travel to South Korea.
* **South Korea** is currently **negotiating travel bubbles with Singapore, Thailand, Guam and Saipan,** to start as early as July.
* **Europe** An overview of ‘Product Stewardship’ schemes in Europe was prepared by the Europe Division at the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and can be read [here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-europe/plastics-packaging-product-stewardship-schemes-june-2021/).
* **Germany** has adopted the **Corporate Due Diligence in Supply Chains Act**, which enters into force in 2023. The Act applies to companies (including German subsidiaries of multinationals) which have a registered office in Germany and workforce of over 1,000 employees. It aims to strengthen human rights and environmental standards across supply chains,
* The **Egyptian Ministry of Finance** has announced an **extension to implementation of Egypt’s National Single Window for Foreign Trade Facilitation (Nafeza)** to 1 October. The system, which was previously planned to become mandatory on 1 July, aims to modernise and automate customs administration through an Advanced Cargo Information (ACI) system. It is hoped the ACI system will  speed up customs procedures, improve border security and eliminate cheating on customs and taxes. **Exporters and importers are encouraged to register** with the new system quickly. Further information on the system can be found on the [Nafeza website](https://www.nafeza.gov.eg/en/site/aci-details).
* **Saudi Arabia** As of 16 June, all **incoming travellers** to **Saudi Arabia** are now required **to pre-register their flight details and vaccination status** through the ‘Muqeem’ website at least 72 hours before arrival.
* **Kuwait** has announced that from 1 August**, non-citizens** will again be **able to enter Kuwait** if they have been fully vaccinated with a Kuwaiti-recognised vaccine.



# New Zealand News



# Face to face meeting delivers significant progress on NZ-UK FTA

UK’s International Trade Secretary Liz Truss and Damien O’Connor releases a joint press statement following a day of talks announcing New Zealand and the UK have committed to accelerating their free trade agreement negotiations with the aim of reaching an agreement in principle this August. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/face-face-meeting-delivers-significant-progress-nz-uk-fta)

# Foreign Minister speech to the India New Zealand Business Council Summit

Over more than three decades the Business Council has played a crucial role in building business, cultural and trade cooperation between India and New Zealand. And for well over 150 years, members of the Indian community have been choosing Aotearoa as their home, and contributing to our collective future.

In recent years our bilateral ties have intensified. There are three important drivers for this: the rapid rise of immigration – and linked to this, a thriving Indian diaspora in New Zealand, almost 240,000 and almost 5% of our population, and – in normal times – a flow of people in both directions for education and tourism purposes.

This year’s forum theme, a “decade of the new normal” is incredibly relevant at this time.

Our approach to creating a “new normal” has been shaped by the unprecedented experience of a global pandemic – Covid-19. New Zealand’s response put people at the heart of our considerations.

We maintained a ‘science-based, evidence informed, public health response’. While we didn’t have a road-map to guide our decisions these essential ingredients have positioned New Zealand to focus on an economic recovery that builds resilience for the wellbeing of our people, our planet and our prosperity. *The Minster also made comment about the effect Covid is having on India and thanked India for tits enormous contribution to manufacturing vaccines*

I want to see New Zealand’s independent approach to foreign policy characterised by Māori values such as:

* manaakitanga – kindness or the reciprocity of goodwill;
* whanaungatanga – our connectedness or shared sense of humanity;
* mahi tahi and kotahitanga – collective benefit and shared aspiration; and,
* kaitiakitanga – protectors and stewards of our intergenerational wellbeing.

These values enable Aotearoa New Zealand to promote relationships, culture and diversity at home and abroad. Intrinsically this is also helping to promote enduring peace, prosperity for all and as committed environmental stewards for the planet. A peaceful Indo-Pacific is a prosperous one.

Linked to this values-based approach is how we work collectively in pursuit of our core interests, is also important:

* an international rules-based order,
* keeping New Zealanders safe, promoting regional stability;
* international conditions and connections that aid our prosperity, including supply chain resilience; and,
* global action on sustainability issues such as climate change where solutions depend on international cooperation.

*The article talks about the importance of ASEAN , reflects on the importance of India in ASEAN and indicates New Zealand is keen to see India an any sort of pluri or bilateral relationship that would support trade between our two countries* [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/speech-india-new-zealand-business-council-summit)



# Phasing out fossil fuels for industrial heating

NZ Plant Producers has partnered with HortNZ, Tomatoes NZ, and Vegetables NZ to submit on the Ministry for the Environment's (MfE) proposals on the use of fossil fuels in industrial heating, focusing on greenhouse heating. MfE has proposed a new National Policy Statement (NPS) and standards that would phase out new and existing coal use for process heat (including greenhouses) by 2037. In addition, the proposal would require demonstrating that there are no other "economically and technically viable" alternatives for other fossil fuels.

