



## Outreach April 22, 2021

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

### *NAEGA Media of the Week*

Video Overview of the UN Food Systems Summit - Click the image to play the video.



*Source: [Agricultural Dialogues International for NAEGA](#)*

### *Member Notices & Opportunities*

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- Member Input Requested – Consultations with USDA/FAS
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- U.S.-Ecuador Trade

### ***Member Notices & Opportunities:***

#### **Register Now - Virtual Networking & Information Session –April 27, 2021**

You and any co-workers with an interest in NAEGA are invited and welcome to join us at our next Virtual Membership Networking & Information Session, on Tuesday April 27 from 2pm-3pm Central Time. This session will provide members updates on NAEGA activities, including the U.N. Food Systems Summit and the Grain and Oilseeds Market Access Index and includes a spotlight presentation from non-NAEGA member [Global Share](#), a digital trade services provider.

You can [register here](#) or through the [NAEGA Member's Only site](#). Once registered you will be sent the weblink you will need to join the session.

This event is part of a series of NAEGA member exclusive one-hour sessions that we began earlier in 2021 and are holding a least once a month.

**All members may be featured during a future networking and information session.** If you would like your company to take part in a session as a presenter, or if you have any questions, please let us know.

#### **Member Input Requested – Grain & Oilseed Market Access Index**

We are seeking member input on non-tariff barriers to trade that will be used in the development of a new edition of the Grain & Oilseed Market Access Index (GOMAI). The GOMAI uses several sources of information to quantify tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade of grain and oilseed products in international markets. The GOMAI is integral to our annual Unified Export Strategy (UES) application for U.S. Department of Agriculture Market Access Program (MAP) funding. We use the GOMAI reports as a basis for comments and advocacy strategy to inform thought and decisions that address these barriers and to benchmark success in reducing and mitigating them.

We hope you can complete and return to us your subjective judgements for the commodities and countries you want to inform us about on the 2021 NAEGA GOMAI Survey Scoresheet, [which can be downloaded here](#). Instructions for filling it out the Scoresheet [can be found here](#).

The data we collect will be averaged and sent to our contractor for inclusion in the GOMAI. Your individual responses will be kept anonymous and confidential. Please feel free to share this scoresheet with any coworkers you feel might be able to provide their own input. Please do not be concerned with developing a company-wide or group score – we want as many personal scores as we can get! **Score sheets are due back to Patrick by Wednesday, May 5.** Please let us know if you have any questions.

### **Member Input Requested – Consultations with USDA/FAS**

NAEGA staff will be taking part in virtual one-on-one consultations with the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service’s (FAS) Offices of Agricultural Affairs in China, Japan and South Korean. We are requesting membership advice and input on topics to include in our discussions. If there is an issue you would like us to raise with FAS in these consultations, please Patrick or Gary know as soon as possible. The meetings will take place on April 27, 28 and May 5.

### **Register for PBIE Access**

Members are invited to register to access the [NAEGA Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange \(PBIE\)](#). Developed by and at the request of membership, the PBIE contains detailed information on commercialized and pre-commercialized gene-edited and transgenic seeds used to produce the crops you use and market. To our knowledge, the PBIE is the first and only platform to contain a searchable database of gene-edited seeds.

Currently, only NAEGA members have access to this unique tool. **As part of membership your company is allowed up to 5 unique users for the PBIE at no cost.** Member representatives should send the names and email addresses of their company’s users to Patrick at [phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org). He will connect with them individually with login information and guide them in the use of the platform. Please let us know if you have any questions!

### **USDA/AMS Grain Export Registration Renewal**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) recently announced details on [grain export registration renewal](#) authorized by the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA). USGSA regulations specify that all persons or entities engaged in the business of buying grain for sale in foreign commerce and in the business of handling, weighing, or transporting grain for sale in foreign commerce in excess of 15,000 metric tons during the preceding or current calendar year must register annually. NAEGA encourages exporting members to ensure they are registered, and the most recent registration list [can be found here](#).

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

We recently completed extensive work with Senior Advisors built around company specific and confidential Virtual Contracts and Best Practices Seminar. The work included critical review of documents being used by the NAEGA member company.

