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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **USDA Publishes Stone Fruit Annual Reports for Australia, Chile**
- **British Columbia Cherries Gain Market Access to Korea**
- **Costa Rica Applies for CPTPP Membership**
- **Vietnam Updates Food Safety Policy**
- **Korea Announces Additional Inspection Agency for Product Packaging**
- **Korea Celebrates Regulatory Innovation, Grants One-Year Grace Period for Consumption Expiration Labeling System**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Publishes Stone Fruit Annual Reports for Australia, Chile

- The USDA recently published its annual reports on the stone fruit industry for [Australia](#) and [Chile](#).
- Australia:
 - In Marketing Year 2022/23, Australian cherry production is forecasted to increase by 19% year-over-year to 19,000 metric tons (MT). The high annual growth rate is in part due to an unusually small harvest in MY 2021/22 due to wet conditions at harvest and is only 9.7% above the average of the previous five marketing years. Production growth is attributed to new trees entering into production and improved varieties.
 - While labor availability continues to be an issue for Australian agriculture, shortfalls are beginning to lessen as the country loosens COVID-19 restrictions on foreign entry into the country. However, insufficient labor for the cherry harvest beginning in October is predicted.
 - Australian cherry exports are forecast to reach 4,500 MT, increasing by 15% from the previous year and returning to MY 2020/21 levels, with the majority of exports destined for Asia between November and March.
 - Australia only imports cherries from the United States, typically between May and August. Imports were down significantly in MY 2021/22 due to low production volumes in the U.S.
- Chile:
 - In MY 2021/22, cherry planted area grew 23.5% reaching approximately 121,000 acres. In MY 2022/23, planted area is expected to grow an additional 7,500 acres (6%).
 - MY 2021/22 saw limited growth in production and exports due to drought and untimely frost. However, favorable climatic conditions in MY 2022/23 are forecasted to increase production by 19.2% to 465,000 MT and increase exports by 20.8% to 430,000 MT.
 - While the majority (87.3%) of Chilean cherry exports continued to go to China, in MY 2021/22 exports to the U.S. increased 91.9%, reaching 13,169 MT. Chilean exports also saw significant percentage increases on small initial volumes to South Korea (27.9% to 6,924 MT) and Taiwan (29% to 5,945 MT), among other countries, as Chile attempts to diversify its export destinations.

British Columbia Cherries Gain Market Access to Korea

- On August 10, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada [announced](#) that cherries from British Columbia had gained market access to South Korea.
- According to the announcement, British Columbia grows 95% of Canada's sweet cherries, which typically reach market in August and September.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Costa Rica Applies for CPTPP Membership

- On August 10, the President of Costa Rica [announced](#) the country has applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- Currently, the CPTPP is fully in force for Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. Brunei, Chile, and Malaysia are signatories, but have not yet ratified it.
- Costa Rica joins the United Kingdom, China, Taiwan, and Ecuador in seeking accession to the trade pact. In April 2022, South Korea signed a resolution to join CPTPP, but has yet to formally apply (*BCI Monitors 2-8-21, 6-8-21, 9-14-21, 9-21-21, 9-28-21, 4-19-22*).

Vietnam Updates Food Safety Policy

- The Vietnam Food Administration [published](#) a [draft circular](#) (in Vietnamese) to revise or partially repeal the following Ministry of Health regulations of interest to the California Cherry Board:
 - Circular No. 48/2015/TT-BYT stipulating food safety inspection activities in food production and trading under the management of the Ministry of Health;
 - Decision No. 46/2007/QD-BYT regulating the maximum limit of contamination and chemicals in food;
 - Circular No. 14/2011/TT-BYT on guidelines for taking samples for inspection and examination of food quality, hygiene and safety.
- The draft circular was also [notified to the WTO](#). The proposed date of entry into force is February 15, 2023.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Inquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is September 27, 2022.

Korea Announces Additional Inspection Agency for Product Packaging

- Korea's Ministry of Environment (MOE) published [Ministry of Environment Notice No. 2022-147](#) (in Korean), establishing the "Eco-friendly Packaging Technology Testing and Research Institute" as a second inspection agency for packaging materials and packaging methods for products.

Korea Celebrates Regulatory Innovation, Grants One-Year Grace Period for Consumption Expiration Labeling System

- On August 11, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) Director announced [100 Tasks for Food and Drug Regulatory Innovation](#). The list is part of the government's national goal to become a global center of bio-digital health by supporting innovation in the domestic food and pharmaceutical industries. Specifically, MFDS aims to abolish or alleviate regulations not directly related to safety and health. The tasks include international harmonization and resolution of procedural regulations.
- The list includes numerous tasks of potential relevance to the California Cherry Board. Exporters are urged to review the full document to identify all relevant measures. BCI is working to analyze potentially relevant items, including finding the relevant supporting regulatory documents, and will provide summaries in the future.
- Of note, task item #78 emphasizes a one-year "guidance" period to follow the January 1, 2023 entry into force of the food "consumption date" labeling system announced in [Notice No. 2022-25](#), to allow companies to deplete their existing stock of labels (*BCI Monitor 11-16-21, 3-1-22, 4-12-22*).