

**PMAC weekly update 24th to 31st January**

1. **Government agencies**: ICPR Changes , FYI for Saudi Arabia , Information on MAO system requirements, WTO Notifications, Driverless tractor for NZ, MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 28 February 2022
2. **New Zealand News:**  New Ambassador to Thailand announced, FSANZ PPP Requirements for Horticulture, A look at New Zealand apples and pears, Pandemic workforce modelling tool to help keep produce flowing to retail shelves, Campaign asks people to ‘Pick Nelson Tasman’ again, NZ growers and suppliers: Expect more expensive vegetables in February, Rockit launches themed gift boxes for Chinese New Year, Sweetcorn, avocado and bananas most popular foods in NZ, Summer spud report 2021-2022, Rare trollinger grapes found on Central Otago vineyard, Research to support Maori Horticulture, MPI funding for transition to Future Orchard Planting Systems, Europe is on the brink of a phytosanitary emergency
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; China to increase control over cold-chain food imports amid pandemic, China to fast-track development of GE crops, UK puts new gene editing rules into practice, UK: Defra urged to respect levy vote result, The first three years of The European Art of Taste end with excellent results, "EU taxonomy burdens implementation of energy and climate change", State of agriculture and food: Stable trends in the Netherlands, Fresh produce prices expected to soar, Controlled indoor cultivation without daylight comes of age, Produce getting priced out of reefers, Shippers to challenge container line demurrage fees in US courts, No relief for China's overstretched supply chains, MSC forays into air freight, The IMF expects global supply chain disruptions to last well into 2022, Food Sustainability Index: "A lot to do", Pomegranate extract could be key to a new anti-aging treatment, Growers could measure fruit and vegetable vitamin content themselves

**Comment**

There are two Agency items this week worth a look. The first provides access to a webinar that gives detail about the changes made to the MPI organisational standard (released in late 2020). Changes in this standard must be incorporated in MAO’s system by March 2022. The webinar is worth watching if your organisation still needs to complete this update. The second article details a consultation released by FSSANZ that asks for comment on the draft food safety practices that will be required in the production of berries, leafy greens and melons. These three commodities are recognised as presenting higher food safety risks that any of our other commodities so if you are interested in Food Safety this document will give you an idea of the highest level of protective practices that may be required of producers.

Internationally freight issues continue to be high profile with recognition that the freight rates are unlikely to decrease any time soon and freight prices are also having a significant effect on food prices. Experts are now looking to see a decrease in freight costs in 2023. Interestingly shipping line profits are also up significantly to the extent the Mediterranean Shipping Company is looking to buy a share in an Italian airline company to enable it to provide air freight services as well.

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

The ICPR for Taiwan has been updated with changes to the vegetables section and the addition of

Oxalis tuberosa (yam) see [ICPR Taiwan](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/694)

* 1. **FYI for Saudi Arabia**

MPI has published updated information for exports to Saudi Arabia.

[F03/22: Saudi Arabia pallet requirement for imports](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/49486-F0322-Saudi-Arabia-pallet-requirement-for-imports) [Saudi Arabia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/export/export-requirements/omars/search-country-animal-products-wine-organics/saudi-arabia/?utm_source=notification-email)

* 1. **Information on MAO system requirements**

In mid-2021 the Plant Exports team hosted a number webinars regarding the changes to MPI Organisation Requirements and Phytosanitary Certificates standards. All MAOs are required to be compliant with the updated 2020 version of the Organisation Requirements standard by **31 March 2022.** **-** If you have already updated your system to meet the 2020 version of the Organisation Requirements standard no further action is required.

To assist with this a pre-recorded MAO webinar presentation is now available for those who need to update their MAO systems to account for these changes. It is also important to note that the information held in the pre-recorded webinar presentation is only relevant to the current changes made to the Organisation Requirements and Phytosanitary Certificates standards. See **ShareFile link:** <https://mpinz.sharefile.com/d-s13c3f6d477304b20882701d2523ca5b6> . Note only MAO’s registered with MPI will be able to log on to view this document

If you cannot submit your system to meet the 2020 version of the Organisation Requirements standard by 31 March 2022 ( it must be submitted to your IVA at least one month in advance of this date), you can request for dispensation from [PlantExports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:PlantExports@mpi.govt.nz) (please copy in your IVA). For MPI to review your dispensation, your request must clearly explain why a dispensation is being requested and you must also complete a request for services form here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/738-Plant-exports-request-for-services>

* 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 weeks includes:

* EU Listing of pests, prohibitions and requirements for the introduction into, and movement within, the Union of plants, plant products and other objects
* Japan proposed MRL’s Pesticide: Cadusafos, Fenazaquin and Uniconazole-P. 
* Canada pesticide MRL’s 
  1. **Driverless tractor for NZ**

