Title Regulating trade with a systems approach: The case of Chinese fresh apples

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Abstract

The potential for fresh apple imports from China is very contentious in the U.S. It is likely that any future imports will be governed under the regulation of a Systems Approach (SA) to manage the risk of introducing exotic pest(s) or disease(s). This study analyzes issues related to such a regulation for Chinese fresh apple trade. Three parts are included in the study: first, analysis of the current fruit market situation and supply organization in China. Despite the coexistence of three market forms and two supply chain organizations, China is improving its phytosanitary control capacity under the support of Chinese administrative government and regulatory laws and regulations. Second, a hypothetical SA policy is developed (including potential pests of concern) for regulating potential Chinese fresh apple imports, which provides a general idea of what kinds of phytosanitary measures might be taken to prevent the introduction of exotic pests or diseases. Third, methods for linking economics to the pest risk assessment included in a SA are evaluated. A static multi-scenario partial equilibrium model is a useful method to link economic evaluation to pest risk assessment; however, case-to-case differences and data sensitivities limit feasibility as a template for empirical assessment of other potential sanitary phytosanitary issues.