The industry submission acknowledges the need to transition to non-fossil fuels and highlights the industry's steps on this journey. However, it also emphasizes that there are no simple steps for this transition, and the timeframes for transition must enable change to occur at a pace that does not put growers out of business. See the full submission by clicking [this link.](https://nzppi.co.nz/Phasing-out-fossil-fuels-for-industrial-heating/19776-7007f895-fcc2-45df-a75f-d7a56f065dfb-s119774/) [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9332043/nz-phasing-out-fossil-fuels-for-industrial-heating/)

# Chunbo signs strategic cooperation agreement with New Zealand Trade Development Office

Chunbo, a new innovative retail platform in China for healthy food products, signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the New Zealand Trade Development Office in June, 2021. Together they will bring a new concept to the fruit retail market. Chunbo.com will be the only platform to sell New Zealand 'fruit mystery boxes’...

Chunbo will promote 'fruit mystery boxes'. There are two kinds: 'New Zealand diverse apple mystery box' with 6-9 different kinds of New Zealand apples and the” NZ diverse IP fruit mystery box' which in addition to apples also includes various kinds of kiwi fruit, and the New Zealand honey peach that is not yet very well known in the Chinese market.

New Zealand supplied 67% of the Chinese apple import volume in that year. In other words, two-thirds of the apples imported into the Chinese market come from New Zealand. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332367/chunbo-signs-strategic-cooperation-agreement-with-new-zealand-trade-development-office/)

# T&G’s AGM 2021 is even more challenging than 2020

T&G Global held its 100th Annual Shareholder Meeting on Wednesday 23rd June, reviewing the 2020 financial year and providing insight into the economic outlook for the next six months, as well as celebrating the service of its outgoing Chairman and welcoming his successor.  
  
Financial highlights included the fact the company delivered a strong profit result, despite uncertainty and challenges due to COVID-19. T&G reported an increased overall revenue of $1.4 billion up from $1.2 billion in 2019, as well as increased profit $16.6 million up, from $6.6 million in the year prior.  
  
T&G’s outgoing Chairman, Professor Klaus Josef Lutz, leaves his role as T&G Chairman after nine years at the helm, and reflected on the Company’s position now and into the future. “The strategic programme of work that T&G has undertaken over the past nine years has been immense. Enabling the selling of non-core assets allowed reinvestment into growth activities, contributing to the development of new plant varieties and world class genetics, redevelopment of orchards and the introduction of state-of-the-art technology and automation."  
  
“The pleasing financial results from FY2020 are a result of excellent teamwork and an ongoing transformation to improve our underlying performance," said T&G Chief Executive, Gareth Edgecombe. Gareth also commented on the outlook for the 2021 financial year. “While we thought 2020 was a difficult year, 2021 is shaping up to be even more of a challenge. It was a tough start to the season for our apples business, with adverse weather in Nelson impacting a significant portion of our own crop, and that of our growers. “At the same time, the impact of COVID-19 continues to present a number of challenges, including a shortage of seasonal workers and disruptions throughout the global logistics system.  
  
“Furthermore, our T&G Fresh domestic business has been operating in a difficult environment and the team is well progressed in addressing these challenges, as well as delivering increased synergies from our 2020 acquisition of Freshmax NZ Limited." [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9333029/while-we-thought-2020-was-a-difficult-year-2021-is-shaping-up-to-be-even-more-of-a-challenge/)

# [Chinese market accounts for 25% of Zespri's global sales](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332827/chinese-market-accounts-for-25-of-zespri-s-global-services/)

[Benlai.com is a Chinese online retail platform. China now accounts for 25% of Zespri's global sales.](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332827/chinese-market-accounts-for-25-of-zespri-s-global-services/)

[Zespri recently innovated their distribution system in China. According to Benlai.com, Zespri carried out investigations in relevant areas that already reflect development plans for the next 10 years. Zespri hopes to develop together with suppliers who operate on the basis of ecological principles. Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332827/chinese-market-accounts-for-25-of-zespri-s-global-services/)

# McCains requires food produced using regenerative practices

PotatoesNZ chief executive Chris Claridge says regenerative agricultural practice for NZ potato growers is simple – it’s what McCain wants and by 2030, will use only regeneratively farmed potatoes. From a PotatoesNZ perspective, it is about the zero carbon 2035 target we have already set, following the clear signal from international consumers.

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Regenerative agriculture calls back to a time when farming was based more on biology than chemistry, with a focus on soil health and quality. A sustainable farming practice, regenerative agriculture promotes biodiversity, more plant cover on fields throughout the year, minimising disturbances and maximising crop diversity to increase water efficiency, protect against erosion, pump more nutrients into the earth, create greater resilience to droughts and floods, capture more carbon and increase yield and quality per hectare. Everybody can argue the semantics of regen ag and of course farmers want detail, but this is customer-driven, a clear indication from the marketplace.

