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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CPAB:

European Pear Production, Exports to Increase in 2009/10

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) recently released a report on the European Union's (EU) deciduous fruit industry, which includes Post estimates of European pear production and trade.
- EU commercial pear production is expected to grow to 2.5 million metric tons (MMT) in marketing year (MY) 2009/10, which represents a 12 percent increase from the previous year.
- Over 88% of European pears are produced within the top six pear-producing member states of Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, and France. Moreover, trade of European pears typically occurs between the member states themselves.
- Conference, Bartlett, and Abate Fetel are the top three major varieties grown in the EU-27, accounting for 56% of total production. The estimated 36% increase in Conference varietal production this year accounts for the majority of the anticipated upswing in total EU pear production in the next season.
- Post estimates indicate that exports totaled 221,989 MT in MY 2008/09, a decrease of 19% from the previous year. Although exports are expected to increase in MY 2009/2010 due to higher levels of production, the gain will not rival the peak export total of 285,000 MT experienced in 2006/07.
- To view the report in full, please see:
http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/EU-27%20FRESH%20DECIDUOUS%20FRUIT%20ANNUAL_Berlin_Germany-Italy%20EU-27_11-13-2009.pdf.

Updates on the Chilean Pear Market

- FAS also released a report on Chile's deciduous fruit industry, which includes Post estimates of Chilean pear production and trade.
- Although good weather conditions so far this year suggest a promising upcoming season for Chilean pears, the unpredictability of the El Nino weather phenomenon indicates that it is still too early to predict production volumes. Based on this limited data, exports are expected to remain stable.
- To view the FAS report on Chile's deciduous fruit industry in full, please see:
http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/FRESH%20DECIDUOUS%20FRUIT%20ANNUAL_Santiago_Chile_16-11-2009.pdf.

FAS Releases Report on Pear Industry in South Africa

- FAS reports released this week also include updates on South Africa's deciduous fruit industry.
- South African pear production increased by 2 percent to 351,871 MT in MY 2008/09, and is expected to further increase by 8.2% to 380,900 MT in MY 2009/10.
- Pear exports are also expected to increase by 9% to 179,444 MT in MY 2009/10. Imports, although small, will remain stable at 197 MT.
- To view the FAS report in full, please see:
http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/FRESH%20DECIDUOUS%20FRUIT%20ANNUAL_Pretoria_South%20Africa%20-%20Republic%20of_11-20-2009.pdf.

**A Report for the
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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CPAB:

China to Establish National Standard for Food Grade Paraffin Wax

- On November 19, the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) announced the establishment of a national standard with mandatory technical requirements and test methods for food grade paraffin wax.
- The projected date of adoption for the standard is February 19, 2010, and the proposed date of entry into force is August 19, 2010. The SAC will be accepting public comments on the proposed standard until January 19, 2010. The text of the standard, which is currently only available in Chinese, can be found here: http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2009/tbt/chn/09_4029_00_x.pdf.

Indonesia Recognizes U.S. Food Safety System

- In a letter dated November 19, 2009, Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture informed U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) officials that it has recognized the U.S. food safety control system for a period of two years. This recognition exempts U.S. shipments to Indonesia from some of the more restrictive requirements of Decree 27, a new Indonesian regulation covering food safety requirements for food of plant origin.
- With the U.S. system recognized, U.S. food is exempted from the requirements of an additional health certificate covering pesticide residues and other contaminants and more stringent testing. U.S. produce does need to be accompanied by an import declaration form that is provided in Decree 27. The text of Decree 27 is available upon request.
- One outstanding issue is whether Indonesia will accept U.S. maximum residue levels (MRLs) for U.S. products in cases in which the U.S. MRL is less restrictive than the Codex MRL. Indonesian officials have verbally indicated that this will be the case, but the policy has not been confirmed in writing.

EU Adopts Sweeping Reform of Existing Pesticide Registration Law

- In a long-awaited move, the European Commission (EC) this week adopted a sweeping reform of the EU's existing pesticide registration law. The new law, Regulation 1109/2007, will replace the current Directive 91/414/EEC effective June 14, 2011.
- The new law saw several high-profile and contentious debates throughout its passage into final form, largely due to the new law's use of so-called "cut-off" and substitution criteria. These criteria determine whether certain classes of pesticides will be prohibited from further registration and use in the EU on the basis of their intrinsic characteristics, as opposed to a traditional risk-based analysis taking into account uses and exposure. Many groups have criticized this legislation as promoting a hazard-based approach to regulating pesticides. The full regulation is available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:309:0001:0050:EN:PDF>.
- In addition to the new regulation on registration, the EC also adopted a second law, Directive 2009/128/EC, that establishes a framework for the sustainable use of pesticides by growers within the EU. The directive is available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:309:0071:0086:EN:PDF>.

APHIS Reviews Standards Adopted by International Animal and Plant Health Organizations in 2009

- On November 24, USDA's Animal Health and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a notice reviewing the recent standard-setting activities of several international organizations, including the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO).
- Recent standard-setting activities in the IPPC include the proposal of new international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPM), a review of new IPPC standards established in 2009, a review of IPPC standards up for adoption in 2010, and a list of other standard-setting initiatives currently being developed. These issues will be discussed at the next IPPC meeting on March 22-26, 2010 in Rome.
- Finally, APHIS identified the NAPPO regulatory changes scheduled for review under sixteen different panels, including a panel dedicated specifically to the examination of fruit tree and grapevine issues.
- For more information on these regulatory issues or to submit a comment, please see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-28143.pdf>.

President Obama Calls for Increased Exports to Asia

- In the weekly presidential address broadcast on November 21, President Obama urged U.S. producers to place greater emphasis on exports to Asian countries, claiming that Pacific trade was an essential element to U.S. economic recovery.
- The public address followed the conclusion of President Obama's nine-day tour of Asia, which included an appearance at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting as well as official visits in China, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea. President Obama claimed that the primary objective of his Asia trip was to "open a new era of engagement" while reestablishing U.S. economic growth and prosperity.
- President Obama stated that increased trade ties with the Asian region would assist in job creation, citing estimates that a 5 percent increase in U.S. exports to Asia would create hundreds of thousands of jobs in the U.S.