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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Evaluates Global Cherry Production and Trade

- Global cherry production is forecast to remain at approximately three million metric tons (MT) in marketing year (MY) 2016/17, according to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [report](#) on stone fruit world markets.
- Compared to MY 2015/16, production in the European Union (EU) and Turkey for MY 2016/17 is projected to decline by 11 and 15 percent, respectively. This decline in production will be offset by a 28 percent production increase in China and a 31 percent increase in Chile.
- While overall production is expected to remain unchanged, a rise in trade volumes is anticipated in MY 2016/17. Global imports are forecast up 7 percent, largely due to higher EU imports. A 14 percent rise in global exports is projected as Chile expands shipments to the China region and Turkey increases exports as a result of strong demand in the EU.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

International Longshore and Warehouse Union and Pacific Maritime Association Schedule Contract Extension Meeting

- The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) are planning to meet from November 1-2 to discuss a potential contract extension, according to a recent ILWU [press release](#).
- The current contract between the ILWU and PMA does not expire until July 1, 2019. However, industry stakeholders have urged both parties to begin negotiations as early as possible to avoid a repeat of the major disruptions that occurred at West Coast ports during contentious contract negotiations in 2014 and 2015. During the dispute, East and Gulf Coast ports in the U.S., as well as Canadian ports, handled record container volumes as shippers diverted cargo away from West Coast ports. An early contract extension would increase confidence in the continued stability and competitiveness of West Coast ports.

Progressive Policy Institute Highlights Benefits of Trans-Pacific Partnership for Small Exporters

- On September 26, the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI) published a [report](#) underscoring the benefits provided by the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The report profiles seven U.S. SMEs and details the ways in which the TPP would help these businesses succeed. According to a recent World Trade Organization (WTO) [report](#), SMEs continue to face disproportionate barriers to trade.
- The PPI report in support of TPP's benefits comes as the U.S. Congress adjourns until after the presidential election on November 8, 2016. The Obama administration is aiming to present the TPP agreement for ratification in Congress following the election despite the continuing opposition of a number of Congressional representatives. *(Continues on next page)*



**A Report for
the California
Cherry Board**

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Progressive Policy Institute Highlights Benefits of Trans-Pacific Partnership for Small Exporters

- In related TPP news, the Mexican Government is promoting the agreement through regional workshops and forums as part of an effort to ratify the deal by the end of the year. The current Canadian Government administration, which took office after TPP negotiations concluded, is still holding extensive public consultations to build support for the agreement.

European Union Trade Ministers Discuss Status of U.S.-EU TTIP Negotiations

- At an informal meeting of European Union (EU) trade ministers in Bratislava, Slovakia on September 23, officials expressed concerns regarding the status of the ongoing U.S.-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations.
- Ministers agreed that TTIP talks are unlikely to conclude before the end of the Obama administration due to the perceived lack of progress being made on key EU priorities, with some trade ministers calling for an immediate suspension of TTIP negotiations. Although Commissioner Malmström reiterated her support for continuing the negotiations, she noted that if the two sides are unable to conclude the talks before January 19, 2017, a pause is likely to occur while new U.S. administration officials are appointed.
- The fifteenth round of TTIP negotiations takes place October 3-7 in New York. EU leaders are expected to assess progress made during the fifteenth round at a European Council meeting on October 21-22.

Canadian Trade Minister Promotes EU-Canada Free Trade Agreement

- Canadian Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland traveled to Europe from September 18-23 to build support for the European Union (EU)-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), according to a [news release](#) published by the Government of Canada.
- During her visit, Minister Freeland issued a [joint statement](#) with EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström underlining the benefits of CETA. On September 23, the two trade officials traveled to Bratislava, Slovakia to reiterate the importance of the prospective free trade agreement (FTA) at an informal meeting of EU trade ministers.
- Trade ministers were supportive of CETA and are preparing for the formal approval of the agreement on October 27 during a bilateral EU-Canada summit. That said, issues regarding the provisional application of CETA remain. Officials expect certain aspects of the agreement to provisionally enter into force in early 2017 pending full ratification by national parliaments of each EU member state. According to Commissioner Malmström, the European Commission is currently determining what to include in the provisional application of CETA.

Officials Discuss Progress on Bilateral Free Trade Agreement at Canada-India Ministerial Dialogue

- On September 29, Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Canadian Minister of International Trade Chrystia Freeland met in Toronto for the third annual Canada-India Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment, according to [press release](#) published by India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The two ministers agreed that bilateral trade between Canada and India is under-developed. In order to expand the trade and investment relationship between the two countries, both sides emphasized their commitment to moving forward with bilateral negotiations for the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Earlier this year, Minister Freeland noted that boosting ties with India is a priority of the Canadian Government's trade agenda.
- Negotiations for the Canada-India CEPA were launched in November 2010 but have been delayed by disagreements regarding services modalities and movement of labor provisions.
- Bilateral trade in goods between Canada and India reached nearly \$8.3 billion in 2015, a 29 percent increase compared to 2014.

U.S.-Africa Forums Promote Expansion of Bilateral Trade and Investment

- Trade and investment opportunities were the focus of discussions at the U.S.-Africa Business Forum held September 21 in New York City and at the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum held September 26 in Washington, D.C. The events, which bring together heads of state, government officials, and business leaders from the U.S. and Africa, are designed to strengthen trade and investment ties between the U.S. and Africa.
- In [remarks](#) delivered at the U.S.-Africa Business Forum, President Barack Obama underscored the benefits of his administration's efforts to expand trade with Africa, while also noting there remains significant untapped potential in the relationship. In 2015, U.S. imports from sub-Saharan Africa totaled just \$18.5 billion, nearly \$5 billion less than in 2000—the year Congress passed the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to boost trade with Africa.
- At the AGOA Forum, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Michael Froman [reiterated](#) the need for both sides to explore new ways to boost bilateral trade and investment. As part of this effort, USTR published a [report](#) assessing various options for expanding U.S.-Africa trade and investment in upcoming years.