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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**USTR Invites Comments on Development of an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)**

- On March 10, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) [invited comments](#) on the U.S. objectives and positions under the Fair and Resilient Trade pillar of the emerging Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).
- The IPEF was announced in October 2021. It aims at deeper economic relations with the Indo-Pacific region and better-coordinated approaches regarding global economic challenges.
- Under the Fair and Resilient Trade pillar, IPEF will cover labor, environment and climate, digital economy, agriculture, transparency and good regulatory practices, competition policy, and trade facilitation.
- USTR is seeking comments as it develops negotiating objectives and positions for the IPEF trade pillar. Comments are specifically sought on agricultural-related matters, transparency and good regulatory practice issues, and customs and trade facilitation issues, among others.
- Comments can be submitted using the link "[Comment](#)" on [Regulation.gov](#) through April 11, 2022.

**India, Canada Relaunch Trade Agreement Negotiations**

- On March 11, India and Canada [announced](#) they will formally re-launch the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations. The [negotiations](#) were initially launched in 2010, with the last full round of negotiations taking place in 2017.
- A stated goal for Canada in the discussions is market access for Canadian cherries in the Indian market.
- Paragraph five of the announcement discusses goals of the negotiations in regard to agriculture, including expanded market access for Canadian pulses, cherries, and lumber and market access to Canada for Indian agricultural goods including sweet corn, baby corn, bananas, and organic exports.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Asia Fruit Logistica 2022 Rescheduled, Relocated**

- On March 10, Asia Fruit Logistica [announced](#) the 2022 trade show will be held November 2-4, 2022 in Bangkok. Asia Fruit Logistica was previously scheduled for September 7-9, 2022 in Hong Kong.
- Continued COVID-19 restrictions in Hong Kong and China prompted the change. Under current regulations, fully vaccinated travelers to Thailand are exempt from quarantine requirements.

**Australia Launches Biosecurity Portal**

- [Starting March 16](#), importers and customs brokers can book, view, and manage import inspections in Queensland, Northern Territory, and South Australia via a new [Biosecurity Portal](#). The portal will be made available for more regions in the coming months.

### Australia Notifies WTO of Consultation on Domestic Organic Framework

- Australia [recently notified the WTO](#) of the [Domestic organic regulation framework: Consultation regulation impact statement](#). Currently, Australia has no government-endorsed definition, mandatory standard, or certification requirement for foods sold domestically as “organic”, including imports. Australia does have certification requirements for organic exports.
- The [online survey and consultation](#) hosted on the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) website closes on March 17, 2022. However, the WTO notification comment period will be open until May 14, 2022. Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at [usatbtep@nist.gov](mailto:usatbtep@nist.gov).

### Singapore Introduces Label for Local Fresh Produce

- The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) published the [Singapore Food Agency \(Certification Marks\) \(Amendment No. 2\) Notification 2022](#), amending the [Singapore Food Agency \(Certification Marks\) Notification 2019](#).
- The Amendment introduces different *Singapore Fresh Produce Marks*, the *Singapore Good Agricultural Practice Certification Mark*, and the *Singapore Clean and Green Urban Farms Certification Mark*.
- SFA has a dedicated [webpage](#) for labeling and supporting local fresh produce.

### South Korea Amends Enforcement Rules of the Special Act on Imported Food Safety Management

- On March 2, South Korea amended its [Enforcement Rules of the Special Act on Imported Food Safety Management](#) (in Korean) through the *Prime Minister's Decree No. 1800*.
- Based on informal translation of the *Decree* and the stated “Reason for enactment/revision”, most changes refine or clarify operational details – such as forms and submission processes – of the *Enforcement Rules*, which came into effect in February. Exporters should review all amended provisions thoroughly.
- The following notable changes enter into force after six months (September 2022):
  - Article 17 regarding changes to a registered overseas business is amended to set a 30-day period in which changes must be notified per the stated process
  - Article 26 is amended to expand the definition of a “specially managed business operator”
- All other provisions changes enter into force immediately, including the notable amendment of Article 27 to ease the acceptance of electronically submitted documents for food imports.

### Update on Canada's FTA Negotiations with ASEAN

- Canada has opened a [public consultation](#) regarding the environmental impact assessment related to [resumption](#) of its free trade negotiations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). ASEAN comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- In 2018, Canada conducted a first consultation on a potential FTA with ASEAN and the agri-food sector was [supportive](#) of the idea to start discussions.
- Bilateral merchandise trade between Canada and ASEAN reached \$26.7 billion in 2020. U.S. goods exports to ASEAN in 2020 were \$76.4 billion. According to the ASEAN-Canada FTA Joint Feasibility Study, an FTA would result in a US\$7.8 billion increase in bilateral trade between ASEAN member states and Canada.
- The United States and ASEAN meet regularly on trade and investment issues, including under the 2006 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement.

### South Korea, Mexico Relaunch Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

- At meetings held on March 1, [Mexico](#) (in Spanish) and [South Korea](#) announced they will resume negotiations for a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA). The two countries suspended FTA negotiations fourteen years ago.
- South Korea reaffirmed its intentions to apply to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and reported that Mexico supports Korea's CPTPP application.
- The countries intend to hold another preliminary meeting this month and a first round of negotiations in the first half of 2022.

### South Korea, Ecuador Relaunch Trade Agreement Negotiations

- On March 8, South Korea [announced](#) it had resumed negotiations for the Korea-Ecuador Strategic Economic Complementation Agreement (SECA) after a five-year hiatus.
- Ecuador has applied and South Korea intends to apply for membership to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).