“It’s not something to be frightened about; we want to grow our industry and our growers are committed to growing a sustainable industry into the future.”

Claridge expects McCain’s move will not be isolated to potatoes. McCain will implement regenerative agriculture on its three farms of the future; the first of which is now operational in Florenceville, with two more planned in different growing regions of the world by 2025.[Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/horticulture/view/mccain-embraces-regen-ag)

# NZ couple launch "My Greens" hydroponic garden initiative

Mark and Debbie Crarer have presented an idea they hope will grow on urban dwellers looking to become self-sufficient food producers. The Hamilton couple launched their My Greens initiative at the National Fieldays at Mystery Creek on Thursday, a hydroponic home garden system. The hydroponic garden tower was created for city gardeners keen to grow and harvest their own fresh produce around their urban homes and apartments. [Full article available here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9331757/nz-couple-launch-my-greens-hydroponic-garden-initiative/)

** Bits and pieces**

# Tongan RSE worker fatally stabbed in Blenheim

A Tongan man killed in an alleged stabbing incident in Blenheim on Sunday morning was in New Zealand to earn money for his family back home, his employer says.Hortus managing director Aaron Jay said support and sympathies were already rolling in from the Tongan, the RSE and viticulture communities following the death of Hiko Lynch, 23, who was out celebrating a friend’s birthday at the time. A police spokeswoman said later on Sunday 10 arrests had been made in relation to the incident on Market St. Initial indications suggested the altercation was between local RSE (Recognised Seasonal Employer) workers and members of the Rebels gang from outside Marlborough, police said. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/125499914/tongan-man-fatally-stabbed-in-blenheim-was-out-celebrating-friends-birthday)

# Campaign aims to retain horticultural workers in Cromwell community

Cromwell residents are being encouraged to offer odd jobs to horticulture workers between harvests this year, through an ongoing campaign geared at encouraging horticulture workers to stay.Operation Cromwell Harvest was launched last year as a joint effort between Cromwell Community House, Summerfruit NZ, Sport Otago, The Workforce Accommodation Network and Connect Cromwell, to encourage workers to come to Cromwell, find accommodation, stay longer and integrate with the community. [Full article available here](Campaign%20aims%20to%20keep%20horticulture%20workers%20between%20harvests)

# Green dollar boost

ASB head of business banking Tim Deane maintains farmers want to do more environmentally and cheaper funds will help them achieve that. ASB has provided $100 million of funds through its rural sustainability loan programme to farmers for on-farm improvements that can span a wide range of suitable “green” projects. ASB head of business banking Tim Deane says the Mystery Creek launch coincided with three other areas the bank was providing lower cost funds to, including business decarbonisation, infrastructural lending and low interest loans for new house builds. The initiatives make use of funding through the Reserve Bank’s funding for lending scheme.

Assessment of lending and ensuring it would be used in the places it was intended would all be part of loan conditions and lending.Deane says the opportunities for farmers to apply the funds were broad, and could even include plans to upgrade a farm transport fleet to electric bikes and vehicles.

Banks are now required to release their exposure to climate change risk that applies to all financial institutions with portfolios over $1 billion.“And we already have a requirement for farm environment plans (FEPs) and consideration of what needs to be done from a sustainability view in assessing any new loans, and in annual reviews,” he said.

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“Our goal is for our new sustainability loans to back $100m in green upgrades over the next five years.”

The loans are on offer at a discounted interest rate of 2.25% per year as a variable rate and available for up to five years after the customer makes the first draw down on funds. Having a variable rate enables farmers to make lump sum payments or fix their rate at any time. [Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/agribusiness/view/green-dollar-boost)

 **Biosecurity**

# PepMV brings a halt to New Zealand tomato exports

New Zealand tomato exports to six countries have been stopped, after the pepino mosaic virus (PepMV) was discovered on crops. MPI has notified Australia, Japan, Thailand, Fiji, Tonga, and New Caledonia about the disease affecting New Zealand tomatoes, and has temporarily suspended export certification to these markets.

For some weeks Biosecurity New Zealand and the tomato industry have been investigating the discovery in New Zealand of the pepino mosaic virus (PepMV). The virus was first detected in an Auckland glasshouse operation and has subsequently been found in a handful of tomato production facilities in the wider Auckland region.The premises where PepMV has been found are able to continue operating and selling fruit under strengthened hygiene conditions.

PepMV is a virus that can cause pepino mosaic disease – predominantly in tomatoes, but potentially in other solanaceous plants including potatoes and eggplants. "It’s not yet certain how badly PepMV would affect tomato crops in New Zealand. It appears to have minor foliage effects on younger plants, but as the plant ages, can cause mottling of the fruit itself. Now the virus has been confirmed in several facilities, it is considered possible that it may be distributed more widely in the country’s tomato growing operations. For this reason, we strongly encourage all growers of tomatoes to follow careful biosecurity procedures on their properties," they say. The virus can be asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms so it is important that you remain vigilant with hygiene, especially with equipment, plant material and people that are moving on and off site.