Both public/multiple company and private/single company seminars are available and can be tailored to your needs. The seminars are an intensive and informative review of commercial and official practices taught in an interactive environment. Please let us know when, how and where you would like to participate in the NAEGA Senior Advisor led seminars. [Click here](#) for more information on the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

### **Office Operation Status and Communication**

The NAEGA office in Arlington, VA continues to operate under a limited and tentative reopening. We will continue to work remotely and via virtual platforms the majority of the time and have no travel planned. Most NAEGA hosted virtual meetings use Microsoft Teams. This [5-minute video tutorial](#) provides an introduction to using Microsoft Teams for virtual meetings. If you have had trouble using Teams and would like additional assistance, please contact Patrick at [phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org).

### ***Current & Ongoing Activities:***

#### **Canada Proposes Guidance on Novel Foods**

The Canadian Government has released [a proposed update to its guidance for novel foods](#) to “provide better clarity and predictability in how the Novel Food Regulations are applied to products of plant breeding.” The purpose of the update is to provide “greater clarity, predictability and transparency regarding the regulation of novel foods derived from plants, including those developed using gene editing technologies” and to provide an “efficient and predictable pathway to commercialization” for new products. The proposed update is split into two documents. The first, [available here](#), addresses when a food that was derived from a plant developed through breeding is a “novel food” and the second, [available here](#), is on the pre-market assessment of foods derived from “Retransformants”.

There is an open consultation period through May 24, 2021. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) is leading a U.S. government review and comment submission and will be asking for industry input, and the Production Technology committee will be considering a response. Your input or comments are welcome.

#### **GMO Canola**

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) [announced on April 13](#) that it had been informed by BASF Agricultural Solutions (BASF) and Nuseed that low levels of genetic material from two varieties of transgenic canola seed that are currently under FDA review have been found in specific lots of canola seed and a small number of canola fields. FDA issued [letters to BASF](#) and [Nuseed](#) stating that the FDA has no questions about the safety of these new varieties of canola when inadvertently present in the human and animal food supply at these low levels.

We are monitoring for any impact on trade from this announcement, and the Production Technology Committee is considering if and how NAEGA should respond. Your input or comments are welcome.

### **Mexico Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate**

We continue to monitor developments and communicate with government and industry partners including our sister organization in Mexico, APPAMEX, regarding the December 31, 2020 decree from Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador that bans the use and imports of glyphosate and take actions to restrict the use genetically modified (GM) corn, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Since the release of the decree, there have been no details on how these measures might be enforced, and as of this writing we are not aware of any enforcement or implementation attempts by the Mexican authorities. We encourage you to let us know of any attempts to enforce the decree, and input on what action, if any, should be considered, is welcome. We will continue to update you as the situation develops.

### **South Korea Labeling Standards for Genetically Modified Foods**

South Korea has released a proposed revision to its labeling standards for genetically modified (GMO) foods. The changes would set a threshold for GMO content in identity preserved commodities that wish to make an absence claim such as “non-GMO” or “GMO free”, allowing Non-GMO labeling when adventitious presence of approved GMO components is up to 0.9% and clarifying GMO labeling exemption subjects. The WTO notification and a translation of the proposed changes [can be found here](#).

Comments are due to the WTO on April 30, and the Production Technology Committee is considering comments. Your input or comments are welcome.

### **USDA Seeks Comments on Food System Supply Chains**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking comments on a “Department-wide effort to improve and reimagine the supply chains for the production, processing and distribution of agricultural commodities and food products.” This request, [which can be found here](#), comes in response to U.S. President Joseph Biden’s [Executive Order on America’s Supply Chains](#) of February 24, 2021.

USDA is asking for comments that will assist the Department in developing a report that assesses the critical factors, risks, and strategies needed to support resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains. NAEGA is considering providing comments, which are due May 21, 2021 and your input is welcome.

### **U.S. Standards for Sorghum**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Federal Grain Inspection Services (USDA/FGIS) [is requesting comments on the U.S. Standards for Sorghum](#). FGIS is required to request public comments regarding the standards for sorghum under the U.S. Grain Standards Act to ensure that standards and official grading practices remain relevant, and whether the current sorghum standards and grading practices need to be changed. The current U.S. standards for sorghum [can be found here](#).

