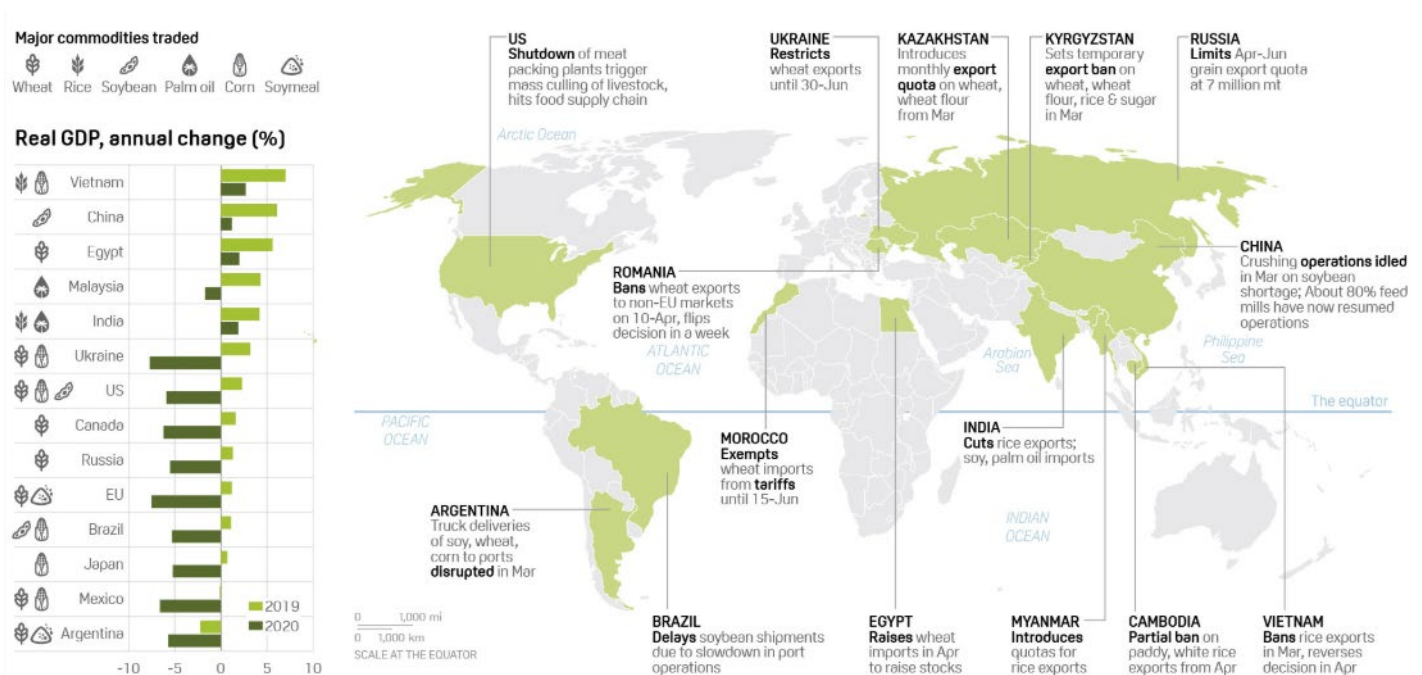


# Outreach

## June 10, 2020

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

### Image of the Week: Global Impact of COVID-19 on Food Supply Chain Through May 2020



Source: [S&P Global Platts](#)

#### Recent Actions:

- AgriVida Petition for U.S. Nonregulated Status of GE Corn
- Board of Directors Meeting
- Office Reopening and Communication
- Thailand Ban on Chlorpyrifos & Paraquat
- Treated Seed Letter

#### Current Opportunities & Actions:

- Advice on MRLs
- India MRLs
- Korea MRLs

- Bayer/Monsanto Petition for U.S. Nonregulated Status of GE Corn
- BASF Petition for U.S. Nonregulated Status of GE Soybean
- U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports to Sanctioned Countries Webinar
- USDA APHIS Invites Comment on NAPPO Documents
- USDA Agriculture Innovation Agenda

*News:*

- Letter to President Trump on U.S.-China Phase One
- New USDA/APHIS Presentation

*Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:*

- Policy Teams
- Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your advice requested

