



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH December 1, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

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China and EU Biotech

The International Working Group of the U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) met with U.S. Trade Representative’s Chief Agricultural negotiator, Ambassador Darci Vetter and staff to discuss the current status of U.S. grain and oilseed acceptance as impacted by crop biotechnology. Results and follow-up to recent U.S. China high level engagement, including that of President Obama, were featured in meeting. It was noted that the only issue that U.S. President Obama and Chinese President Xi addressed in a [fact sheet](#) was China’s slow approval process for biotechnology traits. “The U.S. and China reached consensus to intensify science-based

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agricultural innovation for food security. The U.S. and China commit to strengthen dialogue to enable the increased use of innovative technologies in agriculture.”

Other topics for those meetings include next steps on European Union’s (EU) failure to act on pending biotech applications, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

The International Working Group, Co-chaired by Gary Martin, meets on Dec. 4 in conference room. At that meeting, plans will be set for upcoming actions to coincide with the high level US and Chinese government Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) (<http://www.commerce.gov/category/tags/us-china-joint-commission-commerce-and-trade>). The JCCT is expected to convene in Chicago the week of Dec. 15, 2014. Next steps with respect to the EU dilemma will also be considered.

At the upcoming meeting of the International Grain Trade Coalition (Dec.8-9) mitigation of trade impediments tied to crop biotechnology will be a key topic as the IGTC sets its future agenda.

NAEGA and COERL Meeting with EU DG Trade

A copy of a report on the meeting between NAEGA and COERL with European Union (EU) Directorates-General (DG) Trade can be found [here](#).

Japanese Testing of US Wheat

NAEGA joined the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA), and the U.S. Wheat Associates in a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, stating that the USDA should convey to the Japanese government confidence that the genetically engineered wheat event discovered last year in Oregon was an isolated event with no impact on commercial channels and that Japan’s requirement to test every shipment of U.S. wheat is no longer necessary.

The letter highlights evidence from a report by the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) indicating there is no reason for importers to continue testing U.S. shipments, which puts U.S. exporters at a competitive disadvantage due to increased costs and undermines efficient trade.

A copy of the letter can be found on the [NAEGA website](#).

Trip Reports/Activity – Pyeongchang, South Korea/COP MOP 7 and Panama City, Panama

NAEGA reported to USDA Foreign Agricultural (FAS) service on recent activity on COP MOP 7 and the trip to Pyeongchang, South Korea. The report covers activity done by NAEGA consultant, Bryan Munoz, in coordination with APPAMEX’s Ricardo Calderon, to organize the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in preparation of the Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP MOP 7).

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The report also includes the success that was achieved while at COP MOP 7 in Pyeongchang, South Korea. NAEGA volunteer and biotech chairman, Paul Green, and NAEGA Senior Advisor, Kirk Miller, traveled to Pyeongchang and worked closely with the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) delegation and the Global Industry Coalition (GIC). The group’s primary concern was “may contain” language of Article 18.2a. As a result of the COP MOP 7, it is unlikely that the issue of Article 18.2a will come up in future MOP agendas, unless a Party brings the issue back up. This is a great success for IGTC and it validates the continued high priority that IGTC has had on resolving this issue in past MOPs. To finally lay to rest a substantial potential threat the international grain trade is a significant success for NAEGA and its execution of its UES. With the resolution of Article 18.2A, the IGTC and NAEGA can reduce amount of resources it uses on the issue of the “May Contain” language.

NAEGA also reported on travel to Panama City, Panama where NAEGA Senior Advisor, Jerry Cotter, and NAEGA President and CEO, Gary Martin, attended the International Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG) annual meeting. At the meeting Jerry Cotter provided the Executive Committee with information on the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) work on the designation of commodities considered as Hazardous to the Marine Environment (HME). Gary Martin presented on current NAEGA activities and issues impacting the international grain trade.

A copy of the reports can be found on the [International Programs webpage](#) of the Member’s only site.

USTR and Rapid Response Mechanism

NAEGA and NGFA, along with member companies, met with U.S. Trade Representative’s Chief Agricultural negotiator, Ambassador Darci Vetter and staff, to discuss the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). This meeting follows a [letter](#) sent to Ambassador Vetter on the subject of an RRM and the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

A RRM that provides for timely action to expedite resolution of import disputes will add significant value to both Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) commitments. Given the perishable nature of food and other agricultural products, there are two key elements that must be included in the TPP. First, there needs to be a rapid notification within a few days to the exporter and importer of record when a shipment is restricted or delayed by regulatory actions at import. Second, there must be a formal obligation required of import authorities to work with the importer, exporter and, if needed, the exporter’s government representatives to identify options for an expedited resolution within a matter of days. In this way, regulatory requirements can be met that enable the release of shipments for disposition in less than a few weeks.

USTR assured the group that the timely notification element of an RRM is included in the current text of TPP.

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NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Member’s Only Section under their relevant committee pages.

NAEGA is considering making comments on the following items. Please contact us with your advice or suggestions:

2014

Dec. 15 – Comments to FDA on revisions of certain provisions on foreign supplier verification programs for importers of food for humans and animals. Potential revisions are primarily related to compliance status review of food and foreign suppliers, hazard analysis, and supplier verification activities. A copy of the federal register notice can be found [here](#).

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Member Opportunities

Ottawa, Canada – Canada-US Grain and Seed Task Group Meeting – December 2, 2014

The Canada-US Grain and Seed Task Group Steering Committee plans to meet in Ottawa, Canada on the afternoon of December 2, 2014, just prior to *GrowCanada Conference 2014*. The meeting will take place from 1:00pm to 5:30pm at the Westin Hotel, 11 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON. All Canada-US Grain and Seed Task Group participants are encouraged and welcome to attend the meeting. Conference line for calling in will be open for much of the meeting. Please **Register Now!** to indicate your plans.

