

## **IGTC Meeting Report**

### **Dialogue with the chairs and participants of Policy Teams and Working Groups on current IGTC Action Areas**

**9 November, 2023**

**13h45-18h30**

**Intercontinental Hotel, Geneva and online**

#### **ANNEX I Participant list**

### **1. Safe trade: Phytosanitary Measures and Management of Crop Protection Products**

<b>Time</b>	14h-15h Geneva
<b>Chair</b>	Craig Fedchock, IGTC Innovation Emissary
<b>IGTC Leads</b>	Gerard McMullen (GTA), Adrian Reginato (Cargill), Kim Mhando (EAGC)

Meeting objective: To examine phytosanitary measures and management of Crop Protection Products. Guests from technology providers and regulators were invited to join.

The IGTC's Innovation Emissary provided an update on Safe Trade, including latest developments at the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). IPPC's International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) are a central part of its work and impact the facilitation of the safe trade of grains, oilseeds, pulses and agri-bulks. Current work includes development of a commodity ISPM with the aim of providing uniform global guidance on protecting plants and plant products as they are moved around the world.

IGTC is an established external partner of the CPM and has consistently advocated for any standards impacting the grain trade to be developed by the trade itself. Work is also underway to support the standard setting work of Codex Alimentarius, notably in the area of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of crop protection products.

Participants agreed that it is important for any new measures to have a specific "value-add"; for it to be clear which gaps the new measure is trying to address; and that there must be alignment with existing science-based regulations that support safe trade.

There was interest in the 2024 WTO Ministerial (MC13) in Abu Dhabi, with the implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement and associated work programme agreed in 2022 a priority for the grain trade. It was noted that IGTC will have recognised NGO status at MC13.

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The participants at the meeting were honoured by the high-level official presence of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Information was shared about current work to develop phytosanitary standards to support safe trade in Egypt and with its food trade partners. The value of governments sharing expertise among themselves was highlighted in order to address capacity gaps. All of this was placed in the context of growing challenges to food security at national, regional and global level, with these challenges set to increase.

Current geopolitical events have placed a sharper focus on humanitarian food aid. A significant discussion took place about the grain trade's role in supporting food security via humanitarian aid, something that IGTC Corporate Stakeholders, trade associations, and councils continue to do. The exchange of views during the meeting was about whether different or new phytosanitary standards should be developed for grains to be used as humanitarian aid, noting that this is a conversation being held in parallel among the 185 Contracting Parties (government signatories) to the IPPC. In this context grain trade participants agreed that commercial and quality standards should not be included in phytosanitary standards or guidance, and that humanitarian food aid should not have a disruptive impact on the markets – coexistence between different ways of delivering food can and do exist. While overall it was questioned whether different phytosanitary standards are needed for food aid, it was acknowledged that least developed and developing countries dependent on food imports may have capacity gaps in ensuring safe importation and storage of grain, hence a potential need for phytosanitary guidance or standards. Finally, it was noted that governments in certain countries do not have established relationships with private sector actors that provide safe trade services, leading to sometimes a lack of trust and a perceived need for extra government control over standard setting.

The session closed with a brief discussion on the status of Codex Alimentarius, with broad agreement that bringing in non science based criteria such as sustainability or socioeconomic considerations should not be dealt with in the Codex standard setting process as this could undermine its main mission of providing safety. In addition, to be fit for purpose, sustainability and socio-economic standards and guidance must reflect specific geographical and societal circumstances.

## **2. Plant production and genetics: Plant Breeding Innovation, Low Level Presence and the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol Meeting of IGTC Policy Teams**

<b>Time</b>	15h15-17h15 Geneva Two hour meeting
<b>Chair</b>	Dr. Martin Lema
<b>IGTC Leads</b>	In person: Krista Thomas (CGC), Iliana Axiotiades (COCERAL), Ricardo Calderon Lopez (APPAMEX)

Meeting objective: To discuss plant production and genetics in relation to Plant Breeding Innovation, Low Level Presence and the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol as key elements of IGTC's work to provide for a regulatory and commercial environment that accommodates safe and important plant breeding technology. Guests from technology providers and regulators were invited to join.

The Team Leads on respective IGTC Action Areas provided presentations on the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (CBP), Low Level Presence (LLP) and Plant Breeding Innovation (PBI), highlighting the associations objectives and reasons for engaging in these areas. Current policy events at global level were cited as influential for the grain trade, for example the implantation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework, and draft legislation at European Union level on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs).

