



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

NAEGA MAP Trip Report – IGTC General Assembly and IPPC ePhyto IAG – Geneva and Brussels

Name of traveler: Gary C. Martin, President and CEO of NAEGA and President of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)

Dates of Travel: November 7-12, 2016

Purpose of Travel:

Consistent with NAEGA UES objectives deploying and leading the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), Gary C. Martin, NAEGA President and CEO and IGTC President, travelled to Geneva, Switzerland and Brussels, Belgium on November 7-11, 2016. In Geneva and Brussels, Mr. Martin accomplished the following objectives:

1. In Geneva, Mr. Martin led the General Assembly and Strategy Session of the IGTC, securing key governance decisions as well as action on policy files. In addition, Mr. Martin was elected as President of the IGTC by the General Assembly for an additional two year term, and oversaw the addition of one new member association: South African Cereals and Oilseeds Trade Association (SACOTA).
2. Also in Geneva, Mr. Martin advanced several UES objectives through meetings with NAEGA membership, IGTC participants and international partners including the World Trade Organization (WTO). Topics of these meetings included the impact on GRNOS and NAEGA UES accomplishments related to production technologies including innovation in plant breeding, electronic documentation, and the IPPC’s International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM).
3. In Brussels, Mr. Martin attended the second meeting of the IPPC’s ePhyto Project Industry Advisory Group (IAG) with representatives from other global trade flows.

Summary of achievements:

IGTC General Assembly and Strategy Session

This NAEGA mission involved travel to Geneva to lead, attend, and participate in an IGTC Strategy Session and General Assembly, featuring grain trade representatives from more than eight countries and four continents. During the Strategy Session, IGTC Policy Teams and Working Groups presented and led discussion on issues including maximum residue limits (MRLs), Low Level Presence (LLP), the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, plant breeding innovation, the International Plant Protection Convention’s (IPPC) International Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) on the movement of grain and electronic trading documentation.

During the General Assembly, IGTC member associations and Corporate Stakeholders reviewed recent activities of the Coalition and revised the IGTC Business Plan for the years 2016-18. The South African Cereals and Oilseeds Trade Association (SACOTA) was approved by the General Assembly as the IGTC’s newest trade association member, bringing the total up to 26. Another important outcome was the election of IGTC Officers, as follows:



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- IGTC President: Gary C. Martin, NAEGA
- IGTC Vice President: Dr. Teresa Babuscio, COCERAL
- IGTC Treasurer: Randy Gordon, President, NGFA

The General Assembly approved one new Management Council member: Tom Sleight, President and CEO of the U.S. Grains Council. Current membership reflects a number of important grain trading regions, as follows:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gary Martin, President & CEO, North American Export Grain Association2. Teresa Babuscio, Secretary General, COCERAL3. Randy Gordon, President, National Grain and Feed Association4. Tyler Bjornson, President, Canada Grains Council5. Jaine Chisholm Caunt, Director General, Gafta | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Tom Sleight, President & CEO, U.S. Grains Council7. Rosemary Richards, Trade & Market Access Project Manager, Grain Trade Australia8. Rosalind Leeck, Marketing Director, Market Access/FTO, US Soybean Export Council9. Randal Giroux, Vice President, Food Safety, Quality & Regulatory, Cargill, Incorporated |
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Bilateral meetings

IGTC new delegates’ briefing: Mr. Martin led a briefing session for ‘new’ participants who had limited previous experience at IGTC in-person meetings. The aim was to prepare them with background information and provide for a productive, participatory meeting with the rest of the IGTC the following day. Attendees were Dirk Kok of SACOTA and Amer Badawi of Columbia Grain. Katy Lee, IGTC Acting Secretariat, provided support.

COFCO Agri: Mr. Martin participated in a private meeting with senior leadership of COFCO Agri, including CEO Matt Jansen. The aim was to discuss greater cooperation between the IGTC and COFCO Agri and how the Coalition can better serve the needs of Corporate Stakeholders in the trade of grains, oilseeds and other agri-bulks.

Legal Counsel: Mr. Martin participated in a meeting with BCCC lawyers in Geneva – a firm known for providing services for NGOs. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen IGTC governance and ensure adequate legal advice is on hand when it comes to compliance with relevant laws.

WTO leadership: Mr. Martin participated in a private meeting with high-level leadership at the World Trade Organization (WTO), namely Tim Yeend, the Chef de Cabinet of WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo. Discussions focused on how better to communicate the work of those contributing towards global trade facilitation, as well as the impact of key countries on debates.

Meetings with international organizations

IPPC Industry Advisory Group (IAG) of the ePhyto Hub – November 10 - Brussels: The meeting brought together representatives from the UN’s International Plant Protection Organization (IPPC), the WTO’s Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Department, and global



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trade flows including grains, seeds, wood products, cut flowers and seed potatoes. The International Seed Federation (ISF) was elected as Chair of the IAG, and the International Wood Products Association as Rapporteur. Updates were given on the funding, functioning and timeline of the Hub pilot project, which is now six months delayed and scheduled for roll-out in mid-2017. The IGTC was successful in bringing information from a unique grain trade perspective to the floor, and stressed the need for a solid business plan to be in place if the project is going to be successful.

IGTC WTO seminar – November 10 - Geneva: More than 19 government representatives - including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) FAS Mission in Geneva - attended the IGTC’s seminar entitled “the grain trade’s contribution to global food security and economic development.” WTO Agriculture and SPS Committee members were all invited, and the event was chaired by Canada and Brazil. The IGTC had four speakers on the panel at the event, tackling issues consistent with NAEGA UES objectives, including: global food security, plant production methods, phytosanitary control and electronic trading documentation. The ultimate aim of the session was to highlight the importance of the grain trade in securing safe, affordable, reliable, fungible, supply and contributing to food security, promoting resource use efficiency and economic growth.

Mr. Martin also enjoyed a luncheon meeting with USDA FAS Minister Counselor Jim Higgiston. During lunch they identified several EU policy developments for NAEGA to investigate. As result Country of Origin and labeling requirements for GMOs will gain added attention from NAEGA is executing its UES.

Recommendations:

1. NAEGA should continue its leadership and intense activity related to all IGTC pursuits.
2. In 2017 NAEGA should work to further increase the diversity of participation in and funding for the IGTC in order to make a greater contribution to policies that enable global trade facilitation.
3. The revised IGTC business plan should be put in place before the end of 2016.
4. NAEGA UES actions related to the EU will need added attention in 2017.

Attachments:

- Agenda - IGTC Strategy Session and General Assembly – Geneva – November 8
- Agenda - IPPC ePhyto Hub meeting - November 10 - Brussels
- Agenda and IGTC presentations - WTO seminar on “the grain trade’s contribution to global food security and economic development” - November 10 - Geneva