



Outreach May 5, 2021

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

NAEGA Media of the Week

NAEGA President Gary Martin's Presentation to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture the role of International Trade in Food Systems – April 23, 2021

Click the Image to Play the Video



Source: [Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture \(IICA\)](#)

Member Notices & Opportunities

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- U.S. Coast Guard Update on COVID-19 TWIC Requirements

Member Notices & Opportunities:

Register Now - Virtual Networking & Information Session –May 11, 2021

You and any co-workers with an interest in NAEGA are invited and welcome to join us at our next Virtual Networking & Information Session on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, from 3pm-4pm Eastern Time. This session will provide members updates on NAEGA activities and includes a spotlight presentation from NAEGA contractor Agricultural Dialogues International (ADI) on their work to provide tracking and reporting to NAEGA on agriculture and trade initiatives within the U.N. Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). This presentation will include the unveiling of a UNFSS digital tracking library that is only available to NAEGA members.

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 your subjective evaluation on barriers to trade to support 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 view 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 this Friday May 7.** Please let us know if you have any questions.

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. 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!

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.

Current & Ongoing Activities:

Canada Proposes Guidance on Novel Foods

The Government of Canada is proposing [to 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 proposal includes products produced using gene editing technologies. An “efficient and predictable pathway to commercialization” is a suggested result. 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. Your input or comments to support NAEGA’s consideration is welcome. The Production Technology committee will be considering a response. In addition to potential comments directly to Canada, we may also engage with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) who is leading a U.S. government review and comment submission and will be asking for industry input.

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 1st, 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.

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:

China Standards for Wheat & Soybeans

As reported [in an earlier of Outreach](#), China recently notified the WTO of proposed changes to its domestic standards for the handling of wheat and soybeans, NAEGA, in collaboration with industry partners, provided recommendations to the U.S. government on how to respond to the proposed standards. We can report that our suggestions were well received and we understand language we suggested was included in the final submission by USDA to the Chinese Government.

Consultations with USDA/FAS Posts in Asia

NAEGA staff took part in virtual one-on-one consultations with the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service's (FAS) Offices of Agricultural Affairs in China and South Korea. The discussions focused on trade agreement implementation, local regulations and their impact on U.S. grain and oilseeds imports, including crop technology products, and expectations for each country's approach to the WTO and U.N. Food System Summit. NAEGA staff has one more meeting planned, with FAS Tokyo, on Thursday, May 5.

IPPC ePhyto Workshop with the Dominican Republic

The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), via its co-leadership of the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG), has been participating in meetings with National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in 2021 to further the implementation of ePhyto in as many countries around the world as possible, and identify ways that the Solution can better serve the grain trade. On Wednesday, May 4, the IAG, with IGTC's assistance, held an ePhyto workshop with the Dominican Republic's (DR's) NPPO. Over 385 people attended the workshop, including members of Trade Associations for Grains, Seed and Cocoa Federation, Private Sector, NPPOs of the Dominican Republic, Argentina and New Zealand among others.

During the meeting a number of members of the private sector expressed their interest in participating in training sessions, next steps were developed to connect customs authorities, importers, exporters and brokers and a dialogue is underway with company representatives, inspectors and authorities. More details on the past workshops and plans for the future [can be found here](#).

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) hosted 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 spoke on the role international trade plays in food systems. IICA has published the entire webinar on YouTube, and you can [find the video 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](#), following a briefing on this this work at the Membership Information & Networking Session on Tuesday May 11.

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:

USDA /FGIS Issues Updated Directory on Service Fees and Billing Codes

The U.S Department of Agriculture’s Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has issued an updated directory on Service Fees and Billing Codes. Of note, the updated directive presents a new billing code: G2TCK, *Tilletia controversa* Kühn (TCK) spores testing (per sample). The revision also clarifies that billing code G248, Pesticide Residue Testing Special Compounds, is assessed per hour for each service representative. There are no fee revisions in the updated directory, [which can be found here](#).

U.S. Coast Guard Update on COVID-19 TWIC Requirements

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has issued an update to Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 13-20, which address Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Operations in consideration of COVID-19. Among other updates, of particular interest to NAEGA members is updated allowances for Alternative Security Program (ASP) users. ASP users who are unable to comply with the requirements for TWIC users in an approved ASP due to COVID-19 may pursue temporary relief via noncompliance, which requires a user to contact the Captain of the Port to request and receive permission to temporarily deviate from the ASP requirements. The updated MSIB [can be found here](#).

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](#).

Calendar & Member Notices:

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

2021

May

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

25 – United Export Strategy for 2022 Market Access Program Funding Due to USDA

July

8 – USAEDC's FAS Attaché Seminar – Virtual

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 - Tentative

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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