The risk of transmission of the disease through selling fruit is considered low.

It is important to note that while PepMV can affect tomato production, it does not present any food safety concern or risk to people. New Zealand grown tomatoes are perfectly safe to eat.

[Read more about the precautions and the actions to take at TomatoesNZ.](https://www.tomatoesnz.co.nz/hot-topics/pepino-mosaic-virus/)

# [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9333888/pepmv-brings-a-halt-to-new-zealand-tomato-exports/)

# Fruit fly larvae discovery halts mango and lychee imports from Taiwan

MPI said they found the larvae on a consignment of the fruits a week last Friday; the next day it was confirmed as oriental fruit fly. The fly has been found at the border before but never elsewhere within New Zealand. According to [rnz.co.nz](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/445269/fruit-fly-larvae-discovery-halts-taiwan-mango-lychee-imports), imports of lychees and mangoes from Taiwan that are vapour heat treated have been suspended while an investigation takes place. Shipments arriving at the border will be held, with the option of destroying the produce or shipping it back. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332613/new-zealand-fruit-fly-larvae-discovery-halts-mango-and-lychee-imports-from-taiwan/)



# International news

**Comment**

# 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 exporter 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:

* **China Retail Foods | Retail Foods** Major retail trends include the continued move toward unifying e-commerce and brick-and-mortar retail, enhanced food and grocery delivery services, the growth of live streaming, and the rapid development of the community group buying platform. In 2020, imports of consumer-oriented food products from the world reached $82 billion, an increase of 13.7 percent compared to 2019. [Retail Foods\_Beijing ATO\_China - People's Republic of\_06-30-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods_Beijing%20ATO_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_06-30-2021)
* **India's FSSAI Confirms Labeling Requirements for Primary Bulk Foods Remain Subject to 2012 and 2016 Guidelines Until New Regulations Come Into Force on 17 November 2021 –** This includes reference to requirements for fruit[India's FSSAI Confirms Labeling Requirements for Primary Bulk Foods Remain Subject to 2012 and 2016 Guidelines Until New Regulations Come Into Force on 17 November 2021\_New Delhi\_India\_06-09-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=India's%20FSSAI%20Confirms%20Labeling%20Requirements%20for%20Primary%20Bulk%20Foods%20Remain%20Subject%20to%202012%20and%202016%20Guidelines%20Until%20New%20Regulations%20Come%20Into%20Force%20on%2017%20November%202021_New%20Delhi_India_06-09-2021)
* **Italy Retail Foods** [Retail Foods\_Rome\_Italy\_06-30-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods_Rome_Italy_06-30-2021)
* **Japan - Organic Market Review 2021** [Japan - Organic Market Review 2021\_Osaka ATO\_Japan\_06-15-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Japan%20-%20Organic%20Market%20Review%202021_Osaka%20ATO_Japan_06-15-2021)
* **Korea Retail Foods** [Retail Foods\_Seoul ATO\_Korea - Republic of\_06-30-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods_Seoul%20ATO_Korea%20-%20Republic%20of_06-30-2021)
* **Sri Lanka FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual** [FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual\_Colombo\_Sri Lanka\_06-30-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Colombo_Sri%20Lanka_06-30-2021)
* **Sri Lanka FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual** [FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual\_Colombo\_Sri Lanka\_06-30-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Colombo_Sri%20Lanka_06-30-2021)
* **Turkey Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report\_Ankara\_Turkey\_06-30-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Export%20Certificate%20Report_Ankara_Turkey_06-30-2021)

 **Regulatory**

# UK starts negotiations to join trans-Pacific trade deal

Last week UK officials started negotiations to join a the CPTPP which removes 95% of tariffs between its members: Japan, Canada, Australia, Vietnam, New Zealand, Singapore, Mexico, Peru, Brunei, Chile and Malaysia. Accession to the pact would supplement the trade deals Whitehall is seeking, or has already agreed, with larger members. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332965/uk-starts-negotiations-to-join-trans-pacific-trade-deal/)

# How will new German law on due diligence affect Latin American banana producers?

On Friday 11th June, the German Bundestag approved the "Supply Chain Act" (Lieferkettengesetz) to ensure due diligence and human rights within the supply chain of products sold in Germany. *This article provides information about an event being organised by* The Ecuadorian Banana Cluster on the 30th June "Towards a Fair Banana", explaining how this law will affect the banana industry. The event will also address challenges and opportunities for the banana industry within the regulatory framework of this law. The event will feature keynote speakers from the German National Parliament, political leaders, industry experts and representatives of the German civil society, divided into two discussion panels. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9333724/how-will-new-law-on-due-diligence-affect-latin-american-banana-producers/)

# EU and US pass climate laws

Last week the European Parliament on Thursday (24 June) gave the final green light to the first-ever EU climate law. On the same day the U.S. Senate has passed the Growing Climate Solutions Act.

