



Agricultural trade, food security and sustainable development

ICTSD-IPC expert group meeting 27-28 September 2012

Organised by ICTSD and IPC, with support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Thursday 27 September

8:45-9:00 **Arrivals**

9:00-9:30 **Introductory remarks**

Christophe BELLMANN
Programmes Director, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

Ellen TERPSTRA
President and CEO, International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC)

9:30-11:00 **Session I: Trends in agricultural trade and food security**

Chair: Christophe BELLMANN, Programmes Director, ICTSD

Trends in agricultural trade and food security

Seth MEYER, Global Perspectives Study Group, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

This presentation will provide participants with an overview of key recent and upcoming trends in the global food system, based on data collected by the FAO, with a view to establishing the evidence basis needed to inform the broader discussion on agricultural trade, food security, climate change and sustainable development.

Open discussion

11:00-11:30 **Coffee**

11:30-13:00 **Session I (continued)**

Chair: Christophe BELLMANN, Programmes Director, ICTSD

Open discussion

13:00-14:00 **Lunch**

14:00-15:30 **Session II: Break-out groups on specific sub-themes**

Break-out group 1 **Agricultural trade policy and rural development:
Anticipating and adapting to changing economic realities**
Rapporteur: Prof. Tim JOSLING

The rise of 'emerging' economies has dramatically changed the landscape of farm trade, while slow emergence from recession in the US and EU has altered the political economy both of multilateral talks on trade liberalisation and domestic policy reform processes. New types of global supply chains now link businesses around the world in different ways, while the continued proliferation of regional trade agreements creates fresh opportunities and also challenges for different interest groups and actors. While some countries have managed to use agricultural trade as an effective tool to foster viable, efficient and sustainable rural economies, markets in others remain poorly-functioning. The group will therefore explore new and expected trends in agricultural trade and rural development, and identify options that policy-makers could pursue to address them.

Break-out group 2 **Agricultural trade policy and food security:
Overcoming poverty and ensuring access to food**
Rapporteur: Eugenio DIAZ-BONILLA

Successive food price spikes in recent years have again catapulted food security to the top of the policy agenda, with the role of trade a key element in the ongoing debate in this area. However, entrenched poverty and inequality in many developing countries has meant that access to food has been an enduring problem for millions of people – during both high and low price episodes. Projections of continuing supply and demand imbalances, in a context of low stocks, rising energy prices and the possibility of continued weather-related production shortfalls has refocused attention on relatively weak multilateral disciplines on export restrictions, whilst also sparking concerns about policy flexibilities for the poorest countries in particular. Rapidly rising agricultural domestic support in some developing countries has also sparked new attention to the extent to which support policies can help tackle food insecurity and overcome poverty without unfairly disadvantaging competitors in other parts of the world. This break-out group will therefore explore new and expected trends related to agricultural trade and food security, and identify options that policy-makers could pursue to address them.

Break-out group 3 **Agricultural trade policy and the environment:
Internalising the costs of greenhouse gas emissions and other externalities**
Rapporteur: Prof. David BLANDFORD

While historical emission patterns mean that some degree of anthropogenic climate change is now inevitable, effects on farming will depend on the nature and extent of government action in years ahead. Climate change will affect various agro-ecological zones differently, adding further complexity to supply and demand projections, and placing additional pressure on governments' ability to address public policy goals such as food security. Moves to incorporate environmental externalities in prices for energy and farm goods could affect agriculture, both directly through raising the cost of farm inputs such as fertilisers and fuel, and more indirectly by influencing planting decisions for biofuel feedstocks or consumer demand for high-emission products such as livestock. Growing pressure for producers to increase yields without undermining the ecological production basis for the future could lead governments to pursue approaches ranging from scaled-up support for extension services through to product differentiation under market access regimes. This break-out group will therefore explore new and expected trends related to agricultural trade policy and the environment, and identify options that policy-makers could pursue to address them.

15:30-16:00 **Coffee**

16:00-17:30 **Work in break-out groups (continued)**

17.30-17.45 **Close**

19.00- 21.00 **Reception / dinner**

Friday 28 September

8:45-9:00 **Arrivals**

9:00-10:00 **Session III: Report back from break-out groups**

Chair: Ellen TERPSTRA, President and CEO, IPC

Agricultural trade policy and rural development: anticipating and adapting to changing economic realities

Rapporteur: Prof. Tim JOSLING

Open discussion

10:00-11:00 **Agricultural trade policy and food security: overcoming poverty and ensuring access to food**

Rapporteur: Eugenio DIAZ-BONILLA

Open discussion

11:00-11:30 **Coffee**

11:30-12:30 **Agricultural trade policy and the environment: internalising the costs of greenhouse gas emissions and other externalities**

Rapporteur: Prof. David BLANDFORD

Open discussion

12:30-14:00 **Lunch**

14:00-15:30 **Session IV: Towards a framework of policy options**

Chair: Manzoor AHMAD, ICTSD Senior Fellow

In this session, participants will identify cross-connections between the different themes and issue areas discussed in the previous session, with a view to elaborating discussion points that could serve as a basis for elaborating policy options for consideration by decision-makers under the next stage of the E-15 process. Participants will also identify topics that could usefully be explored further in short 'think pieces' to be prepared by individual expert group members. Ambassadors and other officials have also been invited to participate in this session.

15:30-16:00 **Coffee**

16:00-17:30 **Session V: Translating ideas into action**

Chair: Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ, Chief Executive, ICTSD

Introductory comments: Lara BIRKES, ICTSD Senior Fellow

In this session, participants will share and explore proposals for ensuring that the expert group process actively informs domestic and international policy-making, negotiations and decision-making on agricultural trade, food security and the environment.

17.30-18.00 **Closing session: ways forward**