An innovative, low emissions, driverless tractor able to perform up to 3 tasks at once is on the cards for New Zealand orchards. The Government is contributing $622,360 to the Smart Machine Company Limited’s 3 -year project, which will be worth $1.5 million. The tractor will be able to perform several tasks, including canopy spraying, mulching, mowing, trimming, and leaf defoliation. Smart Machine chief executive officer Andrew Kersley says the end goal is to develop a fully electric tractor. “While we want to go fully electric eventually, we need to be sure it will be suitable for remote rural areas. Some orchard tractors run 20 hours a day, 7 days a week, so if growers have a fleet that needs frequent recharging that might not be practical." The project is based in Blenheim, with plans to expand testing to Motueka and Hawke’s Bay next year. [Full article available here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news/media-releases/driverless-low-emissions-tractor-in-development/?utm_source=notification-email)

** MFAT**

* 1. **MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 28 February 2022**

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-18-march-2021/>. Amongst other entries included in this weeks edition are news of :

* December marked the halfway point for **Expo 2020 Dubai.** So far, **more than 10 million visitors** have been to the Expo Park and a constant stream of high level visitors have been to the **New Zealand Pavilion. January and February will be the busiest months** at Expo, with a number of New Zealand-led activities including a three week Taste New Zealand showcase For more information about the New Zealand Pavilion and events at Expo 2020 Dubai visit [www.nzatexpo.govt.nz](http://www.nzatexpo.govt.nz)
* As of 27 January, there are **27 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases** in **Samoa,** As a consequence all **Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) movement** to New Zealand has been **suspended** until further notice.



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **New Ambassador to Thailand announced**

Foreign Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta today announced the appointment of Jonathan Kings as New Zealand’s next Ambassador to Thailand. Jonathan Kings has served as Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) since 2015. He has led the Pacific and Development Group, which includes responsibility for delivery of New Zealand’s overseas development budget, and has also held the positions of Administrator of Tokelau and Director Special Relations unit.[Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-ambassador-thailand-announced)

 **Consultations**

* 1. **FSANZ PPP Requirements for Horticulture (Berries, Leafy Vegetables and Melons)**

FSANZ has reviewed food safety measures for primary production and processing of berries, leafy vegetables and melons. FSANZ's preferred approach is to strengthen food safety management on-farm and during initial processing by introducing nationally-consistent food safety standards for each of the three sectors, and work with industry to develop guidance materials to help businesses implement the standards.

## Public call for submissions – now open until 16 February 2022

In a second round of public consultation, FSANZ is calling for comment on four options including the preferred approach to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standard Code to include a primary production and processing standard for each of the three sectors, and introduce non-regulatory measures in collaboration with industry to assist businesses to understand and comply with the standards.

## Consultation documents Second call for submissions paper

* Second call for submissions paper ​- 17 November 2021​[(PDF 413 kb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/2nd%20CFS%20Report%20FINAL.pdf)​ ​[(word ​247 kb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/2nd%20CFS%20Report%20FINAL.docx)​
* Consultation regulation impact statement [(PDF 779 kb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/CRIS%20FINAL.pdf) [(word 309 kb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/CRIS%20FINAL.docx)
* Supporting document 1 – Current food safety measures for horticultural produce (domestic and international)​[(PDF 471 kb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD1%20The%20current%20food%20reg.%20non-reg.pdf) [(word 211 kb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD1%20The%20current%20food%20reg.%20non-reg..docx)
* Supporting document 2 – Microbiological assessment of berries, leafy vegetables and melons [(PDF 2.52 mb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD2%20FINAL_2nd%20CFS%20Micro%20RA%20P1052%20with%20appendices_ref%20unlinked.pdf)[(word 1.88 mb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD2%20FINAL_2nd%20CFS%20Micro%20RA%20P1052%20with%20appendices_ref%20unlinked.docx)
* Supporting document 3 – Cost benefit analysis [(PDF 1.23 mb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD3%20The%20CBA.pdf) ​[(word 1.90 mb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD3%20The%20CBA.docx)
* Supporting document 4 – Compliance plans[[](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD4%20Compliance%20Plans.pdf)(PDF 322 kb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD4%20Compliance%20Plans.pdf) [](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD4%20Compliance%20Plans.docx) [(word 133 kb)​​](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD4%20Compliance%20Plans.docx)
* Supporting document 5 – Horticulture Standards Development Advisory Group[(PDF 153 kb)​​](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD5%20Horticulture%20SDAG.pdf)​​[(word 72.4 kb)](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Documents/SD5%20Horticulture%20SDAG.docx)

Submissions should be made in writing and be marked clearly with the words 'Submission to proposal P1052'. They can be lodged by ​​​​emailing your submission to [submissions@foodstandards.gov.au](mailto:submissions@foodstandards.gov.au).

[See full web page](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/P1052.aspx?mc_cid=9044345069&mc_eid=f93013672e)



* 1. **A look at New Zealand apples and pears**

*The following report on NZ apples was published by a North American distribution company- Vanguard*. The New Zealand apple and pear season is approaching harvest and growers have good reasons to be positive and optimistic about the coming season. The overall growing season has been very good with no major inclement events that could compromise the quality and condition of the fruit. Vanguard expects great quality and condition to be the theme of the 2022 New Zealand apple and pear season.

