



# AUSTRALIAN HORTICULTURAL EXPORTERS' AND IMPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

PO Box 346, Brisbane Market, Queensland. 4106

Coordinator

Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement  
Free Trade Agreements Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
RG Casey Building  
John McEwen Crescent  
Barton ACT 0221

15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

The AHEIA is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation, with a primary focus on advocacy to enhance the trade of horticultural produce in and out of Australia. The AHEIA has been the peak industry body representing exporters and importers of horticultural produce in Australia since 1987.

India is a market that offers huge potential for growth of Australian horticultural products. Australian fresh products permitted into India are - Apples, Stone fruit (including cherries), Blueberries, Dates, Citrus, Table Grapes, Kiwifruit, Pears and the only vegetables permitted to be exported are the Alliums (Chives, Garlic, Onions, Leeks and Shallots).

Our members feel that they are operating at a disadvantage compared to other countries who appear to be gaining more favourable terms of access.

Currently, volumes exported from Australia are much lower than they could be with our members voicing their concerns relating to the high tariffs charged on products on arrival in India. Our industry believes this is the major obstacle hindering increased export volumes.

Australia's cost of production of fresh produce is high compared to some of our competitors, due in part to our growing, labour and transport costs. Australia exports a superior quality product grown under safe conditions, but we still must be competitive with other countries in the world. When India adds huge tariffs to our products, our market potential is limited.

Currently, the Central Board of Excise and Customs of India shows tariffs on products as listed below:

| Commodity          | Commodity Code | Basic Duty |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| Apples             | 0808 10 00     | 50%        |
| Pears              | 0808 30 00     | 35%        |
| Peaches/Nectarines | 0809 30 00     | 30%        |
| Apricots/Cherries  | 0809 10 00     | 30%        |
| Plums              | 0809 40 00     | 25%        |
| Blueberry          | 0810 40 00     | 30%        |
| Kiwifruit          | 0810 50 00     | 30%        |
| Oranges            | 0805 10 00     | 40%        |
| Mandarins          | 0805 21 00     | 30%        |
| Grapefruit         | 0805 40 00     | 25%        |
| Lemons             | 0805 50 00     | 40%        |
| Table Grapes       | 0806 10 00     | 40%        |
| Fresh Dates        | 0804 10 10     | 30%        |

On behalf of our members, AHEIA asks that you to take the high tariff charges into consideration when discussing trade issues.

In the spirit of co-operation, it should be noted that we are supportive of Indian export activities to Australia to ensure successful and long-term bilateral trade in fresh fruits and vegetables.

Yours sincerely,



Lesley M. Shield

CEO – Horticultural Exporters' & Importers' Association (AHEIA)

**Mobile: +61 423 394 476**

**Email: [lesley@horticulturetrade.com.au](mailto:lesley@horticulturetrade.com.au)**