

AUGUST 10, 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **USDA Releases Overview of German Cherry Industry**
- **Costa Rican Ban on Polystyrene Containers Enters Into Force**
- **China Publishes Update on Support of Bio-source Pesticides**
- **Korea Notifies Changes to Allow Remote Inspection of Foreign Food Facilities**
- **India Publishes Reference of Recommended Dietary Allowances**
- **WTO Agriculture Negotiations Draft Text Published**

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Releases Overview of German Cherry Industry

- The USDA FAS recently published an [Overview of the German Cherry Sector 2021](#).
- Germany is the world's third largest importer of fresh cherries, importing 49,488 MT in MY 2020/21, with the majority of its sweet cherry imports coming from EU member states or Turkey.
- This July, heavy rains significantly impacted cherry production at the beginning of harvest. Industry sources suggest that rain damage may have reduced total production by 25 percent.
- Prior to the heavy rains, the German Office of Statistics (Destatis) had projected total production of sweet cherries for MY 2021/22 at 34,700 MT, a slight reduction from the 46,797 MT produced in MY 2020/21.
- Sweet cherry production in Germany expanded over the past decade with planting area growing by 13 percent.
- The report states that the best opportunity for U.S. sweet cherries is in August and September, after the German cherry season and without competition from less expensive Turkish cherries.
- While the U.S. has not exported cherries directly to Germany since MY 2018/19, the country does receive U.S. cherries through other EU member-states, predominantly the Netherlands.

Costa Rican Ban on Polystyrene Containers Enters Into Force

- Costa Rica has implemented a ban on the use of expanded polystyrene containers in all commercial establishments, effective August 7, 2021.
- [Law No. 9703](#) (in Spanish), published in 2019, amends Costa Rica's [Law on the Integral Management of Waste](#) and [Executive Decree 42833](#) (in Spanish), published earlier this year, provides specifics regarding the prohibition and procedure to secure an exemption.
- Exemptions include: 1) cases in which, for reasons of conservation or protection of the products, the use of alternative materials is not environmentally viable; 2) industrial uses; and 3) secondary packaging or packaging for which the manufacturer/importer has a system of collection and extended responsibility.
- [Guidelines](#) (in Spanish) regarding the new regulation and the exemption process have been provided by Costa Rica's Ministry of Health.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

China Publishes Update on Support of Bio-source Pesticides

- China's Ministry of Agriculture recently [published responses](#) (in Chinese) to a consultation regarding the increased use of biologically derived pesticides.

(Continued on next page)

China Publishes Update on Support of Bio-source Pesticides (continued)

- The responses highlighted progress made through a series of policy measures which have been implemented in recent years to improve and expand the following:
 - Registration guidelines and control of priority use requirements
 - Technological innovation, research and development of bio-source pesticide enterprises
 - Subsidies and preferential tax policies for farmers
 - Phase-out of highly toxic and high-risk pesticides
- The effort is being led by China's National Development and Reform Commission and Ministry of Finance.

Korea Notifies Changes to Allow Remote Inspection of Foreign Food Facilities

- Korea [notified the WTO](#) of proposed revisions to Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) *Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control* to allow for remote inspections of foreign food manufacturers.
- The [proposed revisions](#) (in Korean), which cite the need for remote inspection capabilities due to natural disasters or infectious disease, include procedures and methods to facilitate real-time remote inspection and communication as needed.
- The dates of adoption and publication are yet to be determined. Comments are due by October 1, 2021 to MFDS at intmfds@korea.kr.

India Publishes Reference of Recommended Dietary Allowances

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has published an [advisory](#) regarding updated daily recommended dietary allowances (RDAs) established by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 2020.
- The advisory provides a consolidated reference document including the specified values for key vitamins, minerals, and amino acids.
- Compliance with the new RDAs will become mandatory on July 1, 2023.

WTO Agriculture Negotiations Draft Text Published

- A [draft text](#) has been circulated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) agriculture negotiations chair, Costa Rican Ambassador Gloria Abraham Peralta, as officials prepare for the WTO twelfth ministerial conference in early September 2021.
- The draft text addresses several key topics including domestic support, market access, export competition, export restrictions, special safeguard mechanisms, public stockholding for food security, and transparency.
- Among its consolidated proposals, the text suggests that members “commit to capping and reducing the sum of current global agricultural trade- and production-distorting domestic support entitlements by at least half by 2030.” It also proposes that special and differential treatment continue for developing countries.
- Over thirty U.S. agricultural groups recently sent a [letter](#) to U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack outlining their agriculture priorities for WTO reform. Notably, the letter states that any negotiations regarding changes to domestic support programs should be tied to enhanced market access for U.S. food and agricultural goods.
- [Additional information](#) on the agriculture negotiations is available on the WTO website.