The spring was hotter than normal with fair amounts of rain to counter any of the potential negative effects of the heat. Sizing is expected to be one size larger than in 2021 across all varieties.

Official numbers are not yet released, but the industry should have no issues achieving 23mm cartons of apples packed in 2022. The labor situation has improved since 2021. Labor costs have increased by approximately 10 percent. Costs for freight have increased and customers should expect to pay between $1.50 to $3.00 per carton more in 2022 than last year. The outlook regarding transportation is also favorable as Vanguard does not foresee the same grave challenges this year that were faced last year.  [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9394052/a-look-at-new-zealand-apples-and-pears/)

* 1. **Pandemic workforce modelling tool to help keep produce flowing to retail shelves**

Australian and New Zealand fresh produce companies are being encouraged to utilise a new tool that uses mathematical formulas to model and predict the illness and absence of workers due to COVID-19, and ultimately hopes to reduce supply chain disruptions.

Food safety software company iFoodDecisionSciences (iFoodDS) has partnered with USDA and Cornell University to launch a free version of the Food Industry COVID-19 Control Tool (FIndCOVControl). It has only been used in the United States, so far, it is just as effective anywhere in the world. The software currently models the Delta variant, and the team is working on the Omicron variant, which should be available soon.

After entering some information about the business, the user is provided with a report with model predictions to support decision making in their operations by providing information for an organisation to use to look at strategies to minimise COVID, while making sure production remains at an optimum."

The tool is free at least until August under the USDA funding and is currently used by several fruit and vegetable growers in the U.S. and he is hoping to collaborate with the fresh produce companies as they help with feedback, the evolution of the other agricultural commodities and refine its effectiveness moving forward, including in Australia and New Zealand. You can register and use the software at: <https://www.foodcovidcontrol.com/FOODCTL> [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9393120/pandemic-workforce-modelling-tool-to-help-keep-produce-flowing-to-retail-shelves/)

* 1. **Campaign asks people to ‘Pick Nelson Tasman’ again**

A regional collaboration to tackle the ongoing and significant seasonal labour challenges in the Nelson Tasman horticulture and viticulture sector have launched the ‘Pick Nelson Tasman’ campaign to attract workers to the region and entice locals into seasonal work as the 2022 harvest kicks into gear.

This year, the collaboration includes a consortium of fifteen regional agencies and industry bodies including Nelson Regional Development Agency, the Ministry of Social Development, Apples & Pears New Zealand, Horticulture NZ, Hops NZ, Freestyle Hops, Wine Nelson, Kiwifruit NZ, Vegetables NZ etc. The campaign, which has a strong social media and digital focus, utilises a fun and quirky vibe to promote what the region and horticulture industry has to offer. This includes a range of entry-level jobs and career opportunities. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9393638/campaign-asks-people-to-pick-nelson-tasman-again/)

* 1. **NZ growers and suppliers: Expect more expensive vegetables in February**

New Zealand consumers are being told to expect more expensive fruit and vegetables in February, and less of them. A Countdown supermarket spokeswoman stated that supply was already down on what it was usually. According to Jerry Prendergast, president of industry group United Fresh, three weeks of heavy rain at the end of November and early December meant the usual planting cycle was interrupted, and this gap would be noticed soon in shops. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9394144/nz-growers-and-suppliers-expect-more-expensive-vegetables-in-february/)

* 1. **Rockit launches themed gift boxes for Chinese New Year**

To mark the biggest date on the Chinese calendar, which this year falls on Tuesday 1st February, Rockit has crafted more than 100,000 innovative themed gift boxes for the discerning Chinese retail market, each holding either three or six packs of fresh, crisp, snack-sized Rockit™ apples, along with traditional door banners, masks, stickers and gift envelopes. But the boxes – designed in shades of red and orange to celebrate 2022’s Year of the Tiger – are also constructed to double as kids’ costumes.

Creating healthier gifting options has been part of Rockit’s activity in China for several years, with the brand drawing on the tremendous reach of social media channels and digital search to tell the Rockit story. “[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9394120/rockit-launches-themed-gift-boxes-for-chinese-new-year/)

* 1. **Sweetcorn, avocado and bananas most popular foods in NZ**

Sweetcorn, avocado and bananas were the most popular food items purchased on the first day the country was at the red traffic light setting, supermarket chain Foodstuffs says. *Broccoli was 5th on the list of the top 20 items purchased, Red Capsicum 6th, Cucumber 7th , Watermelon 10th , Carrots 13th, Blueberries 14th and Brown Onions 18th.* According to Emma Wooster, corporate affairs manager, Foodstuffs New Zealand, New Zealanders’ habits from the first day in the red setting have shown the majority of shoppers are continuing to purchase everyday grocery items on their list.[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9394140/sweetcorn-avocado-and-bananas-most-popular-foods-in-nz/)

