



Outreach
July 5, 2023

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

NAEGA Graphic of the Week

NAEGA Staff supporting the International Grain Trade Coalition at IGTC's Geneva Dialogues on June 18 & 19, 2022



Source – NAEGA

This OUTREACH includes:

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Our Trade and Global Food Security Library now has a Mobile App!

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Member Notices & Opportunities

ESRMS 2.1 User Acceptance Training

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) is encouraging exporters to complete User Acceptance Training (UAT) for the Export Sale Reporting and Maintenance System (ESRMS) 2.1 platform as soon as possible.

FAS is requesting that all exporters enter the ESRMS 2.1 Test System to perform user acceptance testing to become familiar with the system and to test the bulk electronic upload process. USDA also requests feedback from all exporters to ensure the functionality and compatibility of the final system design. ESRMS 2.1 and the ESRMS 2.1 Query System are for testing only and is not to be used for any other purpose. All data entered in the test site will be removed before the launch of ESRMS 2.1. The Test System will remain open for UAT until all exporters have completed the training.

The ESRMS 2.1 test site can be found at: <https://esrms.fas.usda.gov/>. Users can access the site with their existing ESRMS eAuthentication credential. NAEGA Members who are not sure if their company has completed the UAT program can contact Patrick at phayden@naega.org. Technical questions or login issues can be directed Amy Harding at ESR@usda.gov

USAEDC Attaché Seminar– July 12-13, 2023

Member personnel are invited to join Gary and Patrick at the U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council's (USAEDC) annual Attaché Seminar on July 12-13 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner in McLean, VA. The seminar provides an opportunity for USDA Cooperators such as NAEGA to meet one on one with USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) attachés to discuss country and regional issues. The [two-day program](#) also features presentations from Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis Taylor and FAS Administrator Dan Whitley.

Please contact Patrick at phayden@naega.org for more information.

The NAEGA Trade & Food Security Library is Now Available to Download as an App!

We invite you to access our online Trade & Global Food Security Library which tracks declarations, statements, videos, and other resources related to international agricultural trade, the future of food, sustainability, agricultural production, and secure food systems. The library is a collaborative effort, available cost-free to NAEGA members and partners, via your web browser or an App for both Android and Apple mobile devices. [Instructions on installing the app and connecting to your account can be found here.](#)

Recently uploaded resources include the IGTC's presentation to an audience of global governments and international institutions at the World Trade Organization in Geneva and the Ukrainian Grain Association's work to expand the capacity of the Danube grain export route.

If you need login credentials or are having any trouble using the app, please click [here](#).

Current and Ongoing Actions

Export Sales Reporting and Maintenance System 2.1

NAEGA members and staff met with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) staff working on the [update to the Export Sales Reporting and Maintenance System \(ESRMS\)](#) on June 29, 2023 to provide direct feedback to USDA on the revisions made to the reporting System, frequency and burden of reporting as part of the development of the ESRMS 2.1 platform, and other concerns as they relate to changes in reporting that are part of the update to the system. USDA continues to use the legacy ESRMS system for reporting and has not set a date for the launch of ESRMS 2.1.

NAEGA plans to submit written comments to USDA, and your input is welcome. Comments are due on July 14.

Recent Actions

APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum

The 28th APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum took place June 15-17, 2023 in Cancun, Mexico. NAEGA was represented in person by Oscar Omar Mendoza of Cargill, and virtually via [a keynote address by Sofia Flores Palomar](#) on the "Declaration on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization" and a presentation on the Global Trade & Food Security Library by Senior Advisor Katy Lee. The Forum also featured discussions on the future of North American Agricultural Trade and Mexico's approach to biotechnology. Special thanks to Oscar Omar Mendoza and Cargill for representing NAEGA.

IGTC Geneva Dialogue

NAEGA staff completed 2 months of support for International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) programming, including previously reported events in Kenya, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, by organizing and participating in IGTC's Geneva Dialogues on June 19 & 20 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Events included a Global Food Security and Grains Seminar at the World Trade Organization (WTO), focused on cooperation between the public and private sectors for the benefit of global food security and trade and featured a series of in-person meetings and events with speakers, decision-makers, and thought leaders from around the world.

