

UPDATE: IPC SEMINAR

Achieving Agricultural Development through Agricultural Trade

A Capacity and Communication Building Seminar from the International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council

February 29, 2004 - Sandton Convention Center, Ballroom 4, Johannesburg, South Africa

Achieving Agricultural Development through Agricultural Trade is being presented by the International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) in conjunction with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Africa Regional Conference for Africa, **February 29, 2004** in Johannesburg, South Africa, from **10:00 to 18:00 in the Sandton Convention Center, Ballroom 4.**

The seminar will feature:

- **Mike Gifford**, Former Trade Negotiator from Canada
- **Ricardo Melendez**, International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development
- **Percy Wachata Misika**, Minister Counsellor for Agriculture at the Embassy of Namibia in Paris
- **Erastus Mwencha**, Secretary General, COMESA
- **Michel Petit**, Professor at the Institut National Agronomique, France and former Director of Rural Development, World Bank
- **Nicholas Sabwa**, Former Trade Negotiator, Kenya
- **Robert L. Thompson**, IPC Chairman and former Director of Rural Development, World Bank
- **Hans van der Merwe**, Chief Executive, Agri SA

The IPC's seminar will bring together government officials, farmers, and other agricultural stakeholders in the region to discuss the role that agricultural trade can play in economic development and to relate that role to trade negotiations at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels.

Speakers will make brief presentations on a range of topics that will illustrate how African agriculture can benefit from existing trade agreements at the regional and multilateral levels as well as those under negotiation. Presentations will be followed by open discussion between panelists and participants. The seminar will be conducted in English.

The seminar will cover:

- What African agricultural interests need from national governments to take advantage of more open agricultural trade;
- How agricultural interests can communicate their needs to those making trade policy in national capitals, in Geneva and elsewhere;
- What the costs and benefits of regional integration are and how regional trading arrangements can benefit agricultural trade in Africa;
- What elements of the text being used for agricultural negotiations at the WTO are and how they will affect African agriculture; and
- What the political realities are in both developed and developing countries that will effect the outcome of the Doha Round of WTO negotiations.

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The program is based on a series of seminars carried out by the IPC in summer and fall 2002 for developing country trade negotiators in Geneva entitled *Achieving the Doha Development Agenda*. The Geneva seminar series provided practical advice and a forum for open discussion with IPC members - former agricultural trade negotiators from the United States, European Union and Canada; agribusiness executives and other trade experts - but also with other negotiators.

Participants in the Geneva seminars cited a need for similar 'real world' advice and information to flow to officials in capitals as well as the broader community of agricultural stakeholders. In response, the IPC developed the Capacity Building Program, *Achieving Agricultural Development through Agricultural Trade*. Similar seminars will be held in other regions during 2004.

To Register: Please go to www.agritrade.org or email Kari Heerman at heerman@agritrade.org.

More information can be found on the IPC website - www.agritrade.org. Limited fellowships are available. Please pass this announcement on to interested parties. For questions or to indicate interest, please contact IPC Communications Director, Kari Heerman at heerman@agritrade.org. This program is made possible by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

AGENDA*

Achieving Agricultural Development through Agricultural Trade

*A Capacity and Communication Building Seminar from the
International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council*

29 February, 2004

**Sandton Convention Center
Johannesburg, South Africa**

As of February 5, 2004

Registration:		
9:30-10:00		
Opening Remarks:		
10:00 –10:30		<i>Senior Official, South African Department of Agriculture.</i>
Session One:	What Do Developing Countries Need From Trade Negotiations?	
10:30 – 11:40		<p>In this session, speakers will discuss the key outcomes that developing country agricultural interests should be pushing their governments to achieve in trade negotiations. Speakers will also consider what policies developing country agricultural interests should ask their governments to implement to create an environment that would enable them to take advantage of the opportunities presented by more open trade.</p> <p>Confirmed Speakers: <i>Robert L. Thompson, IPC Chairman and Former Director of Rural Development, World Bank</i> <i>Percy Wachata Misika, Minister Counsellor, Agriculture, Embassy of Namibia in Paris</i> <i>Michel Petit, Professor Institut National Agronomique, France and Former Director of Rural Development, World Bank</i></p>
Session Two:	Being Heard: Integrating Agriculture's Views into Trade Policy Making	
11:50 – 13:00		<p>In this session, panelists will discuss how the needs of the agricultural community can best be communicated to those responsible for trade policy.</p> <p>Confirmed Speakers: <i>Mike Gifford, Former Trade Negotiator, Canada</i> <i>Hans van der Merwe, Chief Executive, Agri SA</i></p>
Lunch		
13:00 – 14:10		

Session Three:	Regional Trade Agreements: Promise and Opportunity	
14:10 – 15:20		<p>In this session, speakers will discuss the key outcomes that developing country agricultural interests should be pushing their governments to achieve in regional trade negotiations. Speakers will also consider the overall costs and benefits of further regional integration, its ability to create more opportunities for agricultural trade and its implications for multilateral trade negotiations.</p> <p>Confirmed Speakers: <i>Erastus Mwencha, Secretary General, COMESA</i> <i>Nicholas Sabwa, Former Trade Negotiator, Kenya</i></p>
Session Four:	The Doha Development Agenda: How Does the Derbez Text Measure Up?	
15:30 – 16:40		<p>In Session Four, panelists will analyze the Derbez Text's strengths and weaknesses from their particular perspective. The IPC will present its recommendations for improving the Derbez text in this session.</p> <p>Confirmed Speakers: <i>Mike Gifford, Former Trade Negotiator, Canada</i></p>
Session Five:	What Can Doha Deliver? Political Constraints and Opportunities	
16:50 – 18:00		<p>In this session, panelists will give frank estimations of some reasonable outcomes of the Doha Round agricultural negotiations given the political realities driving the process. Panelists will inform participants about the challenges that decision makers are facing and discuss where opportunities for compromise may exist.</p> <p>Confirmed Speakers: <i>The WTO: Ricardo Melendez, International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)</i> <i>The European Union: Michel Petit, Professor Institut National Agronomique, France and Former Director of Rural Development, World Bank</i> <i>The United States: M. Ann Tutwiler, Chief Executive, International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council</i></p>

*Agenda subject to change. Please see www.agritrade.org for updates to the agenda and registration information.

Other Invited Speakers

Invited speakers include African Trade and Agriculture Ministry officials; international organization representatives; senior African diplomats; representatives of civil society; officials from regional economic and trade organizations; farm leaders; agribusiness and food company executives; trade organization representatives; and trade and economics scholars.