* 1. **Summer spud report 2021-2022**

It has been a mixed bag of weather this Spring and Summer, with a couple of rain events challenging growers in Horowhenua and Canterbury. *This article provides detail about the potato crop in Canterbury,* ***Pukekohe and Manawatu.*** [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9393199/it-has-been-a-mixed-bag-of-weather-this-spring-and-summer/)

* 1. **Rare trollinger grapes found on Central Otago vineyard**

More than 150 years ago, Frenchman Jean Desire Feraud planted more than 1200 vines in the Alexandra Basin at his Clyde winery, Monte Christo. Recently, viticulturalist Sam Wood discovered an unidentified grapevine at the original site of Feraud's winery. DNA test identified the grapes as trollinger, a rare variety grown in northern Italy and Germany and believed to have been brought here by Feraud from Australia. Trollinger was grown for wine in Europe, but it was more of a table grape, with bunches three to four times larger than wine grapes. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9393673/rare-trollinger-grapes-found-on-central-otago-vineyard/)

** Bits and pieces**

* 1. **Research to support Maori Horticulture**

MPI has allocated $700,000 to the Whangaparāoa Māori Lands Trust to explore the potential of their whenua near Tihirau (Cape Runaway) and create jobs. The purpose of these trials is to see how different cultivars grow in the area. Mulch has been used on half the plots to measure its benefits on warming the soil. The crops will be harvested early next year.

MPI’s Māori Agribusiness team has been working with the group of Whangaparāoa landowners since the project was funded in 2019. The cluster is made up of representatives of the owners of 25 Māori land blocks and covers 18,000 hectares of land, with about a third (6000 ha) suitable for livestock, horticulture or arable farming. In setting up the trial they identified they prefer a sustainable mixed land use kaupapa (policy) over a single crop. A total of 10 different crops, including the tactical use of livestock to rotate with cropping, is planned in the next phase of the programme."

It’s part of a $12.2 million commitment over 4 years to provide farmer-to-farmer support to Māori landowners and trustees through the Māori Agribusiness Extension (MABx) programme. The Whangaparāoa landowners’ cluster is in the process of establishing a joint business entity and exploring funding, partnerships, and investments to implement land use choices. [Full article available here](https://www.plantandfood.com/en-nz/article/trial-crops-planted-as-part-of-maori-agribusiness-project-in-eastern-bay-of?utm_source=Plant+%26+Food+Research+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=237ddc495c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_02_11_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5919b8ee23-237ddc495c-&utm_source=Plant+%26+Food+Research+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=237ddc495c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_02_11_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5919b8ee23-237ddc495c-21882009)

* 1. **MPI funding for transition to Future Orchard Planting Systems**

Future Orchard Planting Systems (FOPS) is a scientifically proven fruit tree growing system. It has the potential to double yields and improve fruit quality by bringing orchard rows closer together and growing trees in a planar (two-dimensional) structure. This maximises the trees’ use of available light.

Government support via the Ministry for Primary Industries’ (MPI) Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures fund (SFF Futures), sits alongside the $1.1 million committed to the project by Plant & Food Research, and industry partners New Zealand Apples and Pears, Rockit Global, and Summerfruit New Zealand.

The five-year project aims to investigate barriers in adopting new growing systems, validate and refine FOPS performance, and support uptake of emerging technologies. Currently, less than 10 percent of orchard redevelopment in Aotearoa New Zealand has transitioned to two-dimensional systems such as FOPS. The project leader Dr Stanley says growers are currently facing many different issues, particularly labour shortages, return on investment, crop variability, and water restrictions. “This project will increase productivity and resource efficiency, plus FOPS is well-suited for machine-assisted labour or automation applications, due to the narrow canopy and fruit being easily accessible.” [Full article available here](https://www.plantandfood.com/en-nz/article/mpi-funding-for-transition-to-future-orchard-planting-systems?utm_source=Plant+%26+Food+Research+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=237ddc495c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_02_11_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5919b8ee23-237ddc495c-21882009)

 **Biosecurity**

* 1. **Europe is on the brink of a phytosanitary emergency**

*This article makes a case on behalf of the Citrus management Committee for more concern about pests arriving into the EU on imported produce*.

The Citrus Contact Group has insistently pointed out in recent months that we have already run out of time and that we have to act before it is too late. Since 2000, 15 foreign pathogens have been introduced into the EU, 7 of which are classified as priority pests because of the economic and environmental risk they pose. In addition, there is a serious risk the false moth (FCM), the black spot (CBS), and the greening (HLB), which are highly dangerous harmful organisms due to the magnitude of the damage they can cause, could enter the EU; not to mention foreign pathogens already established in Europe such as Xylella fastidiosa or the cotonet from South Africa."

