
INTERNATIONAL GRAIN TRADE COALITION (IGTC)



19 members
6 associate members
1 participating stakeholder





International Grains Council (IGC): Market Conditions Committee (MCC)
Item 6. Report on current developments in policy and trade practice
September 9, 2021

About IGTC

The International Grain Trade Coalition Association (IGTC) is a non-profit federation of associations formed to serve the greater good by promoting and facilitating the performance of the supply chain for grains, oilseeds, pulses and derived products. More than 8000 companies or 'Corporate Stakeholders' in 85 countries participate in the Coalition. See www.igtglobal.org for more about us.

1. IGTC's participation at IGC UNFSS Independent Dialogue, September 9

IGTC welcomes the opportunity to support the IGC's official UNFSS Independent Dialogue on "*the role and resilience of international trade in grains and other agribulk plant products within the global food system*". This is an important initiative from IGC and its members to share expertise about how trade helps underpin global food security as well as the contribution of investment, innovation, trade finance, logistics and climate change mitigation measures.

Over the course of 2021, IGTC and its participants have been involved in efforts to promote the positive role of the grain trade, and the importance of resilient trade ecosystems. Examples have included official dialogues with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

2. Notice to Trade: Official measures to support digitalization

IGTC's latest Notice to Trade (25 August) has called for continuation and advancement of measures to provide for paperless and digitalized exchange of phytosanitary certificates. The Notice was used to draw attention to the successful responses of official entities at national, regional and global level to help provide for efficient and reliable trade via digitalization. These official measures support the international movement of grains, oilseeds, pulses and other agri-bulks from areas of surplus to areas of need. They include:

- digital attachments, signatures, copies of trade related documents;
- public-private cooperation;
- adoption of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) ePhyto Solution.

IGTC is available to provide further insights and commercial perspectives about this and the broader digitalization agenda for IGC members and the Secretariat.

3. Grain trade support for WTO SPS Declaration

IGTC launched a campaign on 1st July to call for additional government signatures to a draft SPS Declaration that will be tabled at the upcoming 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) at the end of November. The SPS Declaration is relevant for the grain trade on account of its support for science-based approaches, harmonization of regulation, and use of international standards.

More specifically, the Declaration prioritises:

- Facilitation of sustainable intensification of agricultural production and international trade.
- Use of international standards, guidelines, and recommendations developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the International Plant Protection Convention as the basis of harmonized SPS



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measures, including on maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs and pesticides, to protect human, animal or plant life or health.

- SPS measures based on scientific evidence and principles.
- Promotion and use by Members of principles employed by the international standard setting bodies for considering scientific uncertainty in risk analysis.
- Enhancement of safe international trade in food, animals and plants and products thereof through the adaptation of SPS measures to regional conditions, including pest-or disease-free areas and areas of low pest or disease prevalence which can strengthen Members' ability to protect plant and animal life or health through efforts to limit the spread of pests such as the Mediterranean fruit fly, diseases such as African swine fever, disease-carrying organisms, or disease causing organisms.

4. Highlights: IGTC's trade facilitation files

- a) Harmonisation of phytosanitary control methods and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)** The IPPC consultation on "Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008)" is open from until 30 September, 2021. IGTC will be submitting guidance and encouragement for IPPC's work.
- b) Innovation in electronic trading documentation** A global tour of government-industry workshops are currently being conducted on ePhyto. The most recent workshop took place with China on 2 September, during which the Customs authority provided an update about the pace of adoption. Previous workshops were held with Korea, Bahamas, Costa Rica and Dominican Republic.
- c) "Low Level Presence" (LLP)** Information "explainer" videos now available on YouTube in English, Portuguese, Spanish and Chinese as part of a Global Alliance on Ag Biotech Trade (GAABT) initiative.
- d) Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)** remain one of the biggest cross-cutting issues for the grain trade. IGTC highlights that safe, secure, sustainable grain trade will rely on harmonized SPS measures, including on maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs and pesticides.
- e) Innovation in plant breeding** IGTC's continues with information sharing among the grain trade as well as partners. Policy framework initiatives in EU, UK, Japan and Canada are currently drawing attention from the grain trade, among others. This issue is also proving pivotal many international frameworks including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and World Trade Organization (WTO).
- f) Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (CBP)** China has confirmed its role as Chair of COP15 on the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2021 and April/May 2022. The Governmental Working Group on targets and milestones wrapped up on September 3 with to be confirmed conclusions on issues including use of land, pesticides, and genetics.

For further information about how to participate in the IGTC please contact us at the Secretariat: secretariat@igtglobal.org