



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

NAEGA MAP Trip Report – IGTC Arlington and Washington, D.C. Meetings and UN Biodiversity Conference in Cancún, Mexico

Name of Traveler: Katy Lee, Acting Secretariat, International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)

Dates of Travel: November 30- December 17 2016

Purpose of Travel:

Consistent with accomplishing its NAEGA UES objectives related to the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) and market education, Katy Lee, Acting Secretariat, International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), conducted several NAEGA and IGTC activities in Washington, D.C. and Cancun, Mexico between November 30 and December 17, 2016.

During this mission, Ms. Lee first traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet and discuss IGTC policy files with Washington based members, stakeholders and contacts. Following her travels to D.C., Ms. Lee travelled to Cancun, Mexico to lead the IGTC’s delegation at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP-MOP 8 on the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol). In Washington and Cancun, Ms. Lee accomplished the following objectives:

- On December 2 in Washington Ms. Lee led a meeting on IGTC policy files for Washington based IGTC corporate stakeholders. During the meeting, Ms Lee and IGTC President Gary Martin briefed corporate stakeholders on the IGTC’s Business Plan from 2016-2018.
- On December 3 Ms. Lee travelled to Cancun, Mexico to lead the IGTC’s delegation at the UN Biodiversity Conference, where new provisions on the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol were discussed.
- A key achievement at the UN Biodiversity Conference included agreement on a clear technical basis for notification and emergency measures on the transboundary movement of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) under the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol.

Summary of Findings/Conclusions/Accomplishment

This UES mission advanced multiple IGTC priorities, including: continued underwriting of the IGTC, promotion and market education regarding IGTC policy files and implementation of the 2016-18 Business Plan. These objectives were accomplished through communication and education during meetings and events in Washington, D.C. and Cancun, Mexico.

IGTC Stakeholder Briefing

The briefing session attracted around 15 grain trade representatives and international partners, and gave the IGTC the opportunity to provide updates following its November 2016 General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. IGTC President Gary C. Martin, also serving as President of NAEGA, was congratulated on his recent reelection as the head of the IGTC at the Geneva meeting. The IGTC was likewise congratulated on the accession of one new member: The South African Grains and Oilseeds Trade Association, SACOTA.

One significant area of interest for the participants was the progress of IGTC’s Business Plan for 2016-18. This includes a value proposition that explains how grain trade associations and



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Corporate Stakeholders can benefit from IGTC participation. Key estimates of IGTC membership include:

1. Increased efficiencies in performance of industry representation before international institutions that easily amount to over 1 million dollars of cost reduction.
2. Increased effectiveness of national and regional advocacy groups through greatly improved policy assessment, information exchange and a coordinated policy advocacy.
3. Cost savings of 2-3 \$ per ton or \$US 1-5 Billion annually in the value chain by preventing unwarranted imposition of costs and risks that cannot be managed.
4. Firm level improvements trade execution reducing costs as much as \$5 per ton.

Policy updates focused mainly on the developments that would follow in the coming weeks/months i.e. on the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol, as well as plant production methods and electronic trading documentation. As a result of these updates, given by the IGTC Secretariat, there were requests from members of the audience to be more closely involved in IGTC Policy Teams in the future.

UN Biodiversity Conference (COP-MOP 8 on Cartagena Biosafety Protocol)