The EU bill sets targets to reduce net EU emissions by 55% by 2030, from 1990 levels, and eliminate net emissions by 2050. The targets are legally binding, paving the way for a policy overhaul to cut planet-warming pollution faster.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act has 55 cosponsors, which makes it the first major piece of bipartisan legislation that would help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilience through voluntary, market-driven programs. The Growing Climate Solutions Act passed by a vote of 92-8. The Growing Climate Solutions Act creates a certification program at USDA to help solve technical entry barriers that prevent farmer and forest landowner participation in carbon credit markets.

The certificate will provide transparency, legitimacy, and informal endorsement of third-party verifiers and technical service providers that help private landowners generate carbon credits through a variety of agriculture and forestry-related practices. As part of the program, USDA will administer a new website, which will serve as a “one-stop shop” of information and resources for producers and foresters who are interested in participating in carbon markets. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9333895/eu-and-us-pass-climate-laws/)

 **Business/ Industry**

# Focusing on value, not production volume, holds the key to fresh produce business growth into the future

A Queensland farmer and entrepreneur says the future of fruit and vegetable grower revolves around creating better value and quality rather than focusing on just increasing volumes and prices. He says he has found that the most truly successful companies are those who focus on value, not price wars – because the latter are often left with a discussion of survival, not innovative thinking and evolution.

*An article that’s worth reading he talks about making sure the producer produces what is needed ( a 'pull economy', not a 'push economy') looking for something unique, staying ahead of the bunch and accepting technology as a must for doing business,"* [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9330899/focusing-on-value-not-production-volume-holds-the-key-to-fresh-produce-business-growth-into-the-future/)

# David Hughes, - the latest in food trends

David Hughes, known to many as Dr Food, has just been handed a hypothetical shopping trolley stuffed with several billion dollars, then asked where in the food industry he wants to invest the money.

*This article gives access to a 59 minute presentation that David has* *given about the new routes to market and what customers require.* “[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/184841/fruitbox-59-david-hughes-imperial-college-london)

# Qatar addresses food security

Qatar has to further strengthen its greenhouses and vertical farming to address the key issue of food security, according to a top official of Hassad Food, an investment fund in food and agri sectors and backed by the country's sovereign wealth fund. [Full article available here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9333491/greenhouses-and-vertical-farming-are-the-only-ways-through-which-we-can-close-the-gap/)

# Blueprint for food security projects in Bahrain

A new blueprint that addresses Bahrain’s food security challenges is expected to be approved by the Cabinet in the coming months, revealed a top official. Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa said achieving food self-sufficiency remains high on the government agenda.

The Global Food Security Index 2019 (GFSI) had ranked Bahrain 50th globally on the list of most food-secure nations in the world. “Our aim is to reach the 25th spot by 2030,” said Shaikh Khalid. [Full article available here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9333007/blueprint-for-food-security-projects-in-bahrain/" \t "_blank)

# ‘Food shortages inevitable in UK’

More items are likely to disappear from the food isles at UK supermarkets, as companies struggle to fill roles after lockdown. A post-Brexit recruitment crisis in many positions – including fruit pickers and delivery drivers – is being exacerbated by the economy opening up again. Customers have already found it hard to get hold of several items. Experts are warning things are inevitably going to get worse.

According to [metro.co.uk](https://metro.co.uk/2021/06/21/food-shortages-inevitable-as-major-recruitment-crisis-takes-its-toll-14803957), there are reports of employees in the hardest-hit sectors being offered huge pay raises and other incentives to stay on in their roles with suppliers warning they are just weeks away from having to cut deliveries. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9332629/food-shortages-inevitable-in-uk/)

 **Indoor production**

# Three steps towards local food security

This video showcases the Foundation Farms step-by-step plan for vertical farming and local food security. *This video is a must to watch . It markets Foundation farms by painting and alarming picture about food insecurity see and the need for locally grown food.* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=258&v=JOro6D703jY&feature=emb_logo>

# Producing proteins using microalgae to give optimum efficiency

A ground-breaking way of producing food: with minimal water and land footprint and carbon negative operation. Vaxa Impact Nutrition is a high-tech company that offers a solution for converting energy into food (Energy to Food - E2F) in a more efficient way than previously known. The project is the first of its kind in the world where high technology in continuous monitoring, data processing and automatic system adaptation is used to achieve maximum results in the cultivation of microalgae, regardless of the type of algae without the use of pesticides or antibiotics.

