



## IGTC Newsletter 01 February 2019

**Don't miss the IGTC's annual activity report!** The 2018 annual report is on the Intranet ([here](#) log-in required) and gives an overview of our collective activities over the past year.

## Events

### March 5-7: Canadian Crops Convention, Montreal, Canada

The event will include a gala dinner, a port tour, and presentations from international speakers. More information [here](#).

### March 10-11: In-person plant breeding innovation meetings, Brussels, Belgium

The IGTC Policy Team will meet in-person to make progress on its advocacy strategy, as well as promote understanding of the implications of the ECJ Opinion of July 2018.

### March 14: International Grains Council Market Conditions Committee, London, UK

### IGTC chairs ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) at WTO

The Industry Advisory Group (IAG) of the ePhyto Solution met on 30 January at WTO in Geneva, Switzerland. IGTC was elected Chair of the IAG in July 2018 for a term of two years, with Alejandra Danielson Castillo (US Grains Council) taking the role. Seven global commodity flows were represented at Wednesday's Geneva meeting, with agreements on:

- The launch of a cross-sector communications campaign (grains, seeds, cotton, cut flowers, horticulture, wood products, etc.) to promote a fully functioning ePhyto Solution.
- Industry's role in calling for an increase in governments registering for the ePhyto Solution to ensure maximum global coverage.
- The urgent need for all commodity flows to "test" ePhyto exchange via case studies, to determine interoperability with commercial operations.



*Photo: Alejandra Danielson Castillo (US Grains Council)*

### IGTC supports industry-wide digitalization workshop in Geneva

A grain trade workshop was held on 31 January in Geneva, with the aim of exchanging information on current digitalization initiatives and identifying critical pathways for interoperability between them.



The event was an opportunity for government representatives and organizations such as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and World Bank to have feedback first-hand from grain traders on the ePhyto Solution. It was also a chance for all, including delegates from other commodity flows, to hear about the current work that is taking place to standardize and digitize global agricultural commodity trade operations for the benefit of the entire industry. The workshop was co-organized by the IGTC Secretariat, Archer Daniels Midland, Bunge, Cargill Incorporated, COFCO International and Louis Dreyfus Company.

### Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare proposed MRL changes – deadline for comments 7 February

53 member governments, observers and industry partners such as IGTC will join this information-sharing event.

## **April 23-24: International Forum on Food Safety and Trade, WTO, Geneva, Switzerland**

This is a jointly-led conference by WHO/FAO/WTO on food safety. The event website is [here](#).

## **June 10: IGTC Strategy Session, London, UK**

Global grain trade leaders will gather to discuss issues of mutual interest as per the IGTC policy and outreach agenda. Gafta will be our hosts at this important event.

## **June 11-12: IGC conference, London, UK**

Speakers at this eminent annual event include high-level grain trade speakers, FAO, OECD, and governments. IGTC will lead a workshop on the second day of the conference.

## **Links**

[IGTC Website](#)

[IGTC list of members](#)



The government of Japan is consulting on the establishment of Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for crop protection products with a deadline of February 7, 2019. The scope of proposed changes apply not only to the establishment of MRLs for fungicides and insecticides

(Inpyrfluxam, Chlorpyrifos, Cyantraniliprole, Cyclopyrimorate, Spinetoram, Pyflubumide, Methoxyfenozide) but also the revision of testing protocols for selected crops. The IGTC Policy Team on MRLs has received further information about how this will impact key commodities such as wheat, barley, soybeans and pulses. If you would like to join the Policy Team please contact the [IGTC Secretariat](#).

## **Innovature - Over 3,000 years of progress in agriculture**

On January 16, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) and the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) launched "Innovature" - a communications platform on innovation in food and agriculture including evolving breeding methods, such as gene editing. More information can be found at [innovature.com](http://innovature.com) or by writing to [info@innovature.com](mailto:info@innovature.com).

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