"Based on the current data, we can say that we are facing a critical moment, not only because these pests and diseases affect the European citrus industry, but also because they affect the fruit and vegetable sector as a whole. According to the EPPO, some of these pathogens affect more than 70 plant species, including many fruit crops. This issue concerns more than the citrus sector or a particular country, it can put at risk a large part of the plantations and harvests throughout the European continent and, therefore, its ecosystems. "Why doesn't the EU demand cold treatment to citrus imports from third countries when other third-party citrus-producing countries require it for safety and plant health reasons?" [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9393036/europe-is-on-the-brink-of-a-phytosanitary-emergency/)



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:

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| 1. **Austria Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report\_Vienna\_Austria\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Export%20Certificate%20Report_Vienna_Austria_12-31-2021) |

1. **Brazil Annual Country Report Annual** [FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual\_Sao Paulo ATO\_Brazil\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Sao%20Paulo%20ATO_Brazil_12-31-2021)
2. **Canada Exporter Guide** [Exporter Guide\_Ottawa\_Canada\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Ottawa_Canada_12-31-2021)
3. **China Verifying Decree 248 Facility Registration Information**  This report provides information on how to search for facility registration numbers issued by GACC. [Verifying Decree 248 Facility Registration Information\_Beijing\_China - People's Republic of\_01-17-2022](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Verifying%20Decree%20248%20Facility%20Registration%20Information_Beijing_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_01-17-2022)
4. **China Food Service-Hotel Restaurant Institutional** [Food Service-Hotel Restaurant Institutional\_Shanghai ATO\_China - People's Republic of\_12-28-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20Service-Hotel%20Restaurant%20Institutional_Shanghai%20ATO_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_12-28-2021)
5. **China Final Seed Regulations Published** [Final Seed Regulations Published\_Beijing\_China - People's Republic of\_01-22-2022](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Final%20Seed%20Regulations%20Published_Beijing_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_01-22-2022)
6. **European Commission Launches Public Consultation on Biobased Biodegradable and Compostable Plastics** [European Commission Launches Public Consultation on Biobased Biodegradable and Compostable Plastics\_Brussels USEU\_European Union\_01-23-2022](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=European%20Commission%20Launches%20Public%20Consultation%20on%20Biobased%20Biodegradable%20and%20Compostable%20Plastics_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_01-23-2022)
7. **EU COVID-19 Boosts Organic Food Sales in the EU** [COVID-19 Boosts Organic Food Sales in the EU\_Berlin\_European Union\_01-17-2022](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=COVID-19%20Boosts%20Organic%20Food%20Sales%20in%20the%20EU_Berlin_European%20Union_01-17-2022)
8. **French Decrees Set the Timeline for the Reduction of Plastic Packaging but Offer Few Details on Implementation and Enforcement** [French Decrees Set the Timeline for the Reduction of Plastic Packaging but Offer Few Details on Implementation and Enforcement\_Paris\_France\_01-05-2022](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=French%20Decrees%20Set%20the%20Timeline%20for%20the%20Reduction%20of%20Plastic%20Packaging%20but%20Offer%20Few%20Details%20on%20Implementation%20and%20Enforcement_Paris_France_01-05-2022)
9. **Germany COVID Fuels Historic Growth in Organic Sales** [COVID Fuels Historic Growth in Organic Sales \_Berlin\_Germany\_01-17-2022](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=COVID%20Fuels%20Historic%20Growth%20in%20Organic%20Sales%20_Berlin_Germany_01-17-2022)
10. **Germany Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report\_Berlin\_Germany\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Export%20Certificate%20Report_Berlin_Germany_12-31-2021)
11. **India Exporter Guide** The impact of COVID-19 has further shifted preferences toward immunity boosting, protein-rich, natural, vegan, and organic food products. [Exporter Guide\_New Delhi\_India\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_New%20Delhi_India_12-31-2021)
12. **India Annual Country Report Annual**  [FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual\_New Delhi\_India\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_New%20Delhi_India_12-31-2021)
13. **South Korea Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report\_Seoul\_Korea - Republic of\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Export%20Certificate%20Report_Seoul_Korea%20-%20Republic%20of_12-31-2021)
14. **South Korea Import Regulations and Standards Country Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report\_Seoul\_Korea - Republic of\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Country%20Report_Seoul_Korea%20-%20Republic%20of_12-31-2021)
15. **Malaysia Retail Foods** [Retail Foods\_Kuala Lumpur\_Malaysia\_06-30-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods_Kuala%20Lumpur_Malaysia_06-30-2021)
16. **New Dutch Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Nature and Nitrogen Policy Installed** [New Dutch Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Nature and Nitrogen Policy Installed\_The Hague\_Netherlands\_01-10-2022](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=New%20Dutch%20Minister%20of%20Agriculture%20and%20Minister%20for%20Nature%20and%20Nitrogen%20Policy%20Installed_The%20Hague_Netherlands_01-10-2022)
17. **Taiwan Exporter Guide** [Exporter Guide\_Taipei ATO\_Taiwan\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Taipei%20ATO_Taiwan_12-31-2021)
18. **UK Import Regulations and Standards Country Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report\_London\_United Kingdom\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Country%20Report_London_United%20Kingdom_12-31-2021)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **China to increase control over cold-chain food imports amid pandemic**

