



8 October 2026

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness Network

Welcome to this week's issue of Field Notes, a summary of Agribusiness news from across the sector, prepared by the KPMG Agribusiness network.

Reimagining Global Food System Resilience

Global food systems are facing increasing pressure from climate volatility, geopolitical disruption, shifting consumer expectations, evolving technology and tighter capital markets.

In KPMG's latest global publication, Reimagining Global Food System Resilience, food, agribusiness and consumer sector leaders examine the key themes emerging from leading international forums, including World Agri-Tech, Future Food-Tech, Davos and COP30.

The report explores why food system resilience is becoming a business, economic and national security priority, and highlights the collaboration, investment and innovation needed to build food systems that are more resilient, competitive and capable of delivering long-term value.

[Read the full report here](#)

Week in review

In domestic news,

[T&G Global's VentureFruit has launched Adore, a new family of apples bred through a New Zealand-Spanish partnership to maintain fruit quality and yields in hotter growing conditions as global temperatures rise](#) [7 October, News Wire].

The varieties will be licensed to growers globally and marketed under a single brand, with T&G targeting growing demand in the premium apple market.

[AgriZero NZ has secured a further NZ \\$117 million in funding, increasing its total capital base to NZ \\$308 million, with the Government matching industry investment dollar for dollar](#) [5 October, The Country]. Alliance Group and Farmlands have also joined the partnership, broadening industry backing for work to accelerate emissions-reduction technologies for New Zealand agriculture.

[Alliance Group will return up to NZ \\$20 million to eligible farmer-shareholders later this year following its strategic partnership with Dawn Meats](#) [6 October, Rural News Group]. The payment will be split between a dividend (45%) and a livestock supply rebate (55%), with a further distribution of up to NZ \$20 million planned for next year, subject to livestock supply levels.

In International news...

[Singapore-based investment group Chestnut has acquired Australian meat products manufacturer South Food Group, expanding its food manufacturing platform in Australia](#) [7 October, Food & Beverage Industry News]. The acquisition gives Chestnut access to established retail and foodservice brands and follows an existing commercial relationship between the businesses, positioning the combined operation for further growth in Australia and international markets.

[Ukraine has pushed back against European Commission proposals that could permanently limit market access for its agricultural products, arguing such restrictions would be incompatible with full EU membership](#) [6 October, POLITICO]. Ukraine says it is willing to accept transitional measures, including temporary quotas and safeguards, but insists any limits on grain and other agricultural exports to the EU must have a clear end date.

[British supermarket chain Morrisons is trialling a new multi-temperature Click & Collect locker system at its Skipton store, allowing customers to collect ambient, chilled and frozen grocery orders using a unique access code without waiting for staff assistance](#) [2 October, Grocery Gazette]. The automated lockers, supplied by StrongPoint, are expected to increase collection capacity and extend operating hours.

Spotlight stories

Innovation Spotlight: [IntegriCulture, ImpacFat to Develop Next-Gen Cosmetics with Cultivated Fish Fat](#) [5 October, Green Queen]

Japanese cellular agriculture company IntegriCulture has partnered with Singapore startup ImpacFat to develop cosmetic ingredients from cultivated fish fat rich in omega-3 fatty acids. The companies will combine ImpacFat's cell-cultured fish fat technology with IntegriCulture's cosmetics development and manufacturing expertise to evaluate personal care applications and develop prototype products for cosmetics brands in the Asia-Pacific market.

Investment Spotlight: [La Caisse and GO FARM launch AUD 330 million platform to invest in Australian permanent crop](#) [25 August, GO FARM]

Global investment group La Caisse and Australian agricultural investment manager GO FARM have launched a A\$330 million (NZ \$372 million) investment platform to develop irrigated permanent crop assets across Australia, targeting high-value horticulture opportunities. The partnership combines La Caisse's A\$300 million equity commitment with A\$30 million (NZ \$37 million) from GO FARM, and includes La Caisse taking a minority stake in GO FARM to support long-term growth. The investment will focus on transforming underutilised land and water assets into large-scale horticultural operations.

This week's headlines

[Entries open for 'life-changing' Zanda McDonald Award](#) [4 October, Farmers Weekly]

Applications are now open for the 2027 Zanda McDonald Award, a trans-Tasman leadership programme for emerging young leaders in New Zealand and Australia's primary sectors. Winners receive a \$10,000 education package, tailored mentoring, professional development opportunities and access to influential industry leaders and networks. Applications close on 31 October 2026, with the winners to be announced at the award's Impact Summit on the Gold Coast in March 2027.

[McDonald's opens paid 2027/28 placement for aspiring young farmers](#) [5 October, Farming UK]

McDonald's has opened applications for its paid 2027/28 Progressive Young Farmers programme, offering full-time students a 12-month placement across farming, food production and agricultural supply chains. Participants will gain hands-on experience throughout the company's supply chain, from farms and processing facilities to supplier businesses, while working on projects focused on farm resilience, regenerative agriculture, productivity and food security. The programme also includes mentoring from major suppliers across the beef, dairy, poultry, pork and potato sectors.

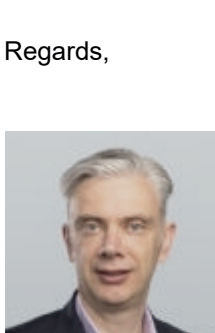
[Reframing sustainability, Building resilience](#) [September, KPMG UK]

KPMG UK has released a report examining food security as a core pillar of societal and economic resilience, highlighting how climate change, environmental degradation and geopolitical disruption are increasing pressure on global food systems. A dedicated chapter on food security notes that while food production has scaled to feed more than eight billion people, 25.8% of the world's population was still moderately or severely food insecure in 2025, and 1.7 billion people live in areas affected by land degradation. The report argues that food security is increasingly a strategic issue, with disruptions to food supply posing risks to economic stability, workforce productivity and social cohesion.

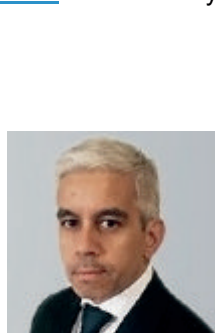
At KPMG, we believe that the future success of New Zealand depends on our ability and willingness to add value to our primary produce and take it to the world. Keeping informed on the latest news and discussions is just one of the ways to make this happen for New Zealand's most significant contributor to prosperity.

If others in your organisation would find this publication useful, please forward this email on to them. They can then [subscribe](#) to our weekly newsletter.

Regards,



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