



Weekly News email

1st August 2024

Horizon scanning

Global - World breaks hottest day record twice in a week

Australia - is struggling to improve the lives of the country's Indigenous population, with only five of 19 measures on course to meet targets, showed a government report released on Wednesday.

Bangladesh - Concerns raised over brand purchasing practices as violent protest crackdown puts garment industry in crisis. Due to the sharp deadlines set by brands, and the factory closures happening during peak production season, manufacturers have reported running their factories for additional overtime to meet order deadlines.

Brazil - 'Morally, nobody's against it': Brazil's radical plan to tax global super-rich to tackle climate crisis. A 2% levy would affect about 100 billionaire families, says the country's climate chief, but the \$250bn raised could be transformative

Egypt – Greening the Desert. The 'Future of Egypt' envisages turning tracts of desert into farmland to grow crops for export. But with sky-high food price inflation and a water deficit, critics doubt it is viable

Europe/EU - Olive oil fraud and mislabelling cases hit record high in EU. Fifty potential cases in first three months of this year as rising costs lead to increase in parallel market. The cost of olive oil has more than doubled since 2018 with production hit by extreme weather caused by the climate crisis and other factors, fuelling an increase in the hidden market and fraudulent activity.

EU - The EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) has officially taken effect, marking a stride in sustainable business practices. According to Environmental Finance, published in the Official Journal of the EU, the directive mandates member states to incorporate its provisions into their national laws by 26 July 2026.

Greece - Goat plague scares Greek farmers still reeling from historic floods. Goat plague, also known as Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), was detected last month for the first time in Greece. The virus does not infect humans but is highly contagious among goats and sheep and can kill up to 70% of those infected. Once a case is detected, the entire flock is culled, the affected farm is disinfected and authorities test animals in nearby areas for the disease, in line with protocols set by the European Union.

Indonesia - Powering electric vehicles: Human rights impacts of Indonesia's nickel rush. From carbon emissions from captive coal plants fuelling nickel smelters to deforestation and water pollution threatening the ancestral homes and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, human rights and

environmental abuses in opaque battery mineral supply chains demand urgent action if we are to achieve a just transition to clean energy.

Iran - Severe heatwave in Iran forces shops and public institutions to close. Temperatures reach 45C in parts of the country and 225 people seek treatment for heatstroke

Côte d'Ivoire - Ivorian farmers turn to new rice variety for increased yields and profit. The new variety planted is resistant to unpredictable weather conditions capable of producing larger yields.

Japan - Australian government 'deeply disappointed' by Japan's decision to expand commercial whaling target list. Japanese government confirms it will allow whalers to catch and kill up to 59 fin whales, a species conservationists consider vulnerable

Japan – Rice Stocks fall to the lowest in decades amid tourist boom and poor crop yields. “The chief reasons behind the record-low inventory is a decline in production last year due to high temperatures combined with water shortages, and the relative cheapness of rice prices compared to prices of other crops such as wheat,”

Myanmar - Burmese workers in Thailand fear getting drafted under new visa restrictions. Thailand's Labor Ministry is requiring migrant workers to return to Myanmar to extend their stay.

Sicily - A crushing drought in Sicily has withered fields of grain, deprived livestock of pastureland and fanned a spate of wildfires, causing damage already estimated at 2.7 billion euros this year.

Thailand - Migrant workers risk missing out on Thai minimum wage rises. Many workers from neighbours like Myanmar make less than the minimum wage and feel powerless to complain.

Thailand - Shuttered Thai offices leave Myanmar migrants in legal limbo. Hundreds of thousands of workers are believed to need a vital document to stay in Thailand.

UK - Strawberry yields: wet then warm weather leads to bumper UK harvest. An 'extra 40-50 tonnes a week' could be heading to shop shelves because of perfect conditions, says fruit grower

UK - Wet weather has wreaked havoc on food production, it has been claimed. One of the UK's main suppliers of brassicas said its spring planting schedule was thrown into disarray, resulting in fields of rotting cabbages, broccoli, and cauliflowers because crops had failed to mature in line with demand.

UK - Thousands of modern slavery victims in UK feared back with traffickers after seeking help. Data shows that last year more than 2,000 people referred to support body the NRM had been referred before

UK – And finally the good news is Aldi are looking for an official beer taster. Details here.

Human rights and ethical trade news

Research Project into Child Labour in Mexico. Senderos— works with government, the private sector, and civil society to improve adherence to international standards on child labour, forced labour, occupational safety and health, and other acceptable conditions of work in the agriculture sectors in Jalisco and Nayarit. The project is building government capacity to enforce labour laws in agricultural supply chains, improving private sector awareness and compliance with labour laws, and increasing farmworkers' knowledge of labor rights and grievances mechanisms.