China will increase its control measures over imported cold-chain food and farm produce to prevent the spread of Covid-19 through entry points. Ni Yuefeng, head of the General Administration of Customs (GAC), said the country will "strictly monitor and test imported cold-chain food, agricultural products and high-risk non-cold-chain container goods." Companies involved in cargo that tested positive for Covid-19 will face restrictive measures, including suspension of their import business, Ni added. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9393792/china-to-increase-control-over-cold-chain-food-imports-amid-pandemic/)

* 1. **China to fast-track development of GE crops**

China has published new regulations for the approval of gene-edited crops in a bid to accelerate the development of products to bolster its food security. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs published the new guidelines last Monday as part of a range of policies to shake up the country’s seed industry, Reuters reports. The draft rules stipulate that once gene-edited plants have completed pilot trials, a production certificate can be applied for, bypassing the protracted field trial process required for the approval of a GM plant.

Han Gengchen, chairman of seed company Origin Agritech, said that meant it could take only a year or two to get approval for a gene-edited plant, compared with around six years for GM ones.The country imports a significant share of its vegetable seeds and wants to reduce its reliance on overseas breeding. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/187349/china-to-fast-track-development-of-ge-crops)

* 1. **UK puts new gene editing rules into practice**

New legislation will be put in place to cut unnecessary red tape for gene editing/. The rule changes, will mean that scientists across England will be able to undertake plant-based research and development, using genetic technologies such as gene editing, more easily. The rules will apply to plants where gene editing is used to create new varieties similar to those which could have been produced more slowly through traditional breeding processes and will unlock research opportunities to grow crops which are more nutritious, and which require less pesticide use. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9392794/uk-puts-new-gene-editing-rules-into-practice/)

* 1. **UK: Defra urged to respect levy vote result**

Defra has been urged to respect the results of the official ballots on statutory levies for horticulture and potatoes as its consultation on reforming the AHDB Order 2008 comes to an end. Ministers say that the consultation, which closed on 10th January, is necessary to allow them to proceed with the proposed changes to the statutory instrument which currently imposes a levy on agriculture and horticulture - including proposals to remove the levy on horticulture and potatoes.

However, campaigners against the levy have expressed concerns that the consultation could be used to overturn the clear result of the previous statutory vote to abolish the levies, the results of which were announced early last year. The two ballots had participation rates of 66% of eligible levy payers for horticulture and 64% for potatoes, and returned a clear majority against continuing with the statutory levy; 60% percent against a horticulture levy and 66% percent against a potato levy.”

More than 480 horticultural growers and more than 790 potato levy payers vote to abolish the statutory levy and do away with AHDB which provided them with little benefit in return for the vast sums of money being collected,”

The petitioners are calling on the Government to set aside ‘R&D Funds’ specifically for horticulture and potatoes, which could be applied for by individual growers or grower groups when required with a minimum amount of bureaucracy. Such as scheme would not require the involvement of a body like AHDB (or any successor), and growers would still be able to access enhanced tax relief. Growers operate in a fast-moving and very competitive marketplace. They welcome targeted R&D, and recognize it as essential to their businesses, but do not wish to be patronised or to support their direct competitors, both of which have occurred with direct levy-based systems. [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9393175/uk-defra-urged-to-respect-levy-vote-result/)

* 1. **The first three years of The European Art of Taste end with excellent results**

The European Art of Taste, the project funded by the European Union and CSO Italy, to celebrate and promote the Made in Europe production of kiwis, oranges and processed fruit and vegetables, in the markets of China, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan, reaches its conclusion with important results both from a commercial point of view, confirming the great interest in Italian productions, and the great potential of communication projects.

The three-year project allowed the companies part of EAOT (Apofruit, Origine Group, Jingold, King Fruit and RK Growers) to make the characteristics of production known and establish themselves in the market as a reliable player thanks to their production, logistic and high quality regulated by the European Union. Through press releases and PR activities, in fact, EAOT has managed to get in touch with over 3 billion potential users, taking advantage of social networks with dedicated pages and initiatives such as contests. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9394710/the-first-three-years-of-the-european-art-of-taste-end-with-excellent-results/)

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **"EU taxonomy burdens implementation of energy and climate change"**

BayWa CEO Prof. Klaus Josef Lutz warns against the EU taxonomy making the energy and climate turnaround more expensive and delaying it: "The current discussion massively overlooks the fact that companies that have been making a clear contribution to a climate-neutral energy supply for decades will soon be worse off than less sustainable business models as a result of the EU taxonomy. While nuclear and natural gas power plants, which are obviously not sustainable, are to be given a green cloak, the trade in solar modules and green electricity are not included in the taxonomy criteria. They are thus not considered significant for sustainability and climate protection. This is absurd, considering the goal of the EU taxonomy: To reward companies that align their investments with sustainability and to strengthen their competitiveness."   
  
