

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and Biotechnology

BRS Stakeholder Meeting

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USDA-FAS**

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New Technologies and Production Methods Division

- Promote use and trade of agricultural products developed through innovative technologies (biotech, cloning, nanotech, etc.)
- Close cooperation with U.S. government agencies to promote global adoption of science-based regulations (outreach, technical capacity building)
- Collaboration with partner countries and regional organizations on issues of mutual interest (Global LLP Initiative, Like-Minded Country Initiative)

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- Challenges:
 - Asynchrony of approvals: Time gap between approval in U.S. and in countries that import U.S. biotech products
 - Public acceptance in importing countries



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- Addressing challenges:
 - Maintain consistent communications with relevant ministries and agencies
 - Inform
 - Educate
 - Exchange information on biotech issues



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- Example: Biotech trade with China

- Biotechnology Working Group (BWG) and Technical Working Group (TWG)

- BWG: Policy issues related to R&D, Trade, etc.
- TWG: Technical issues related to regulation (food, feed, environment)
- Annual meetings
- Frank dialogue on trade and regulatory issues

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- Example: Mexican corn approvals
 - Politically-driven issue
 - FAS engagement
 - North American Biotechnology Initiative (NABI)
 - Educating farmers to influence government of Mexico to improve approval process
 - New Vision of Agriculture (NVA)

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- Mutual positions with Mexico:
 - International statement on LLP
 - Issues at Cartagena Biosafety Protocol Meetings
 - More engagement with South American countries to expand NABI dialogue (CAS/NABI)

- Indirect approach best regarding corn approvals



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- For more information:

New Technologies and Production Methods Division (NTPMD)

[http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/OSTA_NTPMD/NT
PMD.asp](http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/OSTA_NTPMD/NT
PMD.asp)

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Questions?