

GLOBAL UPDATE



california
almonds®
Almond Board of California

February 12, 2026

MEWA and Gulfood

In January, ABC participated with booths in MEWA in New Delhi, India and Gulfood in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The trade shows are productive venues for ABC to provide general information on the U.S. almond industry, assist handlers, identify and cultivate key contacts in the region, and facilitate meetings addressing trade and regulatory issues. The booths at both trade shows yielded numerous leads and opportunities to engage with potential importers/traders of U.S. almonds, reaffirming the importance of ABC being present particularly at Gulfood which serves as a platform to reach the rest of the Middle East. During the two events, ABC was able to meet with numerous US and foreign government authorities, discuss import requirements, and address several import issues with relevant stakeholders.

MEWA, India



Gulfood, UAE



Latest Tariff and Trade Updates

Following is a quick rundown of recent tariff and trade activities. ABC is closely monitoring the announcements, to identify where these framework agreements directly benefit almonds. Unless noted, implementation dates have **not** been announced:

- The Trump administration announced new agreements on reciprocal trade with [Guatemala](#) and [El Salvador](#).
- The United States announced a new trade deal with [Argentina](#) that included a tariff rate quota for shelled U.S. almonds at 870 Metric Tons/Year at 0% duties, which represents about half of what is normally shipped to Argentina. The current duty for shelled almonds is 9%.
- An Agreement on Reciprocal Trade signed February 9 with Bangladesh includes a duty reduction for kernels/inshell almonds (50% on implementation, balance over 9 years).
- The European Union concluded negotiations on a free trade agreement with India that includes improved market access for certain agricultural products.
- The EU Parliament failed to reach a deal on the U.S. trade pact delaying the final vote to February 24. This includes the proposed 500,000 MT/year tariff rate quota for tree nuts.
- In early December, the European Union and Mercosur reached a trade agreement after nearly two decades of negotiations providing more market access for EU farmers.
- The EU delayed their previously proposed counter tariffs on U.S. agricultural products (including almonds) until August 6, 2026.
- President Trump announced plans to raise tariffs on South Korea goods from 15% to 25% due to the Korean legislature's delay in approving the deal agreed in July 2025.
- Supreme Court IEEPA Tariffs Ruling is anticipated in February.

For more information, please contact Lindsay at ltello@almondboard.com.

China Facility Registration Update

All 63 handlers have been re-registered under China Decree 248. Keith Schneller is continuing to work closely on ABC's behalf with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and USDA/Foreign Agricultural

Service, to assist with any new registrations. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Keith at kschneller@almondboard.com for additional information.

Latest on India Negotiations

A joint [statement](#) was issued on February 6 by the U.S. and India regarding the U.S.-India Bilateral Trade Agreement. The Trump Administration announced the U.S.-India Trade deal. The United States will lower its tariff from 25% and to 18% while details on India's commitments on lowering tariffs, removing non-tariff barriers, and purchase commitments remain to be finalized.

The joint statement indicates that: *India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products. However, there are no details regarding which tree nuts, or what the tariff reduction will include.*

ABC is in close contact with the U.S. Trade Representative's office as information becomes available. If you have any questions, please reach out to Julie at jadams@almondboard.com.

Turkey Increases Fees on Almonds

Effective February 1, 2026, Turkey increased the **additional financial obligation** applied on top of the customs duty from **\$942/ton (2025)** to **\$1,110/ton (2026)** on shelled almonds. There has been no change to the customs duty.

EU Agrees New Genomics Techniques

On January 29, 2026, the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI Committee) voted to approve a deal on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs), marking a critical step toward final adoption of new rules that will impact farmers and breeders. This will create a 2-tier system for NGT-1 and NGT-2 plants.

The term NGTs covers a variety of techniques that adapt seeds in a way that can also occur in nature or through conventional breeding techniques. By using those techniques, improved plant varieties can be developed faster and with specific features that can respond to the challenges the agrifood sector is facing. For instance, those new varieties may be more resilient to the effects of climate change, such as drought or floods and require less use of fertilizers and pesticides.

NGT-1 plants would be treated like conventional ones with a simplified verification process; however, they cannot confer insect or herbicide resistance. NGT-2 plants would remain subject to stricter GMO-style authorization, risk assessment, traceability, and labeling.

United Kingdom ABC Visit/UK Duty Suspensions

ABC hosted a visit from representatives from the United Kingdom's Embassy in Washington, D.C. to Modesto, California. ABC provided an overview of the U.S. almond industry and raised trade topics such as the extension of the suspension of UK duty rates on U.S. almonds.

In partnership with the UK Nut and Dried Fruit Trade Association (NDFTA), ABC submitted an application for the extension of the current suspension of UK duties on shelled and in-shell almonds. In addition, a new application for a duty suspension on almond meal/flour was submitted this year. Results are expected in late 2026.

Upcoming Events & GTRA Activities

March 23-27	ABC in Delhi and Mumbai, India
April 24-26	Tuksiad Conference in Antalya, Turkey
May 10-15	INC in Macao
May 13-15	UNECE, Geneva

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The Global Update is a publication by the Almond Board of California. For more information, please contact the Almond Board on 209-549-8262 or regulatoryissues@almondboard.com. The information reported in this document is correct to the best of our knowledge. The Almond Board of California welcomes the participation of all industry members and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, religion, age, disability or political beliefs.