Comments are due by June 24, 2021. The Grades & Inspections Committee is considering comments. Your input or comments are welcome.

### **U.S. Standards for Wheat**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Services (USDA/FGIS) is [requesting comments on the U.S. Standards for Wheat](#). FGIS is required to request public comments regarding the standards under the U.S. Grain Standards Act to ensure that standards and official grading practices remain relevant, and whether the current wheat standards and grading practices need to be changed. The current U.S. standards for wheat [can be found here](#).

Comments are due by July 19, 2021. The Grades & Inspections Committee is considering comments. Your input or comments are welcome.

### ***Recent Actions:***

#### **U.N. Food Systems Summit**

We continue to engage with governments and relevant stakeholders on the [U.N. Food Systems Summit \(Summit\)](#). On Friday, April 23, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will be hosting a webinar on "The Role of Grains and Oil Seeds In Sustainable Food Systems – The Western Hemisphere's Perspective Towards to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit". NAEGA President Gary Martin will be speaking on the role international trade plays in food systems. Attendance is free and registration information [can be found here](#).

We have also engaged with a third party to provide tracking and reporting on agriculture and trade initiatives within the Summit. This work will be made available to members on the [NAEGA Member's Only site](#), and we will be discussing this work at the Membership Information & Networking Session on Tuesday April 27.

We continue to take part in events organized by the [Private Sector Mechanism](#) through which the food and agriculture sector has a voice into the Summit. A number of events related to the Summit's five [Action Tracks](#) are open to the public and may be of interest to members. Details about upcoming Action Track Public Forum discussions and registration links, as well as recordings of past events, can be found on the Summit's Action Track page, found [here](#).

### ***News:***

#### **IPPC Publishes Updated Phytosanitary Standards**

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has published an updated list of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). ISPMs are standards adopted by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures CPM of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and are recognized as the basis for phytosanitary measures applied in trade by the WTO. The IPPC added eleven new standards in March. The new standards, as well as a complete list of ISPM's, [can be found here](#).

#### **U.S.-Ecuador Trade Update**

The recent election in Ecuador has led to the following updates on the U.S.-Ecuador economic relationship:

- On April 11, Guillermo Lasso was elected as Ecuador's next President. President-elect Lasso has stated that he will continue to build on the previous administration's trade partnership with the United States. President-elect Lasso will be inaugurated on May 24.
- On April 15, the U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan [resolution](#) reaffirming the partnership between the United States and Ecuador, recognizing the restoration and advancement of economic relations, security and development for both nations.
- The [Phase One U.S.-Ecuador Trade Agreement](#), signed last December, is currently with Ecuador's National Assembly for review after its recent approval by Ecuador's Constitutional Court. Its final ratification and entry into force is expected in May.

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

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

#### **2021**

##### **April**

**23** – IICA Webinar - The Role Of Grains And Oil Seeds In Sustainable Food Systems – [Register Here!](#)

**27** – NAEGA Consultation with USDA/FAS Beijing, China Office of Agricultural Affairs

**28** – NAEGA Consultation with USDA/FAS Seoul, South Korea Office of Agricultural Affairs

##### **May**

**3-5**– FAS/USAEDC South Asia Regional Conference - Virtual

**5** – NAEGA Consultation with USDA/FAS Tokyo, Japan Office of Agricultural Affairs

**30-31**– G7 Trade Minister Meeting – U.K

##### **June**

**2-4** - NGFA Annual Convention – In person/Virtual Hybrid

**7-11** – London Grains Week – London, UK – In person/Virtual Hybrid

##### **July**

**7-8** – USAEDC's FAS Attaché Seminar – Arlington, VA

**19-21** – U.N. Food Systems Summit Pre-Summit Events – Rome, Italy & Virtual

##### **September**

**TBD** - U.N. Food Systems Summit

##### **October**

**11-24** – Meeting of the Convention on biological diversity (CBD) COP 15 and COP-MOP 10 - Kunming, China

**30-31** – G-20 Summit – Rome, Italy

##### **November**

**15-18** – USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD

**29** - 12th WTO Ministerial Conference – Geneva, Switzerland

**2022**

**March**

**13-15** – NGFA Annual Convention – Charleston, SC

**December**

**TBD** – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

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