Washington, DC – IGTC Stakeholder Meeting and US IGTC Meeting – December 4 and 5, 2014

NAEGA members are invited to welcome Marcel Bruins, who is now serving as the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Secretariat, on Thursday December 4th from 10:00am to 12:00pm at NAEGA/NGFA’s conference room in Washington, DC.

On Friday, December 5th the US IGTC members will have a brief meeting from 10:00am to 12:00pm at NAEGA/NGFA's conference room. Both meetings we will discuss the upcoming IGTC General Assembly meeting in Brussels, Belgium on December 8-10 and membership decisions that will be taken on December 9.

Documents to be considered at the meetings include:

- [IGTC General Assembly draft agenda](#)
- [IGTC 2015 and Beyond Plan](#)

A copy of Marcel's CV prior to his start as IGTC Secretariat can be found [here](#).

To attend the meeting on December 4th, please **Register Now!**

To attend the US IGTC meeting on December 5th, please **Register Now!**

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Brussels, Belgium – International Grain Trade Coalition General Assembly – December 8, 9, 2014

All NAEGA members and industry stakeholders are encouraged to attend International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) meetings in Brussels, Belgium 8-10 December 2014.

NAEGA members are integral to the IGTC business model that brings together the many trade associations and councils that you invest in to address policy developments of common concern. IGTC brings expanded efficiency and capacity to your industry investment in efforts to address what seems to be an ever expanding set of policy related concerns.

Current policy files that IGTC is focused on include improvements in regulatory and commercial practice related to crop biotechnology (LLP, BSP etc.), international rules (IMO and UN Labeling) related to the safe handling and transport grain and grain products, and the development by the International Plant Protection Convention of a new standard for phyto-sanitary risk management in international trade of grain (Grain ISPM).

The meeting will be conducted as an Annual General Assembly under a new formal IGTC structure. As a registered non-profit association in Switzerland, the IGTC is now better positioned to be successful in meeting industry needs as well as expanding participation. A global review of policy concerns and actions, networking sessions with European officials, and review of IGTC operations and governance, including the election of officers, are included.

A draft agenda for the meetings on Dec 8, 9 and 10 in Brussels can be found [here](#). Marcel Bruins, who has been contracted by NAEGA to serve as IGTC Secretariat, welcomes your comments and suggestions. For assistance with a hotel booking, or have other questions regarding your stay in Brussels, please contact Sarah Byaruhanga of the COCERAL office: sarah.byaruhanga@coceral.com

Washington, DC –USBCA Plenary Session – December 15, 2014

The U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) will hold a plenary session on December 15th from 1:00pm to 5:30pm at Arent Fox, 1717 K St. NW, Washington, DC. The session will allow the group to discuss the collaborative efforts to improve the environment for technology innovation and marketability for U.S. crops produced through the use of biotechnology. The USBCA Domestic Working Group and International Working Group will report on their progress to date, their plans going forward and solicit feedback from plenary participants.

Please RSVP by **Wednesday, December 10th** to Rebecca Grubbs at rgrubbs@ngfa.org or 202-289-0873.

Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member’s Only Page](#).

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Information for your Consideration

Colombia-US Trade Deal Deemed a Success

In a [press release](#), the U.S. International Trade Administration (ITA) highlighted the benefits of the Colombia-US Trade Promotion Agreement since it entered into force in 2012. Colombia is now the third-largest export market for the U.S. in Latin America. U.S. exports have increased 28% for a total of \$18.4 billion in 2013. The U.S. is Colombia’s largest export partner, purchasing 34% of Colombia’s exports.

EU Report Finds an Increase in Global Trade Restrictive Measures

In a [report](#) released by the European Union (EU), it found that the number of trade-restricting measures with its commercial partners increased while efforts to remove such measures have slowed. The report covers the period June 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, and the following trading partners: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, the Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States and Vietnam.

The report finds that during the covered period these countries adopted a total of 170 new trade-unfriendly measures. Among all types of measures applied, border measures such as tariff increases and new import licensing procedures, reference values or minimum transaction prices have seen the most extensive use. The number of new import measures (59) was again high and reached the level of the previous year, “confirming that countries prefer quick-fix restraints to solve their domestic competitiveness problems.” There was also a surge in the application of export restrictions (18, more than 39 percent of the previous total since 2008), a trend that is “particularly alarming as all countries are globally dependent on each other's natural resources.”

The report adds that during the period at issue 12 pre-existing trade barriers were removed, down from 18 the previous year, and 36 trade-facilitating measures were enacted by Argentina, Brazil, China, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Turkey and the U.S.

If you would like more information or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.

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NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices

2014

December

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2 – Ottawa, Canada – Canada-US Grain and Seed Task Group Steering Committee meeting. Gary C. Martin attending.

4 – Washington, D.C. – International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Stakeholder Meeting with NAEGA Washington, DC Representatives

4 – Washington, D.C. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) International Working Group (IWG) Meeting – NAEGA/NGFA Conference Room

5 – Washington, D.C. – U.S. IGTC Meeting

8-10 – Brussels, Belgium – IGTC General Assembly Meeting

9 – Washington, DC – CFTC Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting – Steve Strong attending on behalf of NAEGA

10-12 – Geneva, Switzerland – UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting. Jerry Cotter attending.

14 – Washington, D.C. – U.S. China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT)

15 – Washington, D.C. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance Plenary Session – Arent Fox, 1717 K St., NW 1:00pm to 5:30pm.

2015

March

15-17 – San Antonio, Texas – 2015 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Hyatt Regency Hotel (in conjunction with NGFA’s Convention).

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