

Sustainability Principles

For Resilient Supply Chains

Support for Open, Rules-Based Trade

Sustainability policies and regulations that impact trade should comply with existing WTO rules and agreements, particularly regarding non-discrimination, transparency, and predictability. Sustainability measures should not become unintentional barriers to trade or serve protectionist interests.

Outcome-Focused and Science-Based

Sustainability measures should be grounded in recognized science and evidence-based metrics, ensuring there are clear pathways to support climate resilience, emissions reduction and environmental outcomes (e.g. soil, water, air, biodiversity) without adding barriers to trade or hindering innovation.

Protection of Global Food Security

International trade plays an important role in the reliable delivery of nutritious food worldwide. Sustainability measures should not unnecessarily restrict or redirect trade flows in ways that could undermine food security or limit access to essential agricultural products.

No One-Size-Fits-All Requirements

Sustainability policies should acknowledge that diverse environmental, climatic, and resource conditions exist around the world. Rather than mandating uniform or prescriptive practices, sustainability measures should provide flexibility for regionally adapted approaches. While alignment on desired outcomes and targets is important, overly prescriptive measures for achieving them could inadvertently limit the use of locally effective solutions.

Avoidance of Extraterritorial Application

Governments should refrain from imposing agricultural practices on other nations. Instead, sustainability policies and regulations must allow each jurisdiction the flexibility to pursue environmental objectives using the methods best suited to their unique agricultural systems.

Sustainable Productivity Improvements through Innovation and Trade

Sustainability measures should enable practices and innovations that enhance productivity and resource efficiency, contributing to increased food production while protecting the environment. Trade plays a complementary role by facilitating the movement of sustainably produced grain to international markets, thereby reducing pressure on land and resources at the global level.

Lead-time and Transparency in Policy Development

The grain industry operates on seasonal production cycles and grain may be held in storage for a time before it is used. Sudden changes to domestic policies and regulations, without adequate transition periods, can disrupt planting decisions, contracts, logistics, and inventories already moving through the global supply chain. To support investment in sustainable practices, farmers and the trade need policy certainty and time to adjust. Governments should introduce new sustainability measures only after extensive industry consultation and provide sufficient lead time so that supply chains can prepare, adapt and innovate to achieve the desired objective.



The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) is committed to promoting a predictable, rules-based global trading environment for grains, oilseeds, pulses, and derived products. With members across six continents, IGTC collaborates with governments, international institutions, and supply chain partners to support practical, trade-facilitating policies and advance global food security.