- a) *IGTC delegation*: Ms. Lee led the IGTC’s delegation, which comprised of grain trade representatives from Europe, the USA and Mexico. Daily briefings took place at 8am, in order to assess priorities for the day ahead and distribute responsibilities.
- b) *Communications*: In total 12 ‘daily debriefs’ were sent to grain trade representatives around the world from the IGTC Secretariat. The value of the daily debriefs was to enable experts to provide feedback on negotiations in real-time, and to mobilize IGTC participants at national and regional level when necessary.
- c) *Relationship building*: As usual at COP-MOPs, the IGTC used the opportunity to significantly deepen relationships with countries, regional groups, and partners. Cooperation with the likes of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, EU, Mexico, Paraguay and USA was instrumental. Work with the Global Industry Coalition (GIC) should also be acknowledged. GIC led a group of 50+ private sector representatives from around the world (Americas, Europe, Korea, Japan...) and were effective in securing positive outcomes, for example on risk assessment. On IGTC issues, solution-building took place with Ray Shillito of Bayer with regards to a potential CBD LMO detection manual.
- d) *Policy successes*: Successes for the grain trade include -
 - Full exclusion of FFP LMOs and any LLP issues from the operational definitions of Unintentional/Illegal Transboundary Movement (Articles 17 & 25), as well as keeping the scope of ‘illegal’ transboundary movement within national jurisdictions.
 - Withdrawal of the proposed LMO detection manual, which was not sufficiently science-based and threatened to create complications for the supply chain and ultimately, consumers. The document was not ‘welcomed’ or ‘finalized’ in the final Decision but will be addressed in the COP-MOP intercessional period.
 - The proposed guidance on LMO risk assessment, which was an unworkable, sub-standard guidance document was not “endorsed”, “adopted” or “welcomed” at Plenary.
 - The divisive concept of “synthetic biology”, undefined at the international level, did not creep into the remit of the CBP and remained framed in the context of “New and Emerging Issues” under the CBD. However, the final CBD Decision did reaffirm the



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basis of the “precautionary approach” in relation to future CBD work on synthetic biology – as first established at COP 11.

Recommendations

Specific recommendations for the IGTC Policy Team are as follows:

IGTC action items January–March 2017

1. Article 17
 - a. Call for feedback from contract specialists, legal counsels and compliance professionals on the impact of the UTB/ITB definitions. From their conclusions, determine possible next steps or finalization.
 - b. Call for assistance to identify further IGTC potential implications and impacts with the training manual on detection of LMOs.
 - c. Review relevance of CBD ‘strategic plan’.
2. Risk Assessment
 - a. Call for assistance to identify IGTC biggest problems with the risk assessment guidance document.
 - b. Nomination of Gretchen Flanley (USSEC) as IGTC liaison with the GIC on risk assessment.

IGTC action items April–June 2017

1. IGTC Policy Team call at the beginning of April: Discussion of information gathered and assessment of IGTC strategic focus 2017-2018.
2. Article 17: Identification of relevant opportunities for advocacy on behalf of the trade:
 - a. The GIC
 - b. Network of Laboratories
 - c. Regional and national governments
3. Risk Assessment: Identification of relevant opportunities for advocacy on behalf of the trade:
 - a. Call for assistance to identify IGTC biggest problems potential implications from with the risk assessment guidance document and any precautionary approach concept it could drag and develop as a trade barrier.
 - b. CBD online forum on risk assessment ([here](#)) / Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
 - c. Regional and national governments
4. Synthetic Biology:
 - a. Monitor discussions and creep into international plant production policy debates at national, regional and global level
 - b. Work with ISF in their efforts on plant breeding innovation at global level



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4. **IGTC Management Council – June 14:** IGTC Policy Team *may wish* to submit updated CBP advocacy strategy and policy for approval by MC.

Aims for IGTC by COP-MOP 9, December 2017

1. Strong position to strategically engage with decision makers in the run-up to COP-MOP 9, December 2018.
2. Have a sound set of policy priorities to underpin advocacy actions by grain trade actors.
3. Strengthened relationships at national and regional level, in order to refine the IGTC’s existing strategy for engagement with country decision makers.

General recommendations to support the IGTC’s aims are as follows:

- Establishing contact lists: i) IGTC team and BSP Secretariat ii) Key government officials contacted iii) GIC participants.
- IGTC should increase its dialogue with bodies such as Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), GIC and the CBD Secretariat before COP-MOP 9 in Beijing, China.
- Follow COP-MOP 8 issues closely as they are expected to develop over the next two years: LMO detection manual, LMO risk assessment guidance, synthetic biology.
- Garner feedback on the approved definitions of UTB/ITB movements from grain trade contract specialists, legal counsels and compliance professionals.
- IGTC should update and maintain its contact database as it expands following in-person meetings and networking opportunities.

Attachments

- IGTC report on the UN Biodiversity Conference, including a note in English and Spanish from IGTC Team Lead Ing. Ricardo Calderon.
- Final Decision on Article 17 of the CBP (Unintentional Transboundary Movements)
- High-level segment of the UN Biodiversity Conference: Cancun Declaration
- Contact List: BSP Secretariat, IGTC BSP Team