

[If you cannot read this mail, please click here](#)



IGTC
International Grain Trade Coalition

IGTC Newsletter 22 May 2017

IGTC policy in focus: The IGTC will hold two “Focus Sessions” on MRLs and plant breeding innovation at its in-person strategy meeting in London on June 5th. Please [contact the IGTC Secretariat](#) if you wish to attend on June 5th and have not already registered.

Events

May 29-30: COCERAL AGM, Warsaw, Poland

COCERAL and UNISTOCK will hold their annual meetings with a focus on “Innovation in the food and production supply chain: Communicating risks, sharing experiences, seizing opportunities”. Key speaker Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety has been confirmed.

June 5: IGTC Strategy Session, London, UK

The IGTC will use the June 5 Strategy Session to ask associations, councils and Corporate Stakeholders for strategic feedback on priority files and the activities of IGTC Policy Teams and Working Groups.

Update from the EU: Plant breeding innovation



On 28th April, the European Commission’s Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) published an “Explanatory Note on New Techniques in Agricultural Biotechnology” ([link here](#)). The document was drafted upon request of European Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis (DG Santé - Health and Food Safety). Its purpose is to inform the reader about the nature and

characteristics of new breeding techniques (NBTs), and where these are similar/different to conventional breeding techniques (CBT) and established techniques of genetic modification (ETGM). Especially for IGTC participants, the paper has been reviewed by Chief Science Advisor and can be found on the IGTC Intranet ([link here](#) log-in required).

Interested in this topic but not a member of our international Policy Team? Contact the [IGTC Secretariat](#)

“Visionary solution” - US APHIS on electronic phytos

The US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has deemed the IPPC’s ePhyto Hub a “visionary solution ...a paperless, global, digital exchange for electronic phytosanitary certificates”. Over the next 9-12 months, the IPPC ePhyto Steering Group will conduct a pilot phase of the Hub with 14



countries. Some countries will use their current national ePhyto systems, and others will use the generic national system. Participating countries include Australia, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, South Korea, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and the United States. The USDA is one of the international agencies providing funds and technical expertise for the project, working through the IPPC. Read the full article [here](#).

Ahora en español: IGTC flyer

June 6 meetings, London, UK

The IGTC's discount code for the [IGC conference](#) is valid up until June 5th. To make use of this opportunity and attend the conference, contact the [IGTC Secretariat](#)

June 14-15: Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) meeting, Rome, Italy

The annual GLI event takes place this year at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (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.

Links

[IGTC Website](#)

[IGTC list of members](#)



The IGTC's flyer is now available in Spanish, with the intention of facilitating the global conversation about the Coalition in an increasing number of countries. The flyer, as well as its versions in English, Chinese and Russian, can be downloaded from the IGTC Intranet along with the IGTC Directory, Business Plan and other core documents.



The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted in this communication is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. This newsletter and referenced links are for the use of IGTC Members and Stakeholders only and should otherwise be treated as confidential.