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## Specific Issues of Interest to the CCB:

## USDA Publishes Stone Fruit Annual Report for Mexico

- On October 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) published its [Stone Fruit Annual Report](#) for Mexico.
- FAS forecasts Mexico's cherry production to increase by 6% to 139 metric tons (MT) in 2024, from 130 MT in 2023. While cherry production has expanded, it is still limited due to much of Mexico's climate being warmer than the ideal growing conditions. Currently, only mountainous areas in the states of Chihuahua and Puebla provide viable growing conditions, and Mexico's low production levels necessitate imports to meet consumer demand.
- Consumption has increased significantly in recent years, demonstrating Mexican consumers' growing interest in cherries due to their perceived health benefits. Cherries are consumed domestically as fresh products, as well as in value-added forms, such as wine, preserves, and jams. Mexico does not export cherries and, due to limited domestic production, imports account for over 90% of cherry consumption.
- FAS forecasts Mexico's cherry imports to increase by 4% to 5,110 MT in 2024 from the estimated 4,923 MT in 2023. 90% of these imported cherries come from the U.S. and the remaining 10% come from Chile. While Chile exports in the early parts of the year, the U.S. exports from May through September, resulting in a beneficial competitive landscape for both countries with little export overlap.

## General Issues of Interest to the CCB:

## Phase One of Hong Kong's Single-use Plastics Ban Transition Period Ends in October

- On October 7, Hong Kong's Environmental Protection Department published [a reminder](#) that the transition period for phase one of its [single-use plastics ban](#) ends on October 21 (*BCI Monitors 4-4-23, 11-7-23, 4-2-24*).
- As previously reported, phase one bans the sale and free distribution of oxo-degradable plastic products (regardless of disposability).
- Phase two of the ban is tentatively projected to enter into force in 2025 depending on the availability and affordability of non-plastic or reusable alternatives. Phase two of the ban will, however, not include products of interest to CCB.

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

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