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**GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:****Cherry Exports from Chile Expected to Greatly Increase**

- Chilean cherry growers are on track to have the largest cherry crop to date as more non-bearing acreage is coming into play. Over the past eight years, Chile has been increasing the number of plantings each year; however, adverse weather previously impacted volumes.
- So far, this season has had favorable weather conditions with many chill hours during the winter and optimal pollination temperatures during spring, which has spurred high expectations for Chilean fruits. Barring any adverse weather-related events, cherry exports this season are expected to increase by 76 percent according to media sources. In the 2016-17 season, exports totaled approximately 19 million cases.
- While more than 90 percent of Chilean cherries go to markets outside of the U.S., the U.S. is set to import more than double over last year. Shipments of early varieties such as the Brooks, Red Dawns, Lapins, and Red Gleen have already begun to the United States.

**Trade Concerns Raised at Recent WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Meeting**

- World Trade Organization (WTO) members raised a range of trade concerns on pesticides in food products at the November 2-3 meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. A record number of WTO members and observers intervened at the meeting.
- Twenty members once again expressed concerns with the European Union's proposed criteria to define endocrine disruptors. The U.S. noted that in October 2017, the European Parliament had rejected the European Commission's proposed criteria for identifying endocrine disruptors, with members essentially calling for stricter criteria that would lead to additional substances being classified as endocrine disrupting chemicals (*BCI Monitor* 10-10-17).
- The EU responded that it had acted in full transparency to inform WTO members of the proposed measure and its regulatory process. It explained that the original proposal on criteria for plant protection products had been rejected and returned to the Commission, and the latter was currently reflecting on the next steps.

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD***(Continues on Next Page)***Bryant Christie Inc. – Seattle**

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#### *Trade Concerns Raised at Recent WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Meeting*

- Additionally, the U.S., and eight other members, took issue with the ongoing delays in the EU to renew the authorization for glyphosate, and claimed that the attempts to restrict glyphosate appear to lack scientific justification. The EU responded by reiterating its commitment to finding a solution that ensures a high level of protection for human health and the environment, and that is based on sound science.
- Furthermore, at the meeting, members were unable to reach a consensus to endorse a decision on pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) to be put forth to trade ministers at the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires. The latest version containing five recommendations to enhance standards development, transparency, and cooperation on the use of MRLs can be found [here](#).

#### **India Published Draft Standards for Packaging Used in Food Products**

- On November 6, India [notified](#) the World Trade Organization of the “[Draft Food Safety and Standards \(Packaging\) Regulations, 2017.](#)”
- The new standard proposes general requirements for all materials that come in contact with food, and specific requirements for paper and board materials, glass containers, metal and metal alloys, and plastic materials. Additionally, Schedule IV of the draft standard includes a list of suggested packaging materials for certain product categories including fruits.
- The proposed date of adoption has not yet been decided; however, the final date for comments is 60 days from the WTO notification.

#### **Switzerland Publishes Draft Amendments to Law Regarding Genetically Modified Plants**

- On November 2, Switzerland [notified](#) the World Trade Organization (WTO) of amendments to the Federal Non-Human Gene Technology Law.
- The amendment aims to extend the moratorium on the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Switzerland for four years due to the uncertainty that persists concerning mandatory coexistence between GMOs and non-GMOs. The moratorium was adopted in November 2005 and has been renewed twice with the most recent renewal ending December 31, 2017. Additionally, the amendments include technical modifications to the environmental GMO monitoring system.
- The final date for comments is December 29, 2017.

#### **Update on Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement**

- South Korea is expected to complete its economic feasibility assessment, due to the Korean National Assembly this week, that will outline potential amendment areas in the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS).
- The assessment is in accordance with a Korean statutory requirement for renegotiating trade agreements and, according to media sources, the assessment outlines amendments that would allow for greater market openness in the agriculture, investment and services sectors.
- Additionally, during President Trump’s November 7-8 visit to Korea, he and Korean President Moon Jae-in reaffirmed their support for economic cooperation and sustainable trade, and announced that the process for amending KORUS would be expedited, temporarily quelling fears of a withdrawal. However, about a week prior to the meeting, South Korea Trade Minister Kim Hyun-chong asked for the authority to terminate KORUS if talks with the U.S. do not go well.
- The U.S. and Korea held two special sessions of the KORUS joint committee in July and early October 2017, but little progress has been made since.