The BayWa CEO believes that this will make it more difficult for the German government to achieve its goal of doubling the share of renewable energies in the electricity supply to 80 percent by 2030: according to the coalition agreement, the installed capacity in this country in the solar sector alone is to increase from 59 gigawatts (GW) at present to 200 GW in 2030. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9393575/eu-taxonomy-burdens-implementation-of-energy-and-climate-change/)

* 1. **State of agriculture and food in the Netherlands**

*A recent report prepared by Wageningen University provides* a broad overview of the Dutch agricultural sector. It shows in 2019, the added value of the total agricultural complex represented €56 billion, approximately 7% of the Dutch gross domestic product (GDP). In terms of value, in 2020, the Netherlands was the second largest exporter (including re-export) of agricultural goods after the US. In 2020, sales of agricultural goods amounted to €71 billion. Of this, 60% was earned through export (of which over 75% to the EU) and 40% through internal sales.

According to the agricultural census, the number of agricultural and horticultural companies decreased by 500 in 2020, leading to a total of 52,700. This constitutes a light decrease of 1% compared to 2019. The total agricultural acreage also decreased by 0.1% to 1814 million hectares. Between 2000 and 2020, the total acreage decreased by 0.4% per year. In 2019, the average balance value by the end of the fiscal year for agricultural and horticultural companies exceeded €3.5 million, representing an increase of €700,000 compared to 2015.

The work volume in the agricultural and horticultural sectors increased by 1% in 2020 to 157,700 annual work units. The holders of agricultural and horticultural companies are ageing. The number of agricultural and horticultural companies with a holder aged 50 or older increased to 71% between 2012 and 2020. In 2020, 40% of the 34,100 companies with a holder aged 50 or older had an appointed successor

*The article also includes stats about organic agriculture, innovation , greenhouse gas emissions phosphate and nitrogen use*  [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9392769/state-of-agriculture-and-food-stable-trends-in-the-agricultural-sector/)

* 1. **Fresh produce prices expected to soar**

In Canada, a leading food analyst says to expect an increase in food prices, as record inflation hits the country. Dairy and fresh produce will be seeing the biggest price hike. Statistics Canada’s consumer price index in December was up 4.8 per cent compared to last year, putting the annual inflation rate at its highest in three decades. With empty shelves increasingly becoming the norm, an even greater rise in food prices is on the horizon, he said. The cost of fresh vegetables is predicted to go up as much as seven per cent, fruit prices will rise by five per cent. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9392909/fresh-produce-prices-expected-to-soar/)

 **Indoor production**

* 1. **Controlled indoor cultivation without daylight comes of age**

Interest in vertical farming is growing worldwide. This method of cultivation offers great advantages: local, fresh production that is possible at any location in a very sustainable way. On the negative side are the high electricity consumption and investment costs. Scientists from Wageningen University & Research, together with international colleagues, provide a balanced view of the current situation in a review article published in the renowned scientific journal Nature Food.

## Cultivation is possible anywhere regardless of climate or soil type. Cities can become independent of production in other areas; ‘Production and quality can be planned every day of the year. ‘The system also has many sustainability benefits. Compared to all other methods of cultivation, the consumption of water and nutrients is low and it requires little space. In theory, you can grow without pesticides. On the other hand, the electricity consumption and the necessary investments are high.

’Yet the high investments are not an obstacle at this stage. Large investors are queuing up. However, it is not only a question of technology and finance, both scientists emphasise.

There are also opportunities for improving the quality of fruit and vegetables: for instance, vitamins, antioxidants, flavourings or health-promoting substances. It is difficult to control quality in outdoor crops and greenhouses because of the ever-changing conditions. But in a vertical farm, it is always the same perfect spring weather. For access to the nature article see ['Current status and future challenges in implementing and upscaling vertical farming systems'](https://rdcu.be/cCL0K)

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

* 1. **Produce getting priced out of reefers**

**E**xports may soon become unviable for some fresh produce suppliers as reefer and regular container rates surge. According to a report from The Loadstar, a reefer market update by DHL Global Forwarding said a lack of equipment was also adding to the problem. “A lot of places in the world at the moment lack reefer equipment. Additionally, dry container rates keep increasing to levels above reefer containers. As a result, shipping lines allocate space rather to dry instead of reefers,” DHL said.

