



## Rethinking Food and Agricultural Trade Negotiations: Identifying Options for Progress

Wednesday 9 May 2018, 09:00 - 18:00, Maison de la Paix, Geneva

### OBJECTIVE

This dialogue will create a space for international policy-makers, negotiators, farm groups and other policy actors to explore options for negotiating food and agricultural trade in the new policy environment. It will explore the evolving landscape of global agricultural markets and policy; examine the implications of the proliferation of preferential trade deals and national policies affecting food and agriculture; and consider how these developments could shape ongoing talks on farm trade at the multilateral level, in the light of Agenda 2030 commitments.

### AGENDA

08:45 – 09:00

#### Arrivals

09:00 – 09:15

#### Session 1: Introductory Remarks by the Organizers

Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ, Chief Executive, ICTSD

Carolyn RODRIGUES-BIRKETT, Director, FAO Liaison Office, Geneva

09:15 – 09:45

#### Session 2: The evolving landscape of agricultural trade: markets and policy

A number of factors are reshaping global markets for food and agriculture, with new trends likely to affect the sector between now and 2030. This sector will explore how markets, policies and governance frameworks have evolved since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round in 1994, and examine trends and developments that are likely to be important in the years ahead.

The evolving global landscape of agricultural trade

Alan MATTHEWS, Professor Emeritus, Trinity College Dublin

The outlook for global food and agriculture markets

Georgios MERMIGKAS, Economist, FAO

09:45 – 10:15

Open discussion



10:15 – 11:00

**Session 3: Evolving national policies in the EU, US, China and India**

Although global agricultural markets have evolved significantly since the turn of the century, the EU, the US, Japan, India, China, and Brazil nonetheless remain the largest players in world agricultural markets. National policy frameworks in major economies therefore remain disproportionately important in determining the contours of global trade in food and farm goods, as well as framing what is possible and desirable in multilateral talks on trade. With the US beginning to write a new Farm Bill, EU consultations on a new Common Agricultural Policy moving into a new gear, and China and India exploring options for future policy directions, this session will examine the state of farm policy debate in key countries and explore the possible implications for global talks on farm trade.

Vincent H. SMITH, Professor of Economics, Montana State University

Tassos HANIOTIS, Director, Economic Analysis, DG Agriculture, European Commission, Agriculture

Wusheng YU, Professor, Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen

Uma LELE, Institute of Economic Growth

Carmel CAHILL, Deputy Director, OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate

11:00 – 11:30

**Coffee break**

11:30 – 12:30

Session 3, continued: open discussion

12:30 – 13:30

**Lunch**



13:30 – 14:45

**Session 4: The implications of preferential trade deals for trade in food and agriculture**

In recent years, governments have focused their energy and political commitment in negotiating a number of preferential trade agreements, which are reshaping regulatory norms and market access arrangements for food and agriculture, with commitments affecting the sector throughout the value chain. Although the recently-concluded CPTPP is likely to be particularly important, the EU is also negotiating or has finalised agreements with partners in different world regions (including with Mercusor, Canada, Japan and ACP countries), while ASEAN countries and their partners are negotiating RCEP. African countries have set their sights on an ambitious new continental free trade agreement, while in North America NAFTA countries are renegotiating their existing trade agreement. This session will explore how these talks are affecting trade in food and farm goods, and will consider their implications for talks at the WTO.

Kazuhiro YAMASHITA, Research Director, the Canon Institute for Global Studies

Jean-Christophe BUREAU, Professor of Economics at AgroParisTech, Université of Paris-Saclay

Ellen TERPSTRA, Independent expert; former Deputy Under Secretary, US Department of Agriculture

Judith FESSEHAIE, Trade and Development Manager, ICTSD

14:45 – 15:45

Open discussion

15:45 – 16:15

**Coffee break**



16:15 – 16:45

**Session 5: Options for advancing WTO negotiations**

The WTO's eleventh ministerial conference in Buenos Aires ended without taking any decisions on outstanding agricultural issues, or providing a clear direction for ongoing talks in the area. The inconclusive outcome contrasts with the sustained technical engagement among most members during 2016 and 2017, as well as the urgency of delivering results in the area in order to move forward on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular SDG2. As members explore options for achieving future progress, this session will consider possible ways forward in the negotiations, and examine options for members to move towards updating global rules in this area.

Joseph GLAUBER, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute

Guillermo VALLES GALMES, Former Ambassador of Uruguay to the WTO

16:45 – 17:45

Open discussion

17:45 -18:00

**Closing remarks by the organisers**

Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ, Chief Executive, ICTSD

Carolyn RODRIGUES-BIRKETT, Director, FAO Liaison Office, Geneva

18:00

**Close of meeting**