

Katy Lee, Secretariat, International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)

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Katy has fifteen years of experience defending the interests of agricultural businesses in international policy advocacy environments at the World Trade Organization, European Union and the United Nations.

2021 is her sixth year at the Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), an international not-for-profit coalition formed to serve the greater good by promoting and facilitating the performance of the supply chain for grains, oilseeds, pulses and derived products.

Since 2016 she has secured success in outreach with IGTC members following extensive global travel including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Eastern Africa, Europe, India, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, USA.

Katy's duties at the IGTC include the leadership and administration Policy Teams and Working Groups on the most urgent challenges faced by the grain trade: Safe trade, phytosanitary standards, plant breeding innovation, electronic trading documentation, the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol, and Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) of crop protection products. Katy's IGTC duties include leadership of engagement between IGTC and key global institutions including the World Trade Organization (WTO), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Grains Council (IGC), World Bank, Interamerican Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA).

Previous to IGTC, she was the first representative of the agri-business community to be permanently based at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome as Stakeholder Relations Director of the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN). During this time she also helped forge pathways for negotiations with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva. At the UN's Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in 2014 she coordinated the delegation of global food and agriculture bodies including the International Dairy Federation, CropLife International, farmers' organisations and multinational companies including Mars Incorporated and McDonalds.

Before this, she lived for six years in Brussels working with the UK National Farmers' Unions at their European Union office. As Assistant Director, she worked on legislative proposals including sustainability; animal welfare; GMOs & trade; and was the focal point for relations with the European Parliament for five years.

Katy is a Nuffield Farming Scholar, a project which enabled her to travel to Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and the USA to interview farmers and policy makers about new and emerging technologies, including crops derived from genetic engineering.

Katy regularly commits to gaining work experience 'on the ground' to support her work in policy environments. She has consistently volunteered with both small businesses and farm holdings.

Katy's mother tongue is English and she speaks French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and beginners' Danish. Katy currently resides in Buenos Aires, Argentina with her husband and son.