Attendees included Geneva-based governmental representatives to the, such as Australia, Argentina, Brazil, New Zealand, Paraguay, UK, USA, Uruguay, Vietnam, and several IGTC Member and Stakeholder representatives. Follow-up discussions centered on issues such as agriculture trade negotiations, the importance of trade for Global Food Security, and opportunities for private sector engagement at the WTO, among others.

Staff also took part in an Dialogue and Luncheon on Innovation and Sustainability opportunities for the Grain Trade hosted by Corteva. A trip report will be available soon.

USDA/APHIS Letter to Japan on Fumigation

USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service [sent a letter to Japan's Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries \(MAFF\)](#) in response to MAFF's request for information regarding phytosanitary treatments for U.S. grains shipments. The letter, supported by input from the NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee, details the use of phosphine gas for fumigation and other potential treatments, as well as the safe handling and disposal of tubing used for in-transit fumigation on bulk vessels.

News:

Geneva Update

World Trade Organization (WTO) events of interest [included in this update](#) from Geneva Envoy Mariya-Khrystyna Koziy:

- In June the WTO organized the 4th Trade and Environment Week, focused on collective approaches to address climate change, natural disasters, pollution, and biodiversity loss in the context of global trade.
- The WTO Secretariat circulated a draft report to the 13th Ministerial Conference, presenting seven findings based on the discussions held in line with the SPS Declaration adopted at MC12 on key challenges and opportunities in implementing the SPS Agreement.
- WTO's Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala announced the creation of two advisory groups to exchange views and engage in discussions with the WTO's key stakeholders. One consists of business leaders, while the other comprises prominent civil society representatives.
- On June 21–22, new submissions were discussed in the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session to revitalize agriculture negotiations ahead of the next Ministerial Conference set for February 2024.

EU Draft Legislation on Gene Edited Crops

The European Commission released [draft legislation on “plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed”](#) that the Commission said is designed to make the EU's agricultural systems more “sustainable and resilient”. The legislation would separate gene edited products into two categories: those “comparable to naturally occurring or conventional plants” and those with “more complex modifications”. Under the proposed regulation, food and feed products

which fell into the first category would be treated as conventional products and not subject to the EU's existing GMO regulations. Products under the second category would be subject to those regulations. There will be a process required to verify that a product is "comparable to naturally occurring or conventional plants". The legislation will next move to the European Parliament for consideration.

Information Services:

Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange (PBIE)

There are currently 2,835 transgenic products from approximately 420 unique transgenic events and 506 gene-edited products in the [NAEGA 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. Currently, only NAEGA members have access to this unique tool. As part of membership, your company is allowed up to five unique users for the PBIE at no cost. To gain access NAEGA Member representatives send the names and email addresses of designated company users to Patrick at phayden@naega.org. Each designated person is provided with unique login information and instructions on the use of the platform. Please let us know if you have any questions!

U.S.-Canada Grain Trade Website

Your comments and advice are welcome in response to the U.S.-Canada Grain Trade Resources website: <https://uscanadagraintrade.org/>. The public website is intended to facilitate trade between Canada and the U.S. and inform future NAEGA actions. The site contains regularly updated question-and-answer modules for [American](#) and [Canadian](#) grain producers, as well as the [commercial grain trade](#). Users are encouraged to review the modules and submit additional questions, which may be included in future updates.

Calendar & Member Notices:

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

2023

July

12-13 - USAEDC Global Attaché Seminar – McLean, VA

September

12-15 – WTO Public Forum: "[It is Time for Action](#)" – Geneva, Switzerland

21 – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Arlington, VA

October

TBD - NAEGA-NGFA Regional Grain Industry Workshop – Pacific Northwest

November

13-15 – USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD

TBD – IGTC General Assembly – Cairo, Egypt

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