Gaftaworld
PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Issue 276 / November 2025

Towards the Agri-Digital Age

Building a Truly Interoperable Digital Trade Ecosystem

By Pamela Mar, Managing Director, ICC Digital Standards Initiative

Two centimetres. That's roughly the thickness of the paper stack required to move a grain commodity shipment from China to Europe.

In an age when technology can read, draft, sign and verify a trade document in seconds, why are we still printing out papers whose data move between computers already connected to the same ecosystem?

Eliminating that 2cm stack and enabling the secure flow of data across multiparty supply chains is the mission of the **ICC Digital Standards Initiative (DSI)**.

At first glance, the task seems straightforward: standardise digital trade documents and their core data elements to enable automation, data sharing and aggregation; then drive adoption across key nodes of the global supply chain. Yet, as with any transformation, the real challenge lies in changing behaviour and aligning users around best practices.

Despite the clear business case and new regulatory certainty, such as the UK's Electronic Trade Documents Act, adoption remains uneven. The question is no longer *why* digitalise, but *how quickly* we can make digital the default.

Progress is taking shape. The **Key Trade Documents and Data Elements (KTDDE) Framework**, launched in 2024, maps and aligns data across the end-to-end supply chain. It identifies 189 core data elements based on the principle of *"create once, share many times"* in a secure and traceable manner.

To bridge differences in technical, semantic and jurisdictional practices, DSI is developing **KTDDE Implementation Guides (KIGs)**, practical tools to help platforms and developers interoperate between standards. A test site will soon host these guides for open access.

These priorities took centre stage at the **Digital Trade Transformation Forum** held at the WTO in September 2025, supported by Gafta and other leading associations. The Forum highlighted a key issue: while business software providers support and rely on standardisation, in practice there are multiple competing standards serving diverse needs across the supply chain. Future workshops will focus on sectoral gaps and working towards solutions that enable the standardisation - or at least the smooth digital flow - of core data.

The agricultural commodity sector is uniquely positioned to lead this transformation. With its long trading traditions, strong networks and practical mindset, it can demonstrate how interoperability turns efficiency, transparency and sustainability into everyday practice. The 2cm stack may not vanish overnight, but every step towards shared data definitions and interoperable systems brings us closer to a world where trade flows as freely as the data that powers it. Together with Gafta and its members, DSI is committed to turning that vision into reality.

Gafta member Luc De Villele held up the physical document stack at the WTO's Digital Trade Transformation Forum

When can a seller claim the price? Clarification of section 49(2) of the Sale of Goods Act 1979

Trans Trade RK SA v State Food and Grain Corporation of Ukraine
[2025] EWHC 1803 (Comm)

By Rebecca Crookenden and Andres Bayona Garcia, Stephenson Harwood LLP

CONTENTS

Overview

A recent High Court decision has provided important clarification on when a seller can claim the contract price under section 49(2) of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 ("**SGA**"). The case focused on the sale of Ukrainian feed corn under FOB terms with a retention of title clause and payment on a cash against documents (CAD) basis. The judgment reaffirms that a seller's right to recover the price where property in the goods has not passed only arises if payment is unconditional and independent of delivery.

Contractual background

The contracts in question were based on Gafta Form 49 and included a retention of title clause: title would not pass to the buyer until full payment was received. Payment was to be made CAD, with scanned shipping documents provided before payment. An amendment specified a fixed payment date, but payment remained contingent on the presentation of documents, which were in turn contingent on delivery.

The dispute

Of the four cargoes shipped, two were paid for and two were not. The Seller sought the unpaid price in Gafta arbitrations, relying on section 49(2) SGA, which allows a seller to claim the price if it is "*payable on a day certain irrespective of delivery*." The Buyer argued that, as payment was CAD and property had not passed, the Seller was limited to a claim for damages.

The Gafta Board of Appeal upheld the Seller's claim for the price in three awards (the "**Awards**"). The Buyer appealed to the High Court under s.69 Arbitration Act 1996 on points of law.

Issues before the Court

1. Whether a seller under an FOB contract with CAD payment and a retention of title clause can claim the price under s.49(2) SGA.
2. The meaning of "a day certain" in s.49(2) SGA.
3. Whether, on the facts, the Seller's claim for the price should have succeeded.

Court's decision

Mr Justice Andrew Baker allowed the Buyer's appeal, setting aside the Awards. The Court held that, under FOB contracts where payment is conditional on the presentation of documents (which is itself contingent on shipment, i.e. FOB delivery) and property has not passed, a seller cannot claim the price under section 49(2) SGA. The requirement that the price be "*payable on a day certain irrespective of delivery*" means the obligation to pay must not depend on delivery. In this case, payment was conditional on delivery, so s.49(2) did not apply.

The Court noted that, while the contracts specified a fixed payment date (satisfying the "day certain" requirement), this was irrelevant because the "irrespective of delivery" requirement was not met. The Seller's only remedy was a claim for damages, not the price.

The Court also refused the Seller's request to remit the case to the Gafta Board of Appeal for a damages award, as no alternative claim for damages had been advanced in the arbitrations.

Key takeaways

- Section 49(2) SGA contains two distinct requirements: the price must be payable on a "day certain" and "irrespective of delivery".
- Having a fixed payment date is not sufficient; the obligation to pay must be entirely independent of delivery.
- If payment is conditional on delivery or the presentation of documents, a seller cannot claim the price under s.49(2) SGA and is limited to a claim for damages.
- Careful contractual drafting is essential to preserve a seller's right to claim the price.
- Parties should ensure alternative claims (such as for damages) are advanced at the arbitration stage to avoid losing the opportunity to recover if the primary claim fails.

Conclusion

This judgment reasserts a restrictive approach to s.49(2) SGA and serves as a reminder of the importance of clear contractual terms and comprehensive dispute strategies in international commodities trading. Sellers must ensure that payment obligations are truly independent of delivery if they wish to preserve the right to claim the price where property has not passed.

Gafta Arbitration Rules Changes 1 October 2025

By Abigail Buxo, Gafta Arbitration Manager

Following careful consideration at Gafta's International Contracts Committee and Arbitration Committee, Gafta Council has approved the following changes to Gafta 125 and 126 Rules. The changes became effective for contracts entered into on or after 1 October 2025. The new Rules can be found on Gafta's website. Please also refer to the article by Roger Rookes in the November 2024 issue of Gaftaworld on appropriation and default clauses, which discusses the impacts of these changes: *Proposed changes to the calculