

**PMAC weekly update 14th to 20th April**

1. **Government agencies**: ICPR Changes
2. **New Zealand News:**  Trade can help economy rebound, rebuild and recover; Cauliflower prices on the march; Hort sector adapts to new normal; Kiwis urged to eat more avocado after industry takes Covid-19 hit; New Zealand onion growers celebrate re-opening of Indonesian market; Sweet as’ mandarin harvest underway; Tamarillos to give New Zealanders a health kick this season; COVID-19 in Oceania: Food safety worries and exports emerge as region’s biggest concerns; Perth quarantine after fruit fly outbreak
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; Nearly 30,000 contract workers in Dutch agriculture; 2019: more than 90% of Dutch fresh fruit exports were overseas product; The most popular fruit and vegetables in Poland in 2019; Spanish onion prices plummet due to imports from the southern hemisphere; Sakata Seed America acquires Salinas-based Vanguard Seed; Retailers reduce SKUs to increase supply chain efficiency; Chinese Fruit Trade Sees Sustained Growth in First Two Months of 2020

***Editors comments***

*A mix of articles this week. I’ve tried to choose articles not directly related to Covid 19 -but these days many mention Covid 19 even if the pandemic is not the main reason for the article. This week I’d like to draw you attention to the article on Tamarillos. This is a crop just grown for domestic use (following the arrival of Liberbacter) . The article gives good information on the state of the industry and the collective marketing they are starting to use to promote their product in NZ.*

*Then of concern there is a report of another biosecurity incursion in Australia. This time the arrival of Queensland Fruit fly in Western Australia. An ongoing problem for Australia.*

*In the international section there are two articles of interest. The first is about the imports and exports of produce to China. In the first two months of this year ( despite Covid 19) China imported over 1.02 million tons of fruit with a total value of $2.17 billion, corresponding to an 11% decline in volume and an 8% increase in value compared with the same period of* [*last year*](https://www.producereport.com/article/chinas-fruit-import-export-statistics-2019-released)*. Meanwhile, China’s fruit exports over these two months totalled 0.53 million tons and $0.76 billion, representing year-on-year (YOY) increases of 1% and 8%, respectively. This is followed by an article on SKU’s . While it is written in relation to Covid 19 it does give a very good overview of the effects of increasing and decreasing the number of SKU’s in a supermarket.*

1. **Agency news**



* 1. **ICPR changes**

The ICPR for Korea has been updated section 2.1 Prohibitions updated to include Pomoideae, Prunus spp. and Rubus spp. pollen for pollination and Appendix 1. Quarantine Pest List updated to include Erwinia amylovora. See [ICPR Plants Korea](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/659)



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **Trade can help economy rebound, rebuild and recover**

Trade can help New Zealand to rebound, rebuild and recover from the COVID 19 pandemic,  Minister for Trade and Export Growth David Parker said. “Trade alone can’t deliver the recovery but it is crucial to our economy, with one in four New Zealanders’ jobs dependant on trade.

New Zealand and Singapore took another step last week to support trade, with an initiative to drop tariffs on a range of essential goods and medical supplies and expedite trade in essential medicines and other products needed as part of the COVID-19 response.  Other steps include the rescue of Air NZ with a loan facility worth $900m, which includes measures to secure freight links with important markets, and funding of more than $300m to support and maintain freight links.

“Global cooperation – not national protectionism - is the best way to address this global challenge.

“We’re supporting exporters to meet the new challenges they are facing and continuing work on further trade deals. During the lockdown New Zealand and the EU have held a round of FTA ‘virtual negotiations’ by video conferencing.

“These are challenging times for trade. The World Trade Organisation’s Forecast, released on 8 April, predicts world goods trade will fall by between 13% and 32% in 2020. But Australia and New Zealand’s exports are forecast to decrease by between 6.4% and 15.6% in 2020, because of the proportion of our exports that are agriculture and processed food, which are expected to decrease by less than manufactured products and services with international tourism, transport  and education particularly hard hit.

Our overall goods exports, concentrated in the primary sector, were in fact 2% higher in March 2020 than in March 2019.  Dairy exports were up 7%, meat exports 10% and seafood exports 7%, though forestry exports were down 36%. A 2021 recovery in global trade is predicted, but depends on the duration of the virus outbreak and the effectiveness of WTO members’ policy responses.

[Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/trade-can-help-economy-rebound-rebuild-and-recover)

** Commentary**

* 1. **Cauliflower prices on the march**

Cauliflower prices rose more than 60 percent in March, as prices for a wide range of vegetables also increased in the month, Stats NZ said last week. Prices for vegetables rose in March 2020 (up 7.4 percent), mainly influenced by rises for broccoli, cucumber, cauliflower, capsicums, and carrots.

Overall food prices were up 0.7 percent, with most other staple foods holding steady, although prices for many meat products fell.

Cauliflower prices rose 64 percent to a weighted average price of $5.75 per kilo.

“This reflects the average prices over the whole month. Some shoppers may have seen higher prices towards the end of the month, with media reports of $10 or more for a single cauliflower,” consumer prices manager Sarah Johnson said.

Cauliflower prices reached an all-time peak of $8.35 a kilo in March 2018.

Other substantial vegetable price rises in March 2020 included:

* broccoli – up 37 percent to a weighted average price of $2.87 per 350-gram head
* cucumber – up 60 percent to a weighted average price of $7.63 per kilo
* capsicums, green (else red) – up 13 percent to a weighted average price of $13.33 per kilo
* carrots – up 11 percent to a weighted average price of $2.48 per kilo.

Tomatoes, onions, iceberg lettuce, and cabbage also saw price rises. Fruit prices fell 2.2 percent in March 2020. Prices for apples (down 26 percent) and pears (down 15 percent) both fell in typical seasonal patterns.

Annually, food prices increased 3.3 percent, mainly influenced by higher prices for meat, poultry, and fish (up 7.5 percent), and grocery food (up 3.2 percent). These increases were partly offset by fruit and vegetable prices, which decreased 1.0 percent. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9208519/nz-cauliflower-prices-on-the-march/)



* 1. **Hort sector adapts to new normal**

James Trevelyan, Managing Director of Trevelyan’s kiwifruit coolstore and packhouse reports that the quick movement from alert level 2 to level 4 sent shockwaves through horticulture’s labour pool. Mr Trevelyan stated that by early last week, the situation stabilised with many new recruits from other labour pools, and reported that the situation has similarities to the Psa, which completely stopped normality at the time.

By early last week, he says they had systems in place and production had started to rise. The two-metre rule had “slaughtered” production but they got smarter and put dividers in to protect staff. “The site is basically shut down [to outsiders]. We scan everyone on site for temperatures. We have doubled security. We have a paramedic led COVID team walking the floors day and night answering questions, hearing concerns, taking everybody’s temperature.

“We have doubled all the cleaning staff, they are focusing on risk areas, handwashing is huge.

“It is extra time to get people to smoko room, releasing 120 people at two-metre intervals. We had a staff room that used to hold 200, but now it holds 40. We have had to hire big tents to allow people to have a cup of tea, or lunch or dinner.

“You just have to get your head around it, move on and move to the next challenge.” “So, it is just connecting in and changing the norm. Looking at the opportunities in the problems. How do we look at this differently? How do we solve this? That is how we have been chipping away which I doubt is any different to anyone else.” [Full article available here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/hort-news/hort-general-news/hort-sector-adapts-to-new-normal)

* 1. **Kiwis urged to eat more avocado after industry takes Covid-19 hit**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions closing cafes and restaurants, New Zealand has a surplus of avocados and it is expected that shoppers will be able to find the fruit in supermarkets for a longer period than usual and at a cheaper rate. NZ Avocado Chief Executive Jen Scoular reported that up to 30 percent of the country’s avocados usually head to food service and independent fruit stores at this time of year. However, shopping habits have shifted during lockdown, with less avocados being purchased compared to usual levels as shoppers focussed on staple ingredients and dry goods. Online sales of avocados are also growing. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/120928077/coronavirus-kiwis-urged-to-eat-more-avocado-after-industry-takes-covid19-hit)

* 1. **New Zealand onion growers celebrate re-opening of Indonesian market**

New Zealand onion growers are celebrating being able to export their world class crop to Indonesia again. ‘Indonesia has just re-opened its market to New Zealand onions after some clarification was required for the new import rules,’ says Onions New Zealand Chief Executive, James Kuperus.

This follows months of negotiations, but with the support of key figures such as Director General Horticulture, Indonesia, Prihasto Setyanto and the Indonesian Ambassador to New Zealand, Tantowi Yahya, the regulations have been clarified and exports have resumed.’

Onions are the main horticulture crop exported to Indonesia, returning NZ$28 million to regional New Zealand in 2019. <https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9208153/new-zealand-onion-growers-celebrate-re-opening-of-indonesian-market/>

* 1. **Sweet as’ mandarin harvest underway**

More than 12 million sweet tasting satsuma mandarins will soon be available across New Zealand, as the season gets underway in Northland. T&G, the largest citrus grower in New Zealand, is forecast to produce around 80,000 crates of satsuma mandarins from Northland - one of New Zealand’s largest mandarin growing regions. Tom Chamberlain, T&G’s Regional Manager - Northland, says due to a warmer, drier summer, this season’s mandarins taste great.

While the majority of the nutritious, new season fruit will be sold in New Zealand retail outlets, satsuma mandarins are also popular in Japan with some of T&G’s New Zealand crop being exported to the market over the coming months. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9209388/sweet-as-mandarin-harvest-underway/)

* 1. **Tamarillos to give New Zealanders a health kick this season**

New Zealand tamarillo growers are hoping that the health benefits of the fruit, can help drive consumer consumption, especially this year with the coronavirus outbreak.

While demand for the fruit remains strong due to increasing awareness of its unique flavour and nutritional qualities, the association notes research from the [Canadian Academy of Sports Nutrition](https://www.caasn.com/tamarillo). It found the fruit is a powerful antioxidant and essential for visual health, while flavonoids and phenolic compounds have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, cancer-preventing, and immune system enhancing properties.

The Northland season has just commenced, with fruit only being on the markets for around a week or two so far, and the national season lasts until November. Tamarillos were first introduced into New Zealand from Asia in the late 1800’s. There are three main varieties grown in New Zealand; red, gold and amber. Annually, the country produces roughly 600 tonnes, but Mr Morris says it was once much higher until an outbreak of Liberibacter, which killed a lot of the trees off.

"We basically had to restart and it actually took a while to get control of it," Mr Morris said. "It decimated the industry quite severely; we went from around 100 growers to around 30. It used to be an industry with growers with maybe 500 trees, but after the disease hit, we are now basically down to commercial growers with 2,000 trees or more. A few have 15,000 trees, and we are always trying to encourage more people to enter the industry. The market is there, we just need to promote it more."

Currently, due to lockdown restrictions across New Zealand, the fruit is only available at supermarkets, until independent fruit and vegetable stores re-open. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9209232/tamarillos-to-give-new-zealanders-a-health-kick-this-season/)

** Bits and pieces**

* 1. **COVID-19 in Oceania: Food safety worries and exports emerge as region’s biggest concerns**

The largest concerns that have emerged for the food industries in both Australia and New Zealand due to Covid-19 lockdowns are food safety and export continuity. Citizens have been told that no evidence shows that Covid-19 can be transmitted through food or food packaging. The top three exports in New Zealand And food items, and the top 10 spots for Australia, and concerns surround the fact that various countries around the world are showing reduced demand and closing their borders. Both countries have unveiled plans to help support the food industry and safeguard jobs during the pandemic. [Full article available here](https://www.foodnavigator-asia.com/Article/2020/04/13/COVID-19-in-Oceania-Food-safety-worries-and-exports-emerge-as-region-s-biggest-concerns)

 **Biosecurity**

* 1. **Perth quarantine after fruit fly outbreak**

Some of Perth's suburbs have been placed in quarantine, as an outbreak of the destructive Queensland fruit fly has prompted the West Australian government to set up a quarantine zone in Dalkeith and parts of Claremont and Nedlands to stop the spread of the pest, which is not established in the state. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has boosted surveillance, with more than 300 lure traps, and is using an organic insecticide.

