

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

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

She provides the Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) - an international not-for-profit coalition covering 8000 businesses, 26 associations and 85 countries including Argentina, Australia, India, Kenya, USA, Canada, China, Mexico, Brazil, Europe, Ukraine and many more.

The IGTC's mission is to provide advice to governments on the impacts of policy decisions on commercial practices and the economics of the world's food, feed and processing industries. The Coalition's core aim is to promote the major contribution to world food security that is provided by the global grains trade.

Katy regularly commits to gaining work experience 'on the ground' to support her work in policy environments. Over the past ten years she has consistently volunteered with both small businesses and farm holdings. One example is the 2015 harvest season spent 'on-farm' at a hay exporting operation in Australia, reaching out to agricultural exporters, farm groups and government officials, as well as working on HACCP plans, publicity material and physical harvest work to contribute to hay grading systems.

In 2013 she became 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 a breadth of 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.

As well as her mother tongue, English, she speaks French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and beginners' Danish.

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