

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

Katy has 11 years of experience defending the interests of farmers and agricultural businesses in international policy advocacy environments at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, World Trade Organization and the European Union.

She provides the Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) - an international not-for-profit coalition covering 8000 businesses, 27 associations and 85 countries including Argentina, Australia, India, the USA, China, Brazil, Europe 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 is committed to gaining continuous experience 'on the ground' despite working in international policy environments. During the second half of 2015 she was in Australia reaching out to agricultural exporters, farm groups and government officials to share ideas about how the on the ground realities of farm production can be better translated into global debates on food security. Importantly, she spent the 2015 harvest season 'on-farm' with a hay exporting business in Victoria to support a number of efforts:

- On-farm visits for hay importers from Korea, China and Japan;
- Documentation to support exports including HACCP plans; publicity material and hay grading systems;
- Physical harvest work including moisture control of hay bales, machinery operation and processing of raw hay.

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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