Located in Iceland, the plant facility is integrated with one of the world’s largest geothermal plants, allowing to transform the waste outputs of the plant into sustainable resources for the production process. The use of clean energy and natural carbon emissions of the geothermal plant to produce microalgae, making the project fully sustainable and carbon negative.

With this method, one kilogram of protein can be grown with 1500 times less soil and 500 times less water than what is needed to grow soybeans. It can be one of the keys to solving the world's food problems. “Food security is an urgent global problem. According to the United Nations, nearly one-seventh of the world's population, or one billion people, are regularly undernourished. By 2050, an additional two to three billion new guests will join the global dinner table. The food crisis is a matter of providing not only sufficient calories but also the protein and nutrients essential to good health. [Full article available here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9331737/producing-proteins-at-optimum-efficiency/)

# Barriers to vertical farming

“The pandemic has highlighted the advantages of vertical farming. but the cost of materials has risen to the point of stopping some projects,” says Robert Colangelo, founder and CEO of Green Sense Farms.

Green Sense Farms is an Indiana-based company that designs and builds turnkey vertical farms, greenhouses and integrated facilities. The company also, provides horticulture consulting and contract research in its two 100,000-cubic foot indoor grow rooms. Recently, Green Sense Farms finished a feasibility study in partnership with an architectural firm for a mixed-used entertainment facility that would include multiple restaurants, with leafy greens provided by an in-house vertical farm.

*His initial article talks about the pitfalls of trying to convert buildings that were designed for another purposes and finding the sweet spot where it becomes worth the capital and operating expenditures.*

[Full article available here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9331615/barriers-to-vertical-farming/)

"Developing vertical farms in Europe is more challenging than the USA because the EU has a much better transport system which can transport produce quickly and efficiently across the EU and that in European regions on the fringe of this distribution system (for example, Nordic countries), it still can be challenging to implement profitable vertical farms because of the smaller populations spread across a large area and the high cost of labour to operate. Robert sees three main challenges to **vertical farm development**

***Unicorns***  a unicorn is a vertical farm company that has gone public either through an IPO or a SPAC and has a valuation of $1 billion and has either little or no revenue despite the fact that they are still perfecting their process and have not necessarily proven themselves. “There is so much capital chasing ideas in the sector that we’re seeing astronomical valuations, that does not make sense, creating a lot of hype in the market, says Robert.

***Cheerleaders*** Many people are providing consulting without having enough experience in the industry to do so. They may be good at marketing or social media and often provide superfluous advice that may take clients down the wrong path. “There are few people that have built vertical farms, and gone through the whole process of to design, build and operate a farm, lesson that are hard-earned. This is a new industry “if you’re not failing, you’re not growing.”. So, buyers beware when buying services or going into joint ventures. You need to do your due diligence,” Robert notes.

***“If You Ain’t Dutch, You Ain’t much.”*** “The Dutch are great greenhouse growers but have been reticent to see the benefits with vertical farming, so we need to look to new powerhouses in our sector that can “think out of the greenhouse,” says Robert. As Robert explains, building a vertical farm is not the difficult part; building a robust business model is. Vertical farming has the ability to produce high yields, year-round, on a small footprint, using less water. A good business model can leverage this technology to disrupt produce markets to grow high-quality produce at a lower price to the consumer with more revenue to the farmer. [Full article available here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9332556/barriers-to-vertical-farming-in-europe/)

# Growing insects in a shipping container

[Better Origin](https://betterorigin.co.uk/), a Cambridge-based agritech business, has a solution to the broken food chain. By using both nature and AI, they’re addressing the global food security problem. Their product – the Better Origin X1 – uses insects to naturally convert food waste into animal feed. It reduces the need for land, crops, transport, water, and other resources required to produce animal feed.

The X1 looks like a standard shipping container, but it's a fully autonomous, modular insect farm powered by AI. The feed created by this new technology is produced naturally and is highly cost-effective. It promotes a more circular food system, providing greater resilience and flexibility in times of need. The Better Origin X1 recycles local agricultural waste to produce natural insect protein. [Full article available here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9331311/growing-insects-in-a-shipping-container/)

# Is vertical farming the future of food?

Time and time again we are being told that our food system is broken - that we will not be able to sustain the amount of food we are producing or meet the demands of our growing population. Carbon emissions and food waste are at an all-time high, whilst soil health and biodiversity levels are at a low. There is a lack of support and resources for farmers and our complicated food networks aren’t providing an even distribution of food to communities.

Indoor and vertical farming relieves pressure on our farmlands, freeing up space for organic and regenerative practices, as well as projects to introduce more biodiverse spaces onto farms - which are crucial to the future of our environment and habitats. Controlled environment agriculture seeks to mimic the most productive forms of agriculture, whilst also removing some of the disadvantages to outdoor growing. Aeroponics reproduces the effects of air pockets within a healthy soil system by suspending roots in the air and allowing access to oxygen.

