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- **South Africa-China Trade Deal to Enter into Force May 1**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

South Africa-China Trade Deal to Enter into Force May 1

- South Africa and China will implement a new trade agreement from May 1, 2026, granting zero-tariff access across South African exports to China, according to a recent [media report](#) (in Spanish) (*BCI Monitor 2-17-26*).
- The development comes as South Africa's cherry industry continues to expand, with production growth driven by investment, innovation, and the adoption of low-chill cultivars that have enabled cultivation in a wider range of regions, as highlighted in a [report](#) by South African fruit industry body Hortgro.
- While cherries remain primarily focused on the domestic market, exports have increased in recent years and account for a growing share of production, with shipments concentrated in established markets such as the UK, EU, and Middle East.
- China is viewed as a potential future market; however, access for cherries has not yet been established and would require a negotiated phytosanitary protocol. This follows market access secured for other stone fruit, as [announced](#) by the South African government in October 2025.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

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