



**IGTC**  
International Grain Trade Coalition

## IGTC Newsletter 8 May 2017

### IGTC in action

#### Plant breeding innovation: Mexico meeting, 25 April 2017



On 25 April IGTC Policy Team member Ing. Ricardo Calderon (APPAMEX) participated in a PBI seminar organized by the Mexican Seeds Association (AMSAC) entitled “Regulation of Plant Varieties obtained through new genetic improvement biotechnology techniques”. The meeting brought together regulators and industry representatives from Chile and Mexico, with a key focus on biosafety regulatory frameworks across Latin America, their benefits and costs, and an explanation of PBIs fundamentals vs. GMOs facts. Key themes raised by trade and industry representatives included regulatory coherence; transparency; responsibility; case by case approaches to regulation; use of existing domestic regulatory provisions; and harmonization of approaches at bilateral, regional and multilateral level.

The IGTC is continuing to roll out its global webinars on the subject over the next few weeks.

Interested in participating? Contact the [IGTC Secretariat](#).

#### Last chance! Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) meeting 2017

All IGTC participants interested in joining the IGTC delegation at this year’s Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) meeting are requested to contact the [IGTC Secretariat](#) before Friday, 12th May. The event is taking place from 14-15 June at the UN FAO Head Quarters in Rome. Current GLI members are Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mexico, Paraguay, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, United States, Uruguay and Vietnam. Observers are China, EU, Malaysia and Peru.



#### CBD launches study on digital sequencing of genomes

The UN’s Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has published a timetable for the completion of its fact-finding study on the digital sequencing of genetic resources. The ultimate aim is to contribute to a stronger CBD and Nagoya Protocol on access/benefit sharing of genetic resources, especially in light of “rapid advances arising from research and development in biotechnology”. Researchers will be selected over the course of May and June 2017, with a first draft of the study presented in September for eventual peer review. The work takes place as part of preparations for the next Conference of the Parties (COP14) in Egypt at the end of 2018 (dates TBC). The CBD Secretariat is



now calling for expressions of interest from researchers interested in undertaking a fact-finding and scoping study on the subject.

Click [here](#) for further information about the project.

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