A completely organic and regenerative food production system is appealing. However, it is important to acknowledge that these methods produce less food, with the same amount of land. “Natural” methods of food production are effective and sustainable, but in some ways, romanticized. Nature can also be unforgiving and unfair, bringing along with it its own range of issues for the grower. It’s why many of the unsustainable practices we criticize today were developed in the first place.

Vertical farms can provide an environment that protects crops from both these things, providing reliable and consistent harvests. This can act as a foundation of year-round production to stabilize our food supply chain and reduce dependence on imports.

Producing less food is simply not an option - we need to find a way to intensify food production without having to industrially farm our natural environment. Therefore, indoor and vertical farming can be seen as a low-impact solution to boosting food production levels alongside sustainable outdoor practices.

Ultimately vertical farming won’t be the entire future of food, but there is a real opportunity to embed indoor farms into sustainable food production systems right now, for a better future. Introducing indoor farms into our food supply chains will only work alongside systematic changes and regenerative outdoor agricultural practices. In order for a small, localized indoor farm to be successful there must be a secure market demand for local produce. There must also be the responsible deployment of said farms to avoid issues related to the over-saturation of that local market. [Full article available here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9332994/is-vertical-farming-the-future-of-food/)

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

# Covid outbreak at Chinese ports further hit global shipping operations

Global shipping has been interrupted for several months due to the epidemic, and demand for Asian goods from western countries has exceeded exporters’ ability to ship containers overseas. But at Yantian Port in Shenzhen, one of the world's major container ports, the recent Covid outbreak has made the situation worse. At the beginning of this month, the capacity to handle containers at Yantian Port dropped sharply. The port announced that as of June 24, the overall operation of the Yantian International Container Terminal has been fully restored; however, its current operation is 30% lower than the actual capacity.  
  
In fact, before the latest outbreak in China, there was already a shortage of capacity and a shortage of containers, coupled with the congestion of the Ever Given Suez Canal in March this year, which made the market worse. Some ports in Guangdong, including Yantian, Shekou, Chiwan, and Nansha, have banned ships from entering the port without advance reservations and only accept bookings for export containers within three to seven days before the ship’s arrival. Maersk, the world's leading container shipping company, said the estimated delay at Yantian Terminal has been extended to 16 days from the previous 14 days. Hapag-Lloyd Communications Director Nils Haupt said: “One of China’s largest ports has basically been closed for nearly three weeks. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9333233/covid-outbreak-at-chinese-ports-further-hit-global-shipping-operations/)

According to the analyst, the premium rates alone are 2 to 3 times higher than the rates contracted this year. "Where will rates peak? 20,000 dollars? $30,000? In this context, two new shipping lines are entering the Trans-Pacific route: BAL Lines and CU Lines. Each of them appears to be contracting vessels of approximately 2,400 to 2,500 TEUs, he said. "There are rumours that a few more shipping lines will go into business this year. With charter rates at an all-time high, it seems unlikely that the new entrants to the Trans-Pacific route will offer lower rates than the current ones," he stated. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332325/chinese-port-of-yantian-has-a-backlog-of-175-000-containers-and/)



# Environmental impact assessment of local decoupled multi-loop aquaponics in urban context

Fresh vegetables available on Northern European markets usually originate from a high number of sources. Environmental impacts for these goods typically arise from the resources used in production and the long-distance transport in air-conditioned trucks. As such, environmental impacts are mainly attributed to direct energy consumption, water use, and nutrient supply. The aim of this paper was therefore to investigate and evaluate possible solutions to reduce the environmental impacts of vegetables available on urban markets in Northern Europe.

This study hypothesizes that for the production of lettuce and tomatoes in Northern Europe, a 4-step solution, i.e., 1) local production, 2) climate-controlled efficient greenhouses, 3) decoupled aquaponics, and 4) combined building architecture with waste heat and green waste reuse, will enable a low environmental impact. *The papers concludes* with the right set-up, local vegetable productions in urban regions can surpass the imported mix on environmental performance in Northern Europe. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9329868/study-on-environmental-impact-assessment-of-local-decoupled-multi-loop-aquaponics-in-urban-context/)

# SHAFFE What a sustainable produce industry could look like by 2030

SHAFFE – The Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters has founded an ad-hoc taskforce on sustainability to identify common challenges and develop strategic recommendations on “what a sustainable produce industry could look like by 2030”. The sustainability taskforce has the primary objective of identifying common challenges and outlining specific recommendations on the issue for members and industry related private and public stakeholders.  
  