*Recent Actions:*

**AgriVida Petition for U.S. Nonregulated Status of GE Corn**

NAEGA and NGFA plan to submit joint comments this week to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS), responding to AgriVida, Inc.'s petition to seeking a determination of nonregulated status in the U.S. of Maize Event PY203. As we reported in the May 11, 2020 edition of Outreach, the NGFA Crop Technology Committee and NAEGA Production Technology Committee held a consultation with AgriVida on their plans for PY203. The petition [can be found here](#) and we will post finished comments to the NAEGA Member's Only page once they have been submitted. Thank you to NAEGA members who provided feedback on this petition

**Board of Directors Meeting**

The NAEGA Board of Directors met on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 via Microsoft Teams. The Board approved NAEGA's budget for 2020 and the minutes from their meeting on March 9, 2020. Board members also received updates from NAEGA staff on actions related to COVID-19, trade with China, and recent Committee actions. The Board will next meet in September 2020.

**Office Reopening and Communication**

The NAEGA office in Arlington, VA will have a limited reopening on June 15, 2020. Until at least August 31, 2020 staff will be in the office for a few days each week whilst official guidance on personal protective equipment including social distancing will be utilized in an effort to minimize exposure to COVID-19. Staff will continue to work remotely the majority of time during this transition period.

Using lessons learned during the closure of the office, NAEGA is encouraging members who need to talk with staff to engage with us through Microsoft Teams. Teams ability to share documents and instantly connect with multiple users will enhance our ability to serve you. All you need to do is email NAEGA staff and request a consultation via Teams and we will set up a virtual meeting with you as soon as we can. We can always be reached via email or cell phone as well.

We continue to be encouraging members to [review this 5-minute video tutorial](#) that provides an introduction to using Microsoft Teams for virtual meetings. Staff will be updating portions of the video to provide instructions on connecting with NAEGA staff via Teams. If you have had trouble using Teams and would like additional assistance, please contact Patrick at [phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org).

### **Thailand Ban on Chlorpyrifos & Paraquat**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) reports that [Thailand's Food and Drug Administration \(TFDA\) has extended the public comment period](#) on the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)'s draft Notification implement bans on chlorpyrifos and paraquat used in crop protection products from June 15, 2020 to July 18, 2020. TFDA has also produced a questionnaire, [which can be found here](#), regarding the MRL change. FAS reports that TFDA will accept international commentary via the questionnaire. As NAEGA has been reporting, the no detection / zero tolerance for the presence of both chemicals will apparently apply to import, sale, use, production, and residues in food, and was scheduled to go into effect on June 1, 2020. NAEGA is monitoring for developments, including attempt by Thai officials to enforce the ban. NAEGA is also considering commenting via TFDA's questionnaire. The Production Technology Committee this issue and NAEGA member input or updates are appreciated.

### **Treated Seeds**

This week NAEGA again called for an industry wide effort to communicate the need to not allow treated seeds in the grain and oilseed commodity supply. Communication with the public and your constituents throughout the year is needed.

Members can find more resources on treated seed manage here:

- The American Seed Trade Association and Crop-Life America "Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship", an industry-wide initiative to promote the safe handling and management of treated seed. The purpose of the Guide is to provide farmers and seed companies with critical information and up-to-date guidelines for managing treated seed effectively to further minimize the risk of exposure to non-target organisms. We encourage you to visit the [Guide website](#).
- The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) has "Treated Seed Guidance" which outlines best practices for handling treated seeds and proper disposal of treated seeds. The best practices for preventing treated seeds from being mixed with grain is to handle treated seeds with separate and dedicated equipment. Disposal of treated seeds should be done in compliance with state and local regulations. Resources, guides and contacts for waste disposal can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-waste>
- The U.S. soybean family notes that "because U.S. farmer compliance is critical to avoid disruption of U.S. soybean exports to overseas markets, disposal recommendations were included in the 'Treated Seed Disposal' section of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship website of the Center for Integrated Pest Management". It can be found at: <http://pesticidestewardship.org/disposal/Pages/treatedseeddisposal.aspx>.

A copy of the letter NAEGA sent to industry partners [can be found here](#).

### ***Current Opportunities & Actions:***

### **Advice on MRLs**

On Tuesday, June 9 the NAEGA Production Technology Committee met via Microsoft Teams to discuss the increase in potentially trade restrictive proposals for plant protection product Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs). As NAEGA has been reporting, Thailand, Vietnam, China, India and Korea, among others, have recently announced new MRLs and many appear not to have been formulated using science-based methods.