Residents near areas where the pest has been detected have been asked to remove anything that can provide a breeding ground such as citrus, stone fruit, olives, tomatoes, chillies and capsicums. Agriculture and food minister Alannah MacTiernan said the aim was to protect the fruit and vegetable industries, which are worth about $1 billion a year. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9209315/australia-perth-quarantine-after-fruit-fly-outbreak/)



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

In addition to the Covid 19 based reports in the Covid 19 daily update see

**North China E-commerce Market Developments - Focus on Northwest Region**

After becoming firmly established in large coastal cities, e-commerce growth is now strong in China’s second- and third-tier cities. U.S. exporters should consider conducting marketing events and other outreach activities in second-tier cities as distributors increasing seek to purchase food and beverage imports directly from U.S. producers.

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **Nearly 30,000 contract workers in Dutch agriculture**

The agricultural census conducted by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) has indicated that, in 2019, the volume of labour deployed in the Dutch agricultural sector was equivalent to over 156 thousand full-time jobs (FTEs). Included were nearly 30,000 full-time jobs of people working on the basis of fixed-term contracts, doing specific or occasional work.

The majority of the non-regular labour force - often seasonal workers - were active in horticulture. Especially during planting and harvesting times, more temporary manpower is needed in this sector. The horticultural sector accounted for almost 26 thousand full-time jobs of non-regularly employed persons, nearly 87 percent of these types of jobs in agriculture.

[](https://www.freshplaza.com/web/2/article/create/#img1)

Within the horticultural sector, the seasonal workforce was largest at greenhouse vegetable farms. This workforce was larger than the number of regularly employed workers. Nearly 60 percent of the labour input consisted of seasonal workers. These include students who help pick tomatoes, cucumbers or peppers, but also temporary migrant workers. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9208133/nearly-30-000-contract-workers-in-dutch-agriculture/)

* 1. **The most popular fruit and vegetables in Poland in 2019**

Based on research undertaken by Kantar, the following conclusion were made about consumption patterns in 2019.

The most popular Polish fruits are apples, strawberries, cherries, plums, pears, raspberries, sour cherries, blueberries, currants and chokeberries. Among all vegetables, Poles most often eat tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, carrots, lettuce, peppers, cauliflower and cabbage. A diet rich in vegetables and fruits is the basis of health and immunity. At the beginning of spring, experts recommend frozen foods, preserves and juices. *The article contains more detail on what the Poles consume*.  [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9205981/the-most-popular-fruit-and-vegetables-in-poland-in-2019/)

* 1. **Spanish onion prices plummet due to imports from the southern hemisphere**

The Valencian Association of Farmers (AVA) has denounced that the massive imports of onions from the southern hemisphere is displacing the Valencian production in the supermarkets, which, in turn, has caused prices to drop in the field below cultivation costs. The agrarian organization said that other Valencian horticultural productions, such as artichokes, beans, lettuces, and other vegetables were experiencing a similar situation as they are being offered "misery prices that even impede harvesting the products." This is contradictory in the face of the current increase in the consumption of this type of products due to the health crisis and the confinement of the population.

[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9208322/spanish-onion-prices-plummet-due-to-imports-from-the-southern-hemisphere/)

* 1. **Sakata Seed America acquires Salinas-based Vanguard Seed**

Sakata Seed America has acquired Vanguard Seed, a lettuce seed company based in the Salinas Valley. The purchase of Vanguard provides Sakata Seed America with all existing Vanguard lettuce genetics. Vanguard’s seed team, dedicated to bringing quality lettuce genetics to the market, will join Sakata Seed America and Vanguard’s breeding, seed production, sales and marketing will be fully integrated under the Sakata brand. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9208103/sakata-seed-america-acquires-salinas-based-vanguard-seed/)

* 1. **Retailers reduce SKUs to increase supply chain efficiency**

As a way to increase efficiency in the supply chain during times of unprecedented demand in grocery stores, many retailers have reduced the amount of SKU’s in their stores. “U.S. grocery stores typically carry 45,000 SKUs and supercentres infinitely more. Likewise, produce departments typically have hundreds of different SKUs at any given time,” Anne-Marie Roerink of 210 Analytics says.

“During the weeks of panic buying in particular, inventory moved much faster requiring restocking all throughout the day. In addition, many stores at this point are down in personnel, the supply chain is down people, truckers, planners, etc., so everyone is looking for way to simplify operations. The easiest way to do that is to manage fewer moving parts, which in the case of a produce department means fewer SKUs,” she explains.

