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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

India, New Zealand Sign Free Trade Agreement

- On April 27, the [New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement](#) was signed by the two parties, signaling a major step toward implementation of the Agreement after the conclusion of negotiations in December 2025.
- New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides an [overview of the Agreement](#), including key outcomes and additional resources. India's Ministry of Commerce similarly has published a detailed [factsheet of the Agreement](#). Notably, New Zealand will eliminate all tariffs on Indian exports immediately upon entry into force, while India will eliminate its tariff on cherries (HS 0809.29) from 30% to zero over ten years.
- Both sides will now commence their respective legal processes to bring the Agreement into force.

South Korea Notifies Amended Quarantine Pest List

- On April 29, South Korea [notified](#) the WTO of its Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (APQA) [amended quarantine pest list](#).
- The amended list adds 45 quarantine pests. A review of the listed pests indicated minimal relevant to fresh sweet cherries, with only isolated species having any known association with cherry hosts. Most listed organisms are specific to unrelated crops or are not associated with the fresh fruit pathway.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Enquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is June 28, 2026.

USTR Opens Consultation on Modernization of AGOA

- On April 29, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) opened [a request for comments](#) on the modernization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).
- Of potential interest, the USTR is seeking comments on the following:
 - How AGOA can better address non-tariff barriers and other impediments to U.S. exports and businesses
 - How AGOA can assist in increasing demand for U.S. products in the region
 - How AGOA can be modified to ensure trade preferences accrue predominantly to the U.S.
- Written comments must be submitted to the USTR by May 15, 2026, at 11:59 ET. Submissions can be made through [the associated consultation portal](#).

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

Taiwan Approves Reforms to Strengthen Circular Economy and Waste Management Framework

- Taiwan's Ministry of Environment recently published an Executive Yuan [meeting summary](#) (in Chinese) regarding its approval on April 9 of amendments which: 1) rename and revise the *Resource Recovery and Reuse Act* to become the *Resource Circulation Promotion Act*; and 2) amend the *Waste Disposal Act*. These were circulated as draft amendments in May 2025 (BCI Monitor 6-24-25).
- According to machine translation, the *Resource Circulation Promotion Act* is substantially expanded from the previous framework and introduces a full life cycle approach to resource management. It establishes clear responsibilities across central government agencies, requires a national resource circulation plan, with corresponding local action plans, and creates a Resource Circulation Promotion Council to provide policy guidance.
- The *Resource Circulation Promotion Act* introduces mandatory green design principles and guidelines (Articles 13-15) and allows authorities to require use of recycled materials. The government can set reuse and reduction targets for products and packaging, and businesses must submit reuse and reduction plans and report results (Articles 16-17). Product labeling and disclosure will be required to facilitate repair and recycling (Articles 21-22).
- The *Waste Disposal Act* amendments close regulatory gaps, strengthen enforcement, and improve waste tracking and accountability. The scope of waste responsibility is expanded, authority over waste regulations is centralized, and financial and legal liability measures are established.
- Regulations regarding Green Design in the *Resource Circulation Promotion Act* and Enhanced Reuse Management in the *Waste Disposal Act* and their associated penalties will enter into effect two years after promulgation, while all other provisions will enter into effect immediately after promulgation.
- The approved amendments will now be forwarded to the Legislative Yuan for deliberation prior to promulgation.