The Committee will be holding virtual meetings to address these proposed MRL's one by one. We are also requesting that any NAEGA members that have concerns about these proposals and have suggestions for comments let the NAEGA team know. Your input is always welcome. Details on the MRLs we are currently considering are reported below:

### **India MRLs**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) reports that on May 18, 2020 India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MAFW) published in the India Gazette a draft notification that would ban the import, use, sale, manufacture, distribution and transport of 27 pesticides. The draft notification ([found here - English begins on page 10](#)) allows for a comment period of 45-days from the notice's publication.

The affected chemicals include: Acephate; Atrazine; Benfuracarb; Butachlor; Captan; Carbendazim; Carbofuran; Chlorpyrifos; 2,4-D; Deltamethrin; Dicofol; Dimethoate; Dinocap; Diuron; Malathion; Mancozeb; Methomyl; Monocrotophos; Oxyfluorfen; Pendimethalin; Quinalphos; Sulfosulfuron; Thiodicarb; Thiophanate methyl; Thiram; Zineb; Ziram

FAS is asking industry to let them know if the proposed ban will have an impact on your trade with India and is taking comments until the end of the day on Friday, June 12, 2020. NAEGA is considering comments. If you have any concerns regarding the proposed ban, or suggestions for comments, please let us know as soon as possible.

### **Korea MRLs**

Korea [has notified to the World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#) "Proposed Amendments to the Standards and Specifications for Foods" which includes proposals for Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for 117 pesticides. The list of MRLs, [which can be found here](#), includes Peironyl batoxide, Triticanzole, Terbufos, Navluron, Flathiacel- methyl and Oxytetracycline. NAEGA is considering submitting comments on the proposed MRLs through USDA and any input from members would be welcome. Comments are due to WTO on June 20.

### **Bayer/Monsanto Petition for U.S Nonregulated Status of GE Corn**

Bayer/Monsanto has submitted a petition to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) seeking nonregulated status in the U.S. of a corn variety intended for hybrid seed production genetically engineered for tolerance to dicamba, glufosinate, quizalofop, 2,4-D, and tissue-specific glyphosate tolerance. The petition [can be found here](#) and USDA/APHIS is accepting comments on the through July 7, 2020. NAEGA is considering comments on this petition and any input from members would be welcome. [Comments can be submitted through this link.](#)

### **BASF Petition for U.S. Nonregulated Status of GE Soybean**

BASF Corporation (BASF) [has submitted a petition](#) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) seeking nonregulated status in the U.S. of a soybean variety developed using genetic engineering for resistance to soybean cyst nematode, a microscopic parasitic worm, and for herbicide tolerance. BASF has reached out to NAEGA [and provided a fact sheet on their product for members to review](#). We are considering submitting comments to APHIS on the petition, [which can be found here](#), and any input from members would be welcome. Comments are due July 27, 2020 [and can be submitted here](#).

### **U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports to Sanctioned Countries Webinar**

NAEGA is helping the U.S. Food & Agriculture Dialogue for Trade (USFADT) develop a virtual, confidential, and off the record briefing and discussion with the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) experts from the Foreign Agriculture Service on US exports to sanctioned countries. Topics such as utilizing the general license for agricultural commodities and current developments related to Iran sanctions will be covered, as well as a number of different sanction programs that OFAC administers, which can be found at [OFAC programs](#). The webinar will be hosted by USFADT with OFAC and USDA and is entitled "U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports to Sanctioned Countries". The date for the webinar has not been set.

We are asking NAEGA members who are interested in the webinar to fill out a planning questionnaire, [found through this link](#). Except for identifying potential participants, responses will not be attributed. The information will be used in aggregate to help us inform OFAC and USDA on questions related to trade under U.S. Sanctions. The questionnaire should be completed by close of business on Monday, June 15, 2020.

### **USDA/APHIS Invites Comment on NAPPO Documents**

As we reported in the June 2, 2020 edition of the Outreach, the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) has opened the 2020 NAPPO Country Consultation period for the three NAPPO documents on Regional Phytosanitary and Science & Technology Documents, [found here](#).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is encouraging U.S. stakeholders to submit comments on these documents, through the APHIS Plant Protection & Quarantine (PPQ) service. Comments should fall into one of three categories: substantial, technical, or editorial. Details on how to comment to NAPPO through PPQ [can be found here](#).

