



Written Reports from International Organizations

International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Report for CPM-20

The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) is a not-for-profit association that promotes open, predictable, rules-based trade for grains, oilseeds, pulses, and derived products. With members from six continents, IGTC represents a shared voice for the global grain trade.

In 2025, IGTC developed a set of *Sustainability Principles* to help ensure that environmental goals are pursued in ways that also support global trade and food security. The principles call for science-based and risk-proportionate regulations that enable innovation and sustainable productivity improvements. Rather than imposing one-size-fits-all requirements, they encourage alignment on environmental outcomes while allowing jurisdictions the flexibility to use approaches best suited to their unique agricultural systems. The principles also emphasize the need for transparency, industry consultation, and adequate lead times to allow supply chains to adjust to new requirements without unintended disruptions. The full principles are annexed to this report.

IGTC Activities in 2025

Throughout 2025, IGTC engaged with international institutions including the International Grains Council, World Trade Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on issues affecting the grain trade. Discussions addressed maximum residue limits, seed innovation, sustainability policies that impact trade, and electronic documentation. A common theme throughout these discussions was the need for regulatory approaches that work within the realities of global grain trade.

Grain moves in high volumes through complex, interconnected supply chains. Grain traders assess regulatory requirements and commercial risks across multiple markets, not in isolation, and the ability to redirect shipments in response to changing conditions is essential to balancing global supply and demand.

This was reinforced during IGTC's Annual General Assembly in São Paulo, where members toured Santos Port. The scale and operational complexity of one of the world's largest grain hubs brought into focus the need for workable, aligned regulations to keep global supply chains moving.

Electronic Phytosanitary Certification

IGTC appreciates its long-standing collaboration with the IPPC on the ePhyto system. With over 95 countries now participating, the ePhyto Hub demonstrates what international cooperation can achieve. For the grain trade, which depends on the timely clearance of



high-volume shipments, electronic certification has brought significant improvements in predictability and efficiency.

Based on our members' operational experience, one of the most significant opportunities now lies in expanding participation to countries that have not yet joined the system. When key trading partners handling high volumes of grain are not yet exchanging ePhytos, supply chains cannot fully benefit from electronic certification. Continued investment in capacity building would extend the benefits of the system and support the food security objectives that all countries share.

We also observe that implementation varies considerably among countries already using the system. Some countries send ePhytos but do not yet receive them, or vice versa. Others accept them only at certain ports, for certain commodities, or continue to require paper certificates alongside electronic ones. Continued progress toward full implementation, where countries both send and receive ePhytos across all relevant trade, would strengthen the system's value for all participants.

Beyond phytosanitary certificates, the grain trade still relies on many other paper documents that must be physically transported alongside shipments. Until trade documentation is fully digital, we will not achieve the full benefits of electronic systems, including the reduction in emissions associated with physically moving paper documents around the world. IGTC encourages the IPPC to remain open to exploring its role in the broader ecosystem of trade digitalization.

Transparency in Pest Regulation

Timely access to up-to-date lists of regulated pests is essential for trade to respond effectively to phytosanitary requirements. IGTC encourages continued efforts to keep national pest lists current and accessible, and to communicate measures that affect trade through the WTO SPS notification system. As noted in IGTC's Sustainability Principles, adequate lead time before new requirements take effect allows supply chains to adjust while maintaining continuity of supply.

Conclusion and looking ahead to 2026

IGTC values continued dialogue with the IPPC and CPM. We hope the observations in this report, drawn from the practical experience of moving grain across borders, are useful to the Commission's work. We welcome continued engagement and would be pleased to discuss any of these matters further.

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Sustainability Principles

For Resilient Supply Chains

Support for Open, Rules-Based Trade

Sustainability policies and regulations that impact trade should comply with existing WTO rules and agreements, particularly regarding non-discrimination, transparency, and predictability. Sustainability measures should not become unintentional barriers to trade or serve protectionist interests.

Outcome-Focused and Science-Based

Sustainability measures should be grounded in recognized science and evidence-based metrics, ensuring there are clear pathways to support climate resilience, emissions reduction and environmental outcomes (e.g. soil, water, air, biodiversity) without adding barriers to trade or hindering innovation.

Protection of Global Food Security

International trade plays an important role in the reliable delivery of nutritious food worldwide. Sustainability measures should not unnecessarily restrict or redirect trade flows in ways that could undermine food security or limit access to essential agricultural products.

No One-Size-Fits-All Requirements

Sustainability policies should acknowledge that diverse environmental, climatic, and resource conditions exist around the world. Rather than mandating uniform or prescriptive practices, sustainability measures should provide flexibility for regionally adapted approaches. While alignment on desired outcomes and targets is important, overly prescriptive measures for achieving them could inadvertently limit the use of locally effective solutions.

Avoidance of Extraterritorial Application

Governments should refrain from imposing agricultural practices on other nations. Instead, sustainability policies and regulations must allow each jurisdiction the flexibility to pursue environmental objectives using the methods best suited to their unique agricultural systems.

Sustainable Productivity Improvements through Innovation and Trade

Sustainability measures should enable practices and innovations that enhance productivity and resource efficiency, contributing to increased food production while protecting the environment. Trade plays a complementary role by facilitating the movement of sustainably produced grain to international markets, thereby reducing pressure on land and resources at the global level.

Lead-time and Transparency in Policy Development

The grain industry operates on seasonal production cycles and grain may be held in storage for a time before it is used. Sudden changes to domestic policies and regulations, without adequate transition periods, can disrupt planting decisions, contracts, logistics, and inventories already moving through the global supply chain. To support investment in sustainable practices, farmers and the trade need policy certainty and time to adjust. Governments should introduce new sustainability measures only after extensive industry consultation and provide sufficient lead time so that supply chains can prepare, adapt and innovate to achieve the desired objective.



The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) is committed to promoting a predictable, rules-based global trading environment for grains, oilseeds, pulses, and derived products. With members across six continents, IGTC collaborates with governments, international institutions, and supply chain partners to support practical, trade-facilitating policies and advance global food security.