“Therefore, reefer equipment is sometimes stuck for more than six months in Asia, even though there is more than enough reefer cargo to ship.” [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/187302/produce-getting-priced-out-of-reefers)

* 1. **Shippers to challenge container line demurrage fees in US courts**

Shippers in the United States are set to challenge shipping lines to claw back demurrage fees at Los Angeles and Long Beach ports. Cash-rich container lines are facing a backlash from disgruntled shippers ready to turn to the courts to test who carries the responsibility for runaway demurrage fees in the principal gateway ports to the US. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9393959/shippers-to-challenge-container-line-demurrage-fees-in-us-courts/)

* 1. **No relief for China's overstretched supply chains**

Covid lockdowns, quarantines and restrictions are causing a backlog in some of China's major ports, resulting in "chaos" and pushing up air freights by as much as 50% in some cases. Ahead of the extended Lunar New Year holiday in China, air freight rates have spiked and some shipping firms have suspended services. This situation is problematic as China pushes ahead with its zero-Covid strategy, which means a recent spike in infections has resulted in lockdowns and curbs in the largest port hubs and major cities across the country. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9394268/no-relief-for-china-s-overstretched-supply-chains/)

* 1. **MSC forays into air freight**

In the past year, the global shipping market continued to be warm, international ports were congested, containers were hard to find, and shipping prices continued to soar. On the other hand, the shipping companies that are on the cusp of the storm have increased their profits, and the major shipping companies with sufficient funds have started business expansion models.

MSC and ITA said recently that Swiss-based shipping company MSC and Lufthansa partnered to buy a majority stake in ITA -an Italian airline. If the acquisition goes well, it will be MSC's first foray into the air freight business and another blockbuster acquisition by MSC following two consecutive acquisitions in December last year. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9394477/msc-forays-into-air-freight/)

* 1. **The IMF expects global supply chain disruptions to last well into 2022**

According to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook report, the poor performance of the supply chain, the impact of the Omicron variant, and inflation will be decisive factors that will dampen the growth of the global economy in 2022. Global growth is expected to decrease from 5.9% in 2021 to 4.4% in 2022; that is, half a percentage point less than what was projected in the October edition of the World Economic Outlook (WEO report) for 2022.

The IMF considers the global supply chains are approaching a tipping point right now that will help determine whether the global logistics crisis will soon subside or continue to impact inflation well into 2022 and dampen growth. The IMF doesn't have high expectations for a turnaround. "The industry outlook is that supply disruptions will remain high until the middle of this year, and then gradually improve.  [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9394456/the-imf-expects-global-supply-chain-disruptions-to-last-well-into-2022/)



* 1. **Food Sustainability Index: "A lot to do"**

**T**he [Food Sustainability Index](https://impact.economist.com/projects/foodsustainability/fsi/about-the-food-sustainability-index/) (FSI) for 2021, produced by Economist Impact with support from the Barilla Foundation, found that only 28 out of 78 countries assessed were prioritising agriculture in international climate commitments. Assessing the sustainability of 78 countries' food systems in terms of food loss and waste, sustainable agriculture and nutritional challenges, the latest FSI showed that Sweden, Japan, Canada, Finland and Austria had the most sustainable food systems in the world.

Despite food waste being a global issue, just 28 per cent of countries had a dedicated food waste strategy, the Index found. Major gaps in policy continued to hamper the development of sustainable agricultural systems, the FSI stated. "Less than 50 per cent of all countries in the FSI are mainstreaming climate change into their agricultural policies and only 36 per cent are prioritising agriculture in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)."

Even among the top 20 performers, it discovered, performance on key outputs baseline water stress and use of synthetic fertiliser often fell short. Japan, Sweden, Denmark, France and China were shown to be the top five performing countries for nutritional challenges. In the top 20 performers, healthy and sustainable diets were affordable in all but one country, which "enables them to start strengthening the nexus between diets and sustainability at the policy level", the Index stated. However, just seven of these have attempted to incorporate sustainability into food-based dietary recommendations, FSI said, with many low-to-middle income countries continuing to have affordability issues. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/187341/food-sustainability-index-a-lot-to-do)

  **Health**

* 1. **Pomegranate extract could be key to a new anti-aging treatment**

A substance in pomegranates could be key to a new anti-aging treatment, strengthening muscles and mitochondrial health. According to researchers from the University of Washington, the fruit contains an extract called urolithin A, which they believe can protect against frailty during old age.

Their study found older adults taking urolithin A supplements performed better in physical endurance tests. The metabolite compound is also present in some berries and nuts. It boosts the mitochondria – the power stations of cells – and also shows an ability to increase muscle strength.

The compound is available in pill form and powders in health food stores. The team notes that urolithin A is produced by gut bacteria after consuming foods rich in ellagitannins. People produce urolithin A at variable rates as diet, age, genetics and disease affect the makeup of their microbiome.

[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9394294/pomegranate-extract-could-be-key-to-a-new-anti-aging-treatment/)

 **Innovation**

* 1. **Growers could measure fruit and vegetable vitamin content themselves**

European companies and knowledge institutes are working on a biosensor, which growers can use to measure their fruit and vegetables' vitamin content. This on-site measurement technology offers fruit and vegetable farmers the chance to steer a sustainable, stable vitamin increase in their crops. They get to use state-of-the-art cultivation methods for this. This project also investigates how you can use sensor technology to substantiate claims about products' nutritional value and health benefits. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9392072/growers-could-measure-fruit-and-vegetable-vitamin-content-themselves/)

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