Responsible Disengagement: When Practice Misinterprets Theory. We understand the dilemma: stay and tackle where leverage is limited, systemic issues prevail, and stakeholders across the supply chain must be engaged; or leave and avoid potential human rights issues, bad press, and fines. One could conclude that finding new sourcing destinations with fewer known human rights risks could be a solution. [But is it?](#)

Sustainability

Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Mars decouples growth from emissions. Mars has posted a record 8% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across its value chain year-on-year, driven by investments in efficiency, renewable energy, and lower-impact agriculture. [Read the report](#)

Reducing Transport Emissions Innovation - [Coca-Cola is developing hydrogen HGV for supply chain in France. The Coca-Cola Company is working with Toyota on a proof-of-concept heavy goods vehicle \(HGV\) fitted with a hydrogen fuel cell, to cut tailpipe emissions.](#) Industrial gas supplier Air Liquide is also involved in the development and pilot project, which is taking place in France.

UK Climate Change Targets Review - [‘Nature is dying’: Defra launches rapid review of UK’s legally binding environment targets.](#) After repeated warnings of continued failures from official watchdogs and nature charities, the new UK Government will undertake a rapid review of targets to cut waste and improve air quality, water, and biodiversity.

Scope 3 Targets - Turning Data into Action. Five steps to consider for Scope 3 targets’ The Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) has released a new [discussion paper](#) on Scope 3 management. Here, we dive through the discussion to outline five steps that businesses may wish to explore to set more credible plans to tackle indirect (Scope 3) emissions as part of their climate strategies. (see also in resources below)

Solar Energy Production Modules - China discounts its way to record solar module exports in the first half of 2024, ensuring the country remains the dominant solar supplier despite ongoing trade disputes in key markets.

Vietnam - [Electricity-hungry Vietnam wants liquefied natural gas to fire 15% of power capacity by 2030](#) but is unlikely to meet that target as power producers and foreign investors balk at the country’s strategy for making the super-chilled fuel affordable.

Resources / Reports/Blogs/Films

CSDDD - The European Commission just published a comprehensive FAQ for the #CSDDD on 25 July 2024 (on the day the Directive entered into force). Great document for all those who look for a straightforward introduction. [Access it here.](#)

SBTi Scope 3 Targets – Discussion Paper - [Aligning Corporate Value chains to global supply chain goals.](#) (as mentioned in section above)

Working Group on Responsible Purchasing Practices - [Building resilience in supply chains through responsible purchasing practices.](#) The Working Group on Responsible Purchasing Practices (RPP) collaborates to promote progress on RPP in the garment industry, using the

Common Framework on Responsible Purchasing Practices as a reference point. Website with resources and case studies.

Events and webinars

FNET/ETI are co-hosting a webinar on Myanmar Migrant Worker Risks.

This shared learning Opportunity will discuss how the landscape change has impacted Risks for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand. We will hear insights from speakers on the ground; share Guidance and Tools to help businesses in their due diligence and how to support those affected.

This 90minute session on Friday 6th September at 09.00UK time is for members of ETI and FBET and their supply chain partners.

Contact admin@foodnetworkforethicaltrade.com for a link to the webinar.

RSPO (Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil) - Stakeholder Consultation: Revised RSPO Principles and Criteria and RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard and RSPO Certification Systems.

In compliance with the directions set by the Steering Group dated 6 September 2023 and thereafter endorsed by the RSPO Standards Standing Committee and approved by the RSPO Board of Governors, the RSPO Secretariat has been proactive in implementing the technical revision of the RSPO Standards, based on the third draft produced during the fourth Task Force Meeting. The RSPO Secretariat will be holding in-person workshops and online webinars in various cities around the world and across multiple time zones to share details about the main changes between the current Standards (P&C and ISH), Certification Systems and the proposed drafts.

Please feel free to register your interest in any of the in-person consultation workshops and online webinars listed below. Participation is strictly for confirmed registered participants. [Use this link to check the dates and register.](#)

Effective Human Rights Due Diligence in Supply Chains - Stronger Together [training](#) 1st October – Online

In the ever-changing landscape of global supply chains, staying on top of evolving regulations is critical for businesses committed to responsible practices.

Global Compact Network UK

Annual Summit: Bridging the Ambition to Action Gap

1st October 2024 | London Guildhall and online

IHRB (Institute for Human Rights & Business) – Responsible Business in Uncertain Times – Geneva - 9th October 2024 9-5pm (CET). Register your interest and scan the code below.

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

STRENGTHENING CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AMIDST WIDENING GLOBAL CONFLICTS

9 OCTOBER 2024 / 9AM - 5PM (CET)

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, GENEVA

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

SAVE THE DATE

FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

MARGOT WALLSTRÖM
Chair, IHRB International Advisory Council; Former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Sweden

GILLES CARBONNIER
Vice President, International Committee of the Red Cross/Crescent

MIKE DAVIS
CEO, Global Witness

IHRB