The guest presentation from the International Seed Federation (ISF) demonstrated the work that is being done to assess the regulatory landscape around the world to accommodate new breeding techniques in the value chain. ISF has launched an interactive tool allowing users to see policy development on an interactive map. ISF's presentation showed positive trends in certain countries to accommodate development of NGTs without disproportionate regulation.

The guest presentation from Shillito & Associates provided information on state-of-the-art of detection methods applied to gene-edited products and GMO stacks.

The guest presentation by S&P Global provided updates on the Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange database, including improvements on its structure and definitions.

National and regional updates included Africa, where Kenya has officially allowed GMOs at regulatory level however by contrast numerous court cases at national and Eastern Africa level mean continued barriers to their use. Kenya and certain countries in Western Africa see this issue being discussed but others such as Tanzania and Uganda less so. In South Africa, regulation is being developed and industry has been invited to provide input on next steps. Important to note South Africa's role in providing non-GM maize on contract. The implementation of the ACFTA may have limitations on use of biotechnology because of the need for a harmonised regulatory landscape for free movement of goods. The IGTC's focus on in-person meetings in Africa this year was helpful to raise trade issues.

Australia is waiting for a regulatory decision at national level on use of NGTs. Research plots are already being developed and there are moves towards commercialisation. Important to note that grain supply is highly co-mingled in Australia.

Questions and comments from the floor included:

- Support for IGTC's Advocacy Strategy on LLP. It was noted that regulatory developments in China, chiefly approvals of nationally developed GMOs for cultivation, will have a big impact on the grain trade.

- Agreement that the global regulatory landscape on NGTs is disjointed and a risk for trade.
- Why can't international organizations do more on communicating the negative impacts on asynchronous approvals of safety-approved GM crops, especially on global food security?
- Debate and diverse opinions among participants on detection of new genomic techniques/plant breeding innovations in the grain supply chain. Some, not all of the technology developers are questioning the need to focus on this instead of for example, consumer acceptance of beneficial traits that are being innovated in seeds.
- For the time being, it seems unlikely that reliable detection methods will be available for routinely testing for NGTs. If the EC proposal for NGTs is adopted and type 1 products won't be required to have an approved detection method, that would greatly facilitate trade for type 1 products (while greatly difficult to trade with the other types). It is necessary to know better what is the policy of China regarding this topic.
- The grain trade urged caution about so-called positive signals of policy development by certain importing countries such as China, where significant trade disruptions remain a risk. There is an important difference between "not yet approved" and "not yet regulated".
- It needs to be remembered that there is a crucial unknown gap in time between different regulators deciding whether a safety approved NGT should be regulated or not.
- Communication among the supply chain is key and ignorance about the nature and functioning of the grain trade can undermine transparent, reliable grain trade and therefore global food security.
- The March 2023 workshop in Berlin, where IGTC was represented, was an important meeting. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) and detection network is a valuable resource for all parts of the grain sector.
- From the grain trade's perspective, the absence of transparency to the level of the seed puts extra pressure on the entire supply chain and all its different actors at the time of compliance. Transparency is important.
- For certain technology developers, it is more important to upscale communication and education efforts, e.g. by training "newcomers" in NGT development about supply chain transparency and communication, than for example, to have mandatory labelling regulations.

### **3. Innovating digital information systems including IPPC ePhyto Solution, IGTC Electronic Trading Documentation Working Group meeting**

**Time** 5:30-6:30pm Geneva  
One hour meeting

**Chair** Thomas A. Erickson

Meeting objective: To further the innovation of digital information systems in the agri-bulk sector including IPPC ePhyto Solution. Third parties attending include platform providers and government officials.

The meeting focussed on the progress already achieved to make trade faster, more efficient, more secure and with reduced costs. It was agreed that more can be achieved with the help of IGTC.

IGTC members and stakeholders provided updates on their work to provide multiple venues and strong voices for cross-sector cooperation among the private sector, governments and international organizations. Legal, regulatory and commercial practices were considered by speakers.

The guest presentation from the European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and Agri-Trade highlighted the opportunities for greater collaboration between different parts of the value chain to promote trade. Examples were given with farm groups and branded food companies at EU level.