The taskforce has a concrete timeline and mandate, until the month of September 2021 to develop the first draft of a SHAFFE “white paper”, that will outline key policy recommendations and future strategy and actions for the organization. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332951/what-a-sustainable-produce-industry-could-look-like-by-2030/)

# Sustainability drives consumer purchases

Consumer research from Fairtrade International and GlobeScan has shown that people increasingly see their everyday shopping as an important way to make a difference. More than half of the survey's 15,000 respondents in 15 countries revealed that they had changed their purchasing choices within the past year in order to have an impact on an economic, social, environmental or political issue.

The top issue cited by respondents was ensuring no child labour, followed by guaranteeing safe products, reducing poverty for farmers and workers, and protecting against deforestation. In the Fairtrade-GlobeScan study, more than 70 per cent felt that by buying Fairtrade, they were standing together with farmers and producers. Furthermore, 78 percent of those who had seen the brand said it had a positive impact on the brands carrying it. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/185603/sustainability-driving-consumer-purchases)

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**Floral news**

# Watch The Flower Council of Hollands 2022-2023 Year Presentation

You can now watch our ‘2022-2023 Year Presentation' video. Created for stakeholders, and free to view for all interested partners in the sector. After an unexpectedly chaotic 2020 and a turbulent start to 2021, we would like to look ahead with you at all the great campaigns and promotions to encourage consumers to buy more flowers and plants. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jv9CXgx0-SA&t=68s> The associate article provides a written review on the most important activities in 2020-21

# US: Will consumers continue buying flowers and plants in 2021?

The pandemic boosted the floral sales in 2020, but will consumers continue buying flowers and plants in 2021 when coming out of the pandemic?

*Flower sales have grown . A recent survey showed “72% of the respondents purchased flowers, and they purchased them for themselves. And of the 72%, 70% of the self-purchases was because they make them happy ”   A similar trend is being seen in potted plants*  [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9333167/us-will-consumers-continue-buying-flowers-and-plants-in-2021/)

  **Health**

# Potato nutrients may reduce risk of hypertension

A new study published in Nutrients has looked at the effect of increased dietary potassium from a whole food source--baked/boiled potatoes and baked French fries--or a potassium supplement on blood pressure and other cardiovascular disease risk factors. The results showed that having roasted/boiled potatoes as part of a typical American diet had the greatest benefit in reducing sodium retention, even more than supplements, and the reduction in systolic blood pressure was greater compared to the control diet. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332569/potato-nutrients-may-reduce-risk-of-hypertension/)

# Australian Fruit & Vegetable Consortium asks parties to invest in a happier, healthier & wealthier Australia

The Fruit & Vegetable Consortium (FVC) has developed a business case that demonstrates: that every $1 invested in a behaviour change program to increase vegetable consumption results in a $10 return on investment. Also, if Australians ate 10 per cent extra vegetables every day (less than ¼ of a serve), there would be a $100 million reduction in health expenditure per annum.

It also stated that Australians eating an extra half a serve of vegetables per day would -conservatively- generate an incremental increase in returns to Aussie growers and supply chain partners of $634 million per annum, which is shared by all parties along the food supply chain. Increasing vegetable consumption will lead to improved health and well-being outcomes that drive reductions in mental and physical health issues, obesity and other illnesses, which will generate as much as $1 billion economic value after 11 years to Australian taxpayers and Governments at all levels. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9333050/fruit-vegetable-consortium-asks-parties-to-invest-in-a-happier-healthier-wealthier-australia/)

 **Innovation**

# Dutch technology for reefer transport reduces fruit waste on a global scale

Otto de Groot, an expert Dutch fruit consultant, and the University of Wageningen developed Otflow . This technology is a patented floor cover that provides the optimal internal airflow during reefer transport. This solution was created in order to counter the 40% of claims that exporters receive on fruits because of temperature issues during shipping. Otflow is mainly used on fruit shipping. However, it works for all types of products transported in a refrigerated container.

“Otflow reduces the temperature difference in containers by 30%.” Otflow not only reduces food waste but also improves the quality of the transported products. It has been used since 2018 and is now being used in 22 countries on all continents. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332626/dutch-technology-for-reefer-transport-reduces-fruit-waste-on-a-global-scale/)

# Biobest using AI and robotics to support IPM"

*“An interesting article in which Karel Bolckmans, COO of Biobest outlines the importance of data collection within the greenhouse to optimise growing conditions and detect and so control potential pest outbreaks. He also outlines robots such a tomato pollinator which the company is developing to ensure that production is optimised ” In the article he says* our goal is not to sell the most bumblebees or beneficial insects and mites. We want to be the grower’s most reliable provider of the most effective solutions in pollination and integrated pest management in a world characterized by rapid innovation. *This article describes some of the approaches the company is using and the importance of AI and robotics in the data driven growing environment*. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9333484/ai-and-robotics-will-bring-us-to-the-olympic-version-of-ipm/)

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