

Low level presence (LLP) of safety-approved biotechnology products in the supply chain



IGTC
International Grain Trade Coalition



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Management of safe grain, oilseed and other agri bulks international supply chains that have been from genetically engineered plants involves several policies and practices being addressed by the IGTC. We are working to achieve a market and regulatory environment supportive of trade that avoids disruptions in the international trade of grain, oilseeds, pulses and derived products. Information exchange and providing development of solutions are integral parts of the effort that includes, governments and value chain partners across the world.

An important example of our work is an ongoing effort to prevent unnecessary trade disruptions owing to Low Level Presence (LLP) of safety-assessed GM events in the supply chain. Such disruption may occur when there are gaps in timing of technology approvals between exporting and importing countries. The IGTC initiative includes advising the Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI). The GLI is a coalition of 15 like-minded exporting and importing countries working together to find trade facilitative solutions on LLP issues. We are also engaged in other global and regional forums such as the APEC High-level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB).

IGTC's LLP Policy Team is currently evaluating opportunities for international country and region-specific advocacy. The evaluation includes examining the potential for LLP-focussed meetings and workshops that include government regulators and other stakeholders.



Our advocacy tools include:

1. LLP information videos available on YouTube in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Mandarin and Indonesian as part of a Global Alliance on Ag Biotech Trade (GAABT) initiative

2. An analysis provided by Canadian Grains Council on various country's approaches on LLP and the regulatory system for products of biotechnology.

3. A GLI document on Principles, criteria and practical approaches for addressing Low-Level Presence (LLP) in International Food and Feed Trade of Plant Material . These measures include the establishment of trade-facilitative and temporary compliance thresholds under defined LLP circumstances.

4. Collaboration with work Global Alliance for Ag Biotech and Trade (GAABT)

5. A focus on IGTC's "hierarchy of policy options" on LLP which are:

First Synchronisation of approvals of new biotechnology products;

Second Mutual recognition of biotechnology safety approvals; and

Third in the absence of the first and second options prevailing, LLP management approaches including process controls and a policy model recommending a threshold of 5% for the presence of a safety-approved biotech product.

REFERENCES

1. IGTC policy document: <https://bit.ly/3FSJsUn>
2. GAABT policy document: <https://bit.ly/3Lf7A17>
3. GLI document titled Principles, criteria and practical approaches for addressing Low-Level Presence (LLP) in International Food and Feed Trade of Plant Material : <https://bit.ly/3wmMpcF>
4. 2020 advocacy template letter for IGTC participants entitled "Avoiding Unnecessary Disruptions to the Global Trade of Grain Through Managing and Reducing the Potential for Low Level Presence": <https://bit.ly/39Ug4ks>
5. Whiteboard LLP communications videos: <https://bit.ly/3wyxgDH>, <https://bit.ly/3Lhz75f> and with Portuguese subtitles <https://bit.ly/3MkO9Zi>
6. Policy Team members: 50
7. Policy Team Leads: Krista Thomas, Canada Grains Council and Ratih Neumann, Cargill Incorporated



www.igtglobal.org



secretariat@igtglobal.org