

THE CLIMATE FOR TRADE LIBERALIZATION, POST-SEATTLE

Presented: Tuesday, June 27, 2000 • Chicago, Illinois

During the 10th IAMA World Food and Agribusiness Congress

The International Policy Council on Agriculture, Food and Trade (IPC) will present a one-day seminar on important issues and national perspectives in the wake of the failed WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle and the prospects for a launch of the WTO negotiations in 2000. All attendees to the IAMA World Congress are welcome.

IMPERIAL BALLROOM

8:30–10:00 **Session One: Prospects for Agricultural Policy Reform***

- United States – Dale Hathaway, National Center for Food & Agricultural Policy
- Europe – Wilhelm Henrichsmeyer, Professor, Universität Bonn Institut für Agrarpolitik
- Cairns Group – Donald McGauchie, Past President, National Farmers Federation, Australia

The first session will assess the state of support for free trade in agriculture from the perspective of countries which historically have benefited a great deal from free trade. Speakers from the United States, Europe and Australia will discuss the future of the WTO talks.

CRYSTAL ROOM

11:00–12:30 **Session Two: Involving a Wider Set of Trading Interests**

- Brazil – Pedro de Camargo, Past President & Council Member, Sociedade Rural Brasileira
- Zimbabwe – Liberty Mhlanga, Past Director, Agricultural & Rural Development Authority
- China – Ke Bingsheng, Director-General, Research Center for Rural Economy, Min. of Agriculture

As the Seattle Ministerial illustrated, the next WTO negotiations are expected to involve a wider set of trading interests than previous rounds. The Session Two speakers will review their countries' aspirations with regards to agricultural trade liberalization and what they hope to gain. Discussions will focus on the prospects for greater involvement by these countries in the international trading system, the challenges posed by regional trading agreements, and the future of preferential arrangements.

CRYSTAL ROOM

2:00–3:15 **Session Three: The New Trade Agenda—Environmental Concerns & Rural Sustainability**

- IPC presentation – Michel Petit, Institut Nationale Agronomique (France)
- Guest reactor – Mark Drabenstott, Vice President/Director, Center for Study of Rural America

The third session will consider the “new trade agenda” exercising an influence on the WTO talks. What does the term “multifunctionality” mean and how can it be reconciled with the trade rules system? Is agriculture “special” through its role as a guardian of rural lifestyles, environments and economies? What is the proper way of coping with these concerns, and are trade-distorting steps an appropriate means of achieving these goals? Differing views of the need to incorporate environmental and other such concerns into the trade talks will be addressed. Discussions will focus on which international bodies—the WTO or others—should have responsibility for regulating the interactions between trade, the environment and rural development issues.

CRYSTAL ROOM

4:00–5:30 **Session Four: The New Trade Agenda - Food Safety & New Technologies**

- IPC presentation – Rolf Moehler, Past Deputy Director General, European Commission, DG VI
- Guest reactor – Sarah Fogerty, Senior Manager of International Trade, Grocery Manufacturers of America

The “new trade agenda” also means the WTO is being called upon to address issues related to food safety. Economic growth increases consumer demand for quality attributes in general and for food safety in particular. Meanwhile, incidences such as BSE in Europe and developments such as biotechnology have raised the interest of consumers in the quality of the food chain and the regulations designed to protect it. Discussions in the fourth and final session will address how the international trading system can and should cope with these changes in demand.

* Session One is presented in collaboration with IAMA Session 6.