

April 26, 2016

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## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

### Indonesia Grants Argentina Country of Recognition Status for Fruit Exports

- Indonesia's Agricultural Quarantine Agency (IAQA) recently granted Argentina country of recognition status for a variety of Argentine fruit exports, according to a [press release](#) published by Argentina's National Food Safety and Quality Service (SENASA).
- The status, which applies to Argentine cherries, will reduce costs associated with export to Indonesia by simplifying document requirements. According to SENASA, the agreement is valid for two years.
- Countries including the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have already acquired country of recognition status from IAQA. Additionally, South Africa gained the status last week (*BCI Monitor* 4-19-16).
- Despite remaining trade barriers, Indonesia is a potentially profitable market for fresh fruit commodities due to its large population and growing economy.

### Turkey Awaits Cherry Market Access in China

- Following the signing of a protocol regarding phytosanitary requirements for the export of Turkish cherries to China in November 2015 (*BCI Monitor* 11-25-16), Turkish and Chinese officials are working to formally establish market access for Turkish cherries in China.
- According to media sources, China's Entry and Exit Inspection Quarantine Association (CIQ) is in the process of selecting inspectors to visit Turkish cherry orchards. The visit could take place as early as May.
- China is a key target market for Turkish cherry growers. Although Turkey is the world's leading cherry producer with over 500,000 metric tons (MT) in 2015, it is just the third largest exporter of cherries following the U.S. and Chile, which both export large quantities to China.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

### U.S. and EU Leaders Meet to Discuss Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

- During a meeting in Hannover, Germany on April 24, leaders from the U.S. and European Union (EU) discussed the status of negotiations for the U.S.-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
- U.S. President Barack Obama met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom (UK) to reaffirm the U.S. effort to achieve a comprehensive and mutually beneficial deal with the EU this year. U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Michael Froman and EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström also met separately on April 25 to discuss progress on the negotiations.
- Negotiators are meeting in New York City this week for the thirteenth round of TTIP negotiations. Despite a high level of recent political support from U.S. and EU leaders, officials are not expecting a major breakthrough in this round. Negotiators are aiming to consolidate texts for all but the most sensitive sections of the agreement, which includes agricultural market access. In a recent [letter](#) to USTR, U.S. Senators urged negotiators to address key agricultural issues such as geographical indications (GIs) and biotechnology approvals. *(Continues on next page)*



**A Report for  
the California  
Cherry Board**

#### *U.S. and EU Leaders Meet to Discuss Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership*

- Along with the issues relating to agricultural market access mentioned above, substantial disagreements remain on sections relating to procurement, services, and regulatory cooperation. A fourteenth round of negotiations is tentatively scheduled for July, according to media sources. Both sides have stated that significant progress must be made by summer to maintain the possibility of concluding negotiations this year.

#### **United States and Thailand Meet to Expand Trade and Investment Relationship**

- Thailand's Minister of Commerce Apiradi Tantraporn met with U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Michael Froman in Washington, D.C. on April 20-21 to boost trade and investment between the two countries, according to a [press release](#) published by USTR.
- Under the U.S.-Thailand Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), which was signed in 2002, both sides agreed to regularly engage on trade and investment issues. As part of this agreement, the two countries began pursuing a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) in 2004 but negotiations were suspended in 2006 following the dissolution of the Thai Parliament. Although the two sides are not currently pursuing a bilateral FTA, Thailand has expressed interest in joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). During the meeting, U.S. and Thai officials discussed each chapter of the TPP to determine the extent of changes to Thai laws that would be required to join the agreement.
- Trade between the U.S. and Thailand is significant, reaching \$45 billion in 2015. The U.S. is currently Thailand's third-largest trading partner.

#### **United States Government to Hold Public Meeting Ahead of Codex Alimentarius Commission Session**

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) recently [published](#) a notice in the *Federal Register* informing stakeholders of a public meeting to be held before the upcoming session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).
- The public meeting, scheduled for June 10 in Washington, D.C., is meant to provide information and receive comments regarding the agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the upcoming CAC session. The 39<sup>th</sup> CAC Session will take place June 27-July 1 in Rome, Italy. The CAC was established to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in food trade by coordinating all international food standards work.
- Documents related to the upcoming CAC session are available on the [Codex Alimentarius website](#).

#### **European Union, Indonesia Look to Move Forward with Free Trade Agreement Negotiations**

- Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in Brussels, Belgium on April 21 to discuss progress on starting free trade negotiations between Indonesia and the European Union (EU).
- According to a [joint statement](#) shared by the European Commission, the two sides have concluded preparatory discussions regarding the scope of a prospective EU-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Both sides have been in regular contact to discuss the potential for a CEPA since the signing of the EU-Indonesia Partnership Cooperation Agreement in 2009. During the meeting, officials agreed to schedule the first round of CEPA negotiations as soon as possible.
- After negotiations for a multilateral trade agreement between the EU and the 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) stalled in 2009, the EU has pursued bilateral agreements with member states to build toward a framework for a larger deal. Through this strategy, the EU has successfully negotiated free trade agreements with Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam.
- Although Indonesia accounts for approximately 40 percent of ASEAN's gross domestic product (GDP) and population, it is only the EU's fourth largest trading partner in the region and twenty-ninth overall. Bilateral trade in goods reached \$26.8 billion in 2014.