



IGTC
International Grain Trade Coalition

IGTC Newsletter 27 March 2017

Save the date: In-person meetings

June 5-6, London: The next IGTC Strategy Session will take place on Monday, 5 June in London. The meeting will be followed by two optional events on 6 June: the 2017 Gafta dinner and the [annual IGC conference](#) – a discount for IGTC participants is available for both. Please [contact the IGTC Secretariat](#) to obtain your discount code.

Events

April 5-11: IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Incheon, Republic of Korea

The annual ‘parliament’ of the IPPC – the CPM – takes place this year in Korea and will see the 182 contracting Parties to the IPPC make decisions on the new ISPM on seeds, as well as governance and budgetary matters. There is also a special session on ‘e-Commerce’. The agenda for the meeting is [here](#). The list of IPPC countries is [here](#).

April 10-12: Canadian Global Crops

IGTC in action

Low Level Presence: Safety assessment workshop, Buenos Aires, Argentina



The IGTC was in Buenos Aires on 14-15 March alongside government representatives from 12 countries to attend the workshop on “Codex Plant Guideline Annex 3: Food Safety Assessment in situations of low level presence of Recombinant-DNA Plants in Food”. The IGTC took the stage twice at the event, giving presentations on “Implications of LLP in the global grain trade” ([here](#)), and “Regulatory Cooperation: Ensuring Safety While Enabling Innovation and Trade” ([here](#)).

The workshop was hosted by Canada as the Secretariat of the Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI), in collaboration with the Government of Argentina. One of the aims was to enable countries from around the world to share experiences on risk assessment processes and implementation of regulatory frameworks. Discussions revealed strong agreement on the fact that LLP is not a safety issue but one of regulatory compliance, as well as recognition that growing volumes of grain trade mean that LLP is ever more likely.

Importantly, the workshop helped to pave the way for discussions on LLP policy tools or “practical approaches” at the 2017 annual GLI meeting, expected to take place on June 8-9 at the UN FAO in Rome, Italy.

A report of the event is available for members of the IGTC LLP Policy Team and contains a personal commentary from key IGTC experts present at the meeting. Please contact the [Secretariat](#) for details of how to join the Policy Team.

IGTC member association outreach: CIARA-CEC, Argentina

The IGTC’s 2017 outreach programme continues! Our deepest gratitude goes to the Argentine chambers of the oil industry (CIARA) and cereals exporters (CEC), especially President Alberto Rodríguez and Manager of Economic and Commercial Affairs, María Marta Rebizo. The IGTC was able to learn from the highly professional CIARA-CEC team in Buenos Aires, and



Symposium, Calgary, Canada

Canada Grains Council (CGC) will help lead this important yearly event, with a focus on the future diversification and growth of Canada's crop-based agriculture. The international audience will hear insights from key speakers across the agrifood value chain, as well as partners Rabo AgriFinance and the Canadian Government's negotiating team on agriculture. Website [here](#).

April 20: Eastern Africa Grains Council (EAGC) Annual Members' Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya

Elections for the new EAGC President and discussions on regional grain trade priorities will be just two highlights on the agenda at this annual meeting. EAGC has kindly given IGTC the chance to present on its priorities at international level.

Links

[IGTC Website](#)

[IGTC list of members](#)



hear about the work of their Committees and key issues affecting the grain trade in Argentina. During the visit, the IGTC also had the privilege to explain the value of the work of the Coalition to CIARA-CEC member companies in both Buenos Aires and the Port of San Lorenzo, when there was specific interest in phytosanitary control and plant production methods.

The IGTC continues to strive for geographical completeness and balance in participation. The next member outreach visit will be with Mr. Gerald Masila and his team at the East African Grain Council (EAGC) in April.

If you would like to be involved or simply find out more, please contact the [Secretariat](#).

Call for participation: MRL Policy Team

The IGTC's new Policy Team on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) of plant protection products had its first call last week (22 March) and we are looking for wider participation from grain trade actors to help work towards trade facilitative solutions.

With decisive discussions planned for the IGTC's Strategy Session on 5 June in London, the focus will be on barriers that are created by missing, inconsistent, unjustified and unevenly applied MRLs, and which have negative consequences for farmers, exporters, importers and consumers. Please contact the [Secretariat](#) if you wish to join the Team.



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