The NAPPO Country Consultation period provides an opportunity for stakeholders to comment and review a new or revised NAPPO product. The country consultation is open for 90 days (June 1 – August 31, 2020) for the two regional standards and for 60 days (June 1 – July 31, 2020) for the new Science and Technology Document on lymantriids of potential concern to the NAPPO region.

NAEGA's Grades and Inspections Committee will be asked to consider a response. Your advice is welcome.

## **USDA Agriculture Innovation Agenda**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [is soliciting comments and suggestions](#) on objectives and opportunities leading to research goals and informed product goals to facilitate transformative breakthroughs to enable U.S. agriculture to meet the Department's goal of increasing agricultural production by 40 percent to meet the needs of the global population in 2050 while cutting the environmental footprint of U.S. agriculture in half. This effort is part of USDA's Agricultural Innovation Agenda, the Department's commitment to the success of American farmers, ranchers, producers, and foresters in the face of future challenges. NAEGA is considering providing input to this request. All comments are due August 1, 2020. More details [can be found here](#).

### ***News:***

#### **Letter to President Trump on U.S.-China Phase One**

U.S food & agriculture interests have been invited [to sign this letter](#) to U.S. President Donald Trump in support of the U.S. China Phase One Trade Agreement. The letter highlights the positive impacts of the Agreement across the U.S. food & agriculture sector and urges continued support for the Agreement from the President. If you have any questions about the letter, please email Patrick Hayden at [phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org).

#### **New USDA/APHIS Presentation**

Bernadette Juarez, Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), gave a power point presentation on the impact of the on the "Sustainable Ecological, Consistent, Uniform, Responsible, Efficient (SECURE)" rule, the Final Rule for 7 CFR Part 340, updating and modernizing USDA's biotechnology regulations under the Plant Protection Act. APHIS has now published that presentation, along with a number of other relevant documents regarding SECURE [on their website](#).

### ***Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:***

#### **Policy Teams**

With the evolving global trade environment, we expect many more fast-paced and dramatic developments that could greatly change the terms of trade for NAEGA members. Your involvement is needed!

NAEGA ad hoc policy teams of member personnel working largely through conference calls are helping to guide our multifaceted effort to address the evolving trade environment. A policy team focused on the Asia-Pacific Market is already established. Full Details on policy team activity can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member's Only Page](#).

#### **Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your advice requested**

NAEGA is currently available to hold virtual Contracts and Best Practices Seminars, with the direction of the NAEGA Contracts Committee. Please let us know when, how and where you and your colleagues are interested in participating in the NAEGA Senior Advisor led seminars. The Committee looks forward to a return to planning for in person contract seminars in the near future.



NAEGA seminars are an intensive and informative review of commercial and official practices taught in an interactive environment.

NAEGA conducts both public and private seminars, and curriculum can be tailored to your needs. Please contact NAEGA staff if you are interested in hosting a private, tailored Virtual Seminar. [Click here](#) for more information on the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

### ***Calendar & Member Notices:***

Click [here](#) for a copy of the IGTC Calendar

#### **2020**

**Events that have been cancelled, postponed or changed to virtual events due to COVID-19 are italicized**

*10-12 – G-7 Meeting - Camp David, MD – Now taking place via videoconference*

*27-28 – Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Trade Ministers Meeting – Malaysia - Moved from April*

#### **July**

*7-9 – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Conference’s 2020 USDA/FAS Attaché Seminar – Now taking place virtually*

#### **September**

**15-30** –75th annual United Nations General Assembly - New York, NY

**23-24** - World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit – Sao Paul, Brazil

#### **October**

***TBD** - DBTG Operational & Technical Conference – Rotterdam, The Netherlands – Postponed from April 2020*

**5** – G-20 Meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**TBD** – Convention on biological diversity (CBD) COP 15– Kunming, China

**TBD** – China World Grain Forum

#### **November**

**2-6** – IGTC General Assembly – Singapore - Working with several others IGTC is planning for a series of meetings in Singapore 2 – 6 November 2020.

**3** - U.S. Presidential Election

**12** - APEC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**21-22** – G-20 Annual Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

***TBD** – NAEGA Contracts & Best Practices Seminar – Tokyo, Japan - Tentative*

#### **December**

**TBD** – International Grains Council’s 52nd Session – London, UK

**2021**

**March**

**14-16** – NGFA Annual Convention – San Diego, CA

**2022**

**December**

**TBD** – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

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