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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CPAB:

CPAB Identifies Emerging Market Opportunities in Russia

- On October 24-29, the California Pear Advisory Board (CPAB) conducted a trade mission to Vladivostok. The trip, which was funded in part by the USDA's Emerging Markets Program (EMP), successfully identified market opportunities for California pears in the Russian Far East (RFE).
- During the mission, the CPAB team met with key importers and visited a number of retailers in Vladivostok. CPAB observed a wide variety of imported pears available in the market, including Northwest Bartletts and Anjous, Argentine Packhams and Anjous, and Chinese "Honey" pears among others.
- Assuming CPAB exporters identify qualified Russian trading partners, determine appropriate market windows of opportunity, and ensure fruit arrives in good condition and is properly handled during transit, the RFE could become a viable market for California pears.
- Please contact CPAB for a copy of the complete trip report covering the mission.

SmartFresh to Be Approved for Use on California Pears

- Pending no major public opposition, SmartFresh (1-Methylcyclopropene or 1-MCP) will be approved for use on California pears as of November 25, 2009 according to a notice from the Director of the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).
- As an ethylene inhibitor, SmartFresh delays the ripening of fruit and thus increases storage and shelf life. It is currently used on Bartlett pears in Argentina and the U.S. Pacific Northwest.
- CPAB was recently awarded \$100,000 under the 2009 California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to conduct further research on SmartFresh use on California pears. The results of the new research, conducted at UC Davis, should be available in time for use during the 2010 California Bartlett season.

AMS Announces Offer to Purchase 22,680 Cases of Canned Mixed Fruit

- On November 3, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) invited offers to buy 22,680 cases of canned mixed fruit from domestic vendors for use in various government food assistance programs. All bids are due by November 17, and must be submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES). To view the offer or to issue a bid, please see: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5080604>.

India Proposes Additional Import Requirements for Pears

- On October 28, the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) issued a report concerning recently proposed Indian amendments to the import requirements for several commodities, including pears.
- 10 India has proposed adding to the requirements for pears an additional declaration asserting that the product is free from *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly). Moreover, pears must obtain pest-free status of *Rhagoletis pomonella* (Apple maggot) per international standards, or undergo standard pre-shipment cold treatment.

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(India Proposes Additional Import Requirements for Pears continued)

- The Indian Ministry of Agriculture will receive comments on this proposed legislation until November 9. However, per its World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments, India is expected to notify the WTO of this proposed amendment, at which time an additional comment period may be instated.

European Union Establishes New MRL on Pears

- On October 28, 2009, the European Union (EU) issued Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1050/2009, which includes a new maximum residue limit (MRL) for emamectin benzoate on pears at 0.02 parts per million (ppm). This is more restrictive than the corresponding U.S. MRL of 0.025 ppm.

United Kingdom Reports on September Pesticide Monitoring for Pears

- On November 3, the Pesticide Residues Committee (PRC) published the September results from its monthly monitoring of pesticide residues on pears.
- PRC took 18 pear samples representing product from five different countries. None of the 18 samples tested residue levels higher than the relevant MRL. For more information, please see:
<http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/prc.asp?id=2802&link=%2Fuploadedfiles%2FWeb%5FAssets%2FPRC%2Fpear%5Fsept%5F2009%5Fv2%2Epdf>.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CPAB:

New Medfly Discoveries Reported in San Diego County

- California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) officials have announced the discovery of two male Mediterranean fruit flies (Medfly) and a mated female on October 29-30 in the Fallbrook area of San Diego County. As a result, a quarantine has been established in the area.
- An eradication program involving destruction of potential host fruit, insecticide application, and the release of sterile flies has been initiated.
- Additional medflies were also detected in near Escondido, prompting an expansion of the existing quarantine area.

Taiwan Provides Text of MRL Revisions

- The Taiwanese Department of Health recently updated its website with the text of previously-announced MRL proposals.
- The proposals include a new MRL for spinosad on pears at 0.2 ppm. This is harmonized with the current U.S. MRL. Comments on the measures are due by December 21. For additional information, please see:
http://food.doh.gov.tw/english/Acts_Regulations/0980461846.pdf.

Brazil Extends Pest Management System for Argentine Imports of Apples, Pears, and Quince

- On November 4, Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply issued a notice extending its systems approach for the pest risk management of *Cydia pomonella* (codling moth) from imported Argentine apples, pears, and quince fruit. The Integrated System of Risk Mitigation was originally set to expire October 19, but will now remain in effect until the end of the 2008/2009 harvest.

APHIS Withdraws Proposed User Fee Increases

- On November 4, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a notice withdrawing a proposed interim rule that would have increased user fees for agricultural quarantine and inspection services of certain commercial carriers and international passenger airlines arriving at U.S. ports.
- The proposed rule, which was reported in the October 2 issue of the *BCI Monitor*, was to be implemented November 1. APHIS has decided to instead explore other regulatory alternatives.