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IGTC Newsletter 27 July 2018

IGTC Beijing General Assembly

November 27-29 2018: The deadline is FRIDAY 3rd AUGUST to request a visa invitation letter to attend the IGTC General Assembly in China. Contact the IGTC Secretariat for assistance: secretariat@igtglobal.org

Events

August 1-2: Australian Grains Industry Conference (AGIC) – Melbourne, Australia

The theme of this year's conference is "The Eagle, The Bear, The Dragon ... The Kangaroo?". [More here.](#)

August 1-3: 2018 APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLDAB) - Brisbane, Australia

The meeting agenda includes a two-day session dedicated to genome editing. Krista Thomas (Canada Grains Council) is on the speakers' list.

August 31: Deadline to submit comments to National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) on the concept of phytosanitary commodity standards

Grain trade representatives can submit reference materials and discussion papers to NPPOs on "Commodity and Pathway Standards" before 31 August. Contact secretariat@igtglobal.org for details.

Links

[IGTC Website](#)

IGTC in Action

Alejandra Danielson Castillo elected as Chair of the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG)

Alejandra Danielson Castillo (US Grains Council) was nominated as Chair of the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group at last week's meeting at the UN FAO Headquarters in Rome. Alejandra takes the post on behalf of IGTC and will provide guidance and leadership for the other IAG members (global sectoral representatives of seeds, cotton, wood products, cut flowers, cocoa, fresh fruit and vegetables, seed potatoes, forage, and more), with the collective aim of ensuring that every commodity benefits from full interoperability with the ePhyto solution.



This is a pivotal time in the ePhyto project, with company-to-company "testing" of ePhyto exchange envisaged over the coming months. Industry-led exercises such as these are being organized to drive recommendations to improve the system from a commercial point of view.

Read more about last week's meeting [here](#).

Photo credit: US Grains Council

IGTC President outreach tour in Geneva and Rome: 16-19 July

Geneva visit: Sincere thanks to the IGTC Corporate Stakeholders who met us in Geneva last week to discuss the implementation of the IGTC Business Plan and provide advice on our policy and communication agenda. While in Geneva, the IGTC President and Secretariat were also able to gather information about the WTO's SPS Committee proposal on a Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) workplan. The proposal ([publicly available draft here](#)) now has support from a number of countries including Argentina, Australia, Brazil,



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Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Russian Federation, Senegal, Uganda, the United States and Uruguay.

Rome visit: As well as attending the Industry Advisory Group of the ePhyto Hub, the IGTC President met a number of Rome-based partners including the Secretariat of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS - www.amis-outlook.org) and the leaders of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC - www.ippc.int).

European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling on mutagenesis

On Wednesday this week the European Court of Justice published a judgement on the qualification of mutagenesis as GMO "in so far as the techniques and methods of mutagenesis alter the genetic material of an organism in a way that does not occur naturally". The ruling (available [here](#)) contains additional information about the possibility for Member States to regulate at national level certain techniques exempt from EU GM legislation as "result of long safety record".



Coalition for an Enhanced Codex - update

The International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) has provided an update on the work it is coordinating among 30 value chain organizations ([list here](#)) to call for the enhancement of MRL setting processes at Codex. The IAFN presentation is available [here](#) and reports on the increasing numbers of MRLs being approved as a result of CCPR recommendations, as well as the positive response from governments to the Codex Coalition's work.

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