### ANNEX I Participant list

	Invitee status		Session attended		
	IGTC	Third party	Safe Trade	Plant Genetics	Electronic Trading Documentation
1. Gary C. Martin, President of International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), CEO and President of North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Iliana Axiotiades, Vice President of International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), Secretary General, COCERAL, European association representing the trade in cereals, rice, feedstuffs, oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agrosupply	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Pat O'Shannassy, IGTC Second Vice President and Secretary, CEO, Grain Trade Australia (GTA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Gerald Masila, IGTC Treasurer, Executive Director, Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Dr. Ibrahim Ashmawy, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade of Egypt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Doaa Abdel-Motaal, Senior Counsellor, World Trade Organization (WTO)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Nezar Abou-Ismael, North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Sorin Albeanu, Head of Commercial, Covantis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Marcos Amorim, Chair of Contracts Committee, Associação. Nacional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

dos Exportadores de Cereais Brasil (ANEC)					
10. June Arnold, Head of Trade Policy, Gafta ( <u>virtual</u> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Madison Bader, Bunge ( <u>virtual</u> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Chantal Beaumle Garbado, Cargill Incorporated ( <u>virtual</u> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. Khaoula Belhaj-Fragnière, Regulatory Affairs Manager, International Seed Federation (ISF)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. Ing. Ricardo Calderon Lopez, Executive Director, Asociación de proveedores de productores agropecuarios México (APPAMEX)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15. Alejandra Castillo, North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16. Jaine Chisholm Caunt OBE, Director General, Gafta ( <u>virtual</u> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Charles Colbert, Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Trading Officer, and Assistant Secretary at Zen-Noh Grain Corp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18. Obi Collins, Bunge ( <u>virtual</u> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19. Matt Currie, IGTC Secretariat support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20. Eric Dereudre, Vice President, Government and Industry Affairs, International, Corteva	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21. Darren Duplantis, ADM ( <u>virtual</u> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22. Tom Erickson, North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23. Craig Fedchock, North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24. Gretchen Flanley, U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) ( <u>virtual</u> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Dr. Randal Giroux, Vice President, Cargill Incorporated ( <u>virtual</u> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. François Guerin, Government Relations Director EMEA, Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27. Nelli Hajdu, Secretary General of the European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and Agri-Trade ( <u>virtual</u> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28. Darin Hanson, Vice President, Business Development, Hansen-Mueller Company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29. Maurice Hurst, Cargill Incorporated ( <u>virtual</u> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

30. Philip Isler, Director, Global Alliance on Trade Facilitation (GATF)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31. Fernando Jarach, CIARA-CEC (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
32. Paul Johnson, Chief Operating Officer, Hansen-Mueller Company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
33. Konrad Keyser, South African Cereals and Oilseeds Trade Association (SACOTA) (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
34. Mariya Khrystyna Koziy, North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
35. Juan-Pierre Kotze, South African Cereals and Oilseeds Trade Association (SACOTA) (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
36. Katy Lee, North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
37. Dr. Martin Lema, North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
38. Bharti Malhotra Senior Analyst at Crop Science, Agribusiness S&P Global (virtual)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
39. Kathy Malone, Gavilon (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
40. Sherry Martin, Cargill Incorporated (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
41. Maria Clara Nas Villegas, IGTC Geneva Domicile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
42. Ruan Nel, Junior Trader, RAND AGRI, South African Cereals and Oilseeds Trade Association (SACOTA) (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
43. Dr. Ratih Neumann, Cargill Incorporated (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
44. Ryan Olson, Industry Affairs Manager, US Soybean Export Council (USSEC) (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
45. Nicoletta Pavese, Senior Manager Partnerships – Traders and Animal Feed value chain, Bayer Crop Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
46. Szabi Ruthner, Senior Market Acceptance Manager EMEA, BASF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
47. Jeff Schroeder, Bunge (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
48. Michael Seyfert, President and CEO, National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
49. Ray Shillito, Shillito & Associates (virtual)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
50. Rose Souza Richards, Plant Health Manager, International Seed Federation (ISF)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

51. Paul Spencer, Global Trade Policy Advocacy Leader, Corteva (virtual)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
52. Melvin Spreij, Head of Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Secretariat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
53. Krista Thomas, Vice President, Canada Grains Council (CGC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
54. Andre van der Vyver, South African Cereals and Oilseeds Trade Association (SACOTA) (virtual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
55. Erik Jan Versloot, Business Development Manager, Covantis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>