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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Glyphosate License Renewal Approved in the European Union

- The European Commission Appeal Committee approved a five-year license renewal for glyphosate on November 27. The Commission will adopt the decision before the current authorization expires on December 15, 2017.
- The vote ended an unusually lengthy review process due to the claims and counterclaims regarding the carcinogenic properties of the herbicide. In 2015, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer named glyphosate a probable carcinogen; however, both the European Food Safety Authority and the European Chemicals Agency found no associations between glyphosate use and cancer risk.
- Although glyphosate will be approved for use in the European Union for another five years, according to media sources, France said that it will move to ban the substance within three years, and Italy would get rid of glyphosate by 2020.

India Requesting Comments on Draft Regulation Regarding Advertisements and Claims on Food

- On November 21, India [notified](#) the World Trade Organization of a notice calling for comments on the draft "[Food Safety and Standards \(Advertisements and Claims\) Regulations, 2017.](#)"
- Every food business operator and marketer while advertising, publishing, or disseminating marketing materials, including labelling claims, intended to promote the sale of any article of food must comply with the general and specific principles laid out in the regulation.
- All claims must be truthful, unambiguous, meaningful, and not misleading in order to help consumers comprehend the information provided. Nutritional claims made may either be nutrient content claims or nutrient comparative claims. Additionally, the draft standard lays out the requirements for non-addition claims for sugar and sodium salts, health claims, claims related to dietary guidelines or healthy diets, conditional claims, and prohibited claims.
- A food business operator or marketer may seek prior approval from the FSSAI for nutritional or health claims that are not defined in this draft standard or any other Food Safety and Standards regulations.
- The final date for comments is 60 days from the WTO notification.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Clarifies Thai Customs Shipping Mark Requirement

- According to the new Thai Customs Act B.E. 2560 (2017) which came into effect November 13, 2017, all import shipments to Thailand must include a shipping mark on the outer layer of the package.
- The same shipping mark must be notated on all shipping documents. On these forms, entries of “N/M,” no shipping mark, or a blank space will no longer be accepted. Import shipments without a shipping mark or a shipping mark that does not match the documents will be subject to a penalty.
- To avoid penalties, the shipping mark must be notated on the following:
 - House Air Waybill, House Sea Waybill, and House Bills of Lading
 - Commercial Invoice and Packing List
 - Outer layer of packages in the shipment
- More information regarding this requirement is available in the following U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN [report](#).

Iraq Resumes World Trade Organization Accession Bid

- Iraq has resumed its bid to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) after nine years of inactivity. Iraq is one of the biggest economies still not a member of the WTO.
- An informal meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of Iraq, which was originally established in December 2004, was held on November 17 where WTO members welcomed Iraq’s determination to resume the accession process. The meeting further provided the opportunity for the government of Iraq and members to exchange views on next steps for that formal resumption in the near term.
- The Chairperson of the Working Party stated that if Iraq submits all the necessary updated negotiating inputs in the timeline envisioned, the third formal meeting of the Working Party could be convened in 2018.

Update on European Union-Mercosur Trade Negotiations

- The European Union (EU) and Mercosur have [completed](#) a fifth round of negotiations since the resumption of formal talks in October 2016. The negotiating round was held from November 6-10 in Brasilia. Mercosur consists of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- Both sides made steps to prepare for an exchange of improved market access offers even as there has been much backlash in the EU with regards to widening quotas for non-EU sugarcane and relaxing tariffs for beef from Mercosur. The European Commission recently published a [report](#) detailing the progress made.
- Both sides again confirmed their commitment to concluding an agreement before the end of this year. The next negotiating round will take place in Brussels beginning November 29 and finishing December 8.

Update on the North American Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

- The fifth round of talks between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico on the modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) concluded on November 21. None of the ministers in charge of the NAFTA negotiations for their respective countries attended this round of talks.
- According to reports, negotiations largely focused on technical aspects of the trade agreement and overlooked more contentious issues including rules of origin and investor-state dispute settlement. Nearly 30 negotiating groups gathered and, in response to ministerial instruction at the end of the fourth round, negotiators concentrated on making progress with the aim of narrowing gaps and finding solutions.
- In response to the “sunset clause” tabled by the U.S. in the fourth round of talks, Mexican officials formally proposed a structured review of the agreement. Similar to the U.S. proposal, the review would take place every five years; however, there would be no clause to automatically terminate the agreement as in the U.S. proposal.
- The sixth round of negotiations is set to take place January 23-28, 2018 in Montreal, Canada. In the meantime, negotiators will continue their work in intersessional meetings in Washington, DC, through mid-December and will report back to chief negotiators on the progress achieved.