Reducing SKUs means reducing the variation of items that are stocked in the stores. Items that don’t have high household penetration are the first to be removed. The retailers chose to maintain the staple items, which also are seeing the highest demand right now. These are items like potatoes, bananas, onions, yams, berries, apples, etc. “In some cases, these items are brought in on drop pallets and take mere minutes to refill” Roerink says.

After reducing the items that have low household penetration, a second step in SKU rationalization is to reduce the amount of line extensions.: “These are things like different package sizes or types. For instance, in mushrooms, they may have only had the smaller containers with whole mushrooms rather than different sizes, whole, pre-cut, etc. Other retailers temporarily reduced their availability of organic SKUs. Yet others are stocking more private brand products instead of a number of different brands. These types of steps make the entire process easier, from buyers having to source fewer items to in-store personnel having less areas to keep up.”

*This reduction in the line-extension also brings greater efficiency for packaging suppliers who can do bigger runs of the same type of packaging*

Efficiency in the supply chain isn’t the only reason for reducing SKUs, however. Roerink shares: “A second reason for SKU rationalization right now is the fact that as the quarantines continue and shoppers’ fridges, pantries and freezers are full, we’re seeing a decline in the number of trips that people are taking and a decrease in impulse buying. why you see these beautiful eye-catching displays that drive people to purchase fruits that they hadn’t planned to buy. But right now, stores don’t have the same foot traffic.

While there are many good reasons to reduce SKUs and this process does have many positive effect on the supply chain during these times, it is creating challenges for some people too. “It makes forecasting even more difficult, which has implications for harvesting, shipments, etc. At the same time, it’s important to remember why stores chose to have a deep selection in the first place, which is differentiation. Stores typically seek to stand out from the competition in some way, whether that is value or having a differentiating assortment allowing consumers to find items that they cannot easily find elsewhere. So, while many stores are managing their SKU levels down at the moment, I imagine that once we’re returning to some level of normalcy, we will see many of those SKUs come back,”

[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9209391/retailers-reduce-skus-to-increase-supply-chain-efficiency/)

* 1. **Chinese Fruit Trade Sees Sustained Growth in First Two Months of 2020**

Recently released data from the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce and Animal By-Products indicate that in the first two months of 2020 China imported over 1.02 million tons of fruit with a total value of $2.17 billion, corresponding to an 11% decline in volume and an 8% increase in value compared with the same period of [last year](https://www.producereport.com/article/chinas-fruit-import-export-statistics-2019-released). Meanwhile, China’s fruit exports over these two months totalled 0.53 million tons and $0.76 billion, representing year-on-year (YOY) increases of 1% and 8%, respectively.

The top nine fruit categories ( *I have only included fruit NZ grows*) by import value during January and February were fresh cherries ($1.17 billion, +32% YOY fresh cranberries and blueberries ($81 million, +21% YOY), fresh peaches and nectarines ($58 million, +30% YOY) and other fruits ($48 million, +63% YOY).

Ranked in descending order of value, the top ten exporters of fruit to mainland China during January and February were Chile, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Peru, Ecuador, Australia, Taiwan, Indonesia and Italy.

The top eight fruit categories by export value during January and February were citrus (including mandarin oranges and satsuma oranges, $257 million, +2% YOY), fresh apples ($198 million, +25% YOY), fresh pears ($116 million, +79% YOY), fresh grapes ($45 million, −18% YOY), oranges ($21 million, −29% YOY), lemons and limes ($18 million, −13% YOY), other fruits ($16 million, −7% YOY) and grapefruit ($12 million, −53% YOY). These eight categories accounted for approximately 90% of China’s total fruit exports by value.

The top ten markets for China by export value were Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Russia and Kazakhstan. [Full article available here](https://www.producereport.com/article/chinas-fruit-trade-sees-sustained-growth-first-two-months-2020)

* 1. **2019: more than 90% of Dutch fresh fruit exports were overseas product**

Approximately 80% of local fresh fruit use is made up of import products. Dutch-grown fruit that is eaten consists mainly of apples and pears.

The Netherlands is a fresh fruit transit country par excellence. More than 90% of this product's export (in 2019, it was 3,95 million of 4,23 million tons) was from overseas.

**Almost ¾ of fresh fruit is from overseas**Most of the fresh fruit that used to be imported came from distant production countries. In order of importance, it is South Africa, (0,65 mln tons), Costa Rica (0,35), Brazil (0,32), Peru (0,31), Chile (0,24), Egypt (0,15), Morocco (0,11), and China (0,09). Oranges are the most import product the Netherlands imports from outside the EU. This is followed by grapes, avocados, pineapple, mangos, lemons, grapefruit, melons, mandarins, watermelons, and then apples and pears. [Click here for the complete report.](http://www.fruitandvegetablefacts.com/sites/default/files/Factsheet%20Netherlands%20import%20fresh%20fruit%20and%20vegetables%20by%20month.pdf)  [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9208632/2019-more-than-90-of-dutch-fresh-fruit-exports-were-overseas-product/)

 **Marketing**

* 1. **Keeping produce front and centre in homeschool classroom with new video series**

The loss of proven nutrition-based interventions like school meals and salad bars means many kids are eating less fresh produce at home during the COVID-19 online school initiatives.  “Lori Taylor, CEO and founder of The Produce Moms and her team launched their new series this week geared to parents who are looking for content for their preschool and elementary school kids while schools remain closed.     
   
The series called “Eat Produce Like Your Favourite Animal" includes an at-home education tie in with activity sheets, virtual lesson plans for educators, interactive social media content, and simple at-home, nutrient-dense recipes loaded with fresh produce that families can create to eat like the brown bear!  “To watch the entire video of the first edition of this new series, [click here](https://www.theproducemoms.com/2020/04/09/eat-like-a-brown-bear/).

[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9208811/keeping-produce-front-and-center-in-homeschool-classroom-with-new-video-series/)



* 1. **What is driving unsustainability in the food system?**

Research has found that both population growth and urbanisation are major drivers of unsustainability in global food systems. These drivers are hard to control, and the researchers have reported that further study is required to help identify a concrete policy and action road map to help reverse the negative trends. Trade flow is the sole economic driver that was found to have a positive impact on food systems up until a point. The researchers also stated that food manufacturers should focus on creating healthier foods as these are what will be valued in the future, whilst unhealthy foods will become more likely to be subjected to restricting regulations, taxes and banning laws. [Full article available here](https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2020/04/09/What-is-driving-unsustainability-in-the-food-system)

* 1. **Management of agricultural waste biomass**

For decades, non-renewable resources have been the basis of worldwide economic development. The extraction rate of natural resources has increased by 113% since 1990, which has led to overexploitation and generation of vast amounts of waste. The present study focuses on the importance of intensive horticulture in the Mediterranean region, specifically in the province of Almería (Spain). After having conducted a study of the main crops in this area, it was determined that the waste biomass generated presented strong potential for exploitation. With the proper regulatory framework, which promotes and prioritises the circularity of agricultural waste, there are several opportunities for improving the current waste management model.

Compost and green fertilizer production also prove to be a key strategy in the transition towards a more circular and sustainable agricultural production model. As for the said transition, government support is vital in terms of carrying out awareness campaigns and training activities and providing financing for Research and Development (R&D).[Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9205177/management-of-agricultural-waste-biomass/)

  **Health**

* 1. **Traditional vegetable diet lowers the risk of premature babies'**

A study finds eating the traditional 'three-veggies' before pregnancy lowers the risk of a premature birth. University of Queensland PhD candidate Dereje Gate analysed the diets of nearly 3500 women and found high consumption of carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, pumpkin, cabbage, green beans and potatoes before conception helped women reach full term pregnancy.

"Traditional vegetables are rich in antioxidants or anti-inflammatory nutrients, which have a significant role in reducing the risk of adverse birth outcomes," Mr Gete said.

"Women depend on certain stored nutrients such as calcium and iron before conception, which are critical for placenta and foetus tissue development. "Starting a healthier diet after the baby has been conceived may be too late, because babies are fully formed by the end of the first trimester," he said.

[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9208514/traditional-vegetable-diet-lowers-the-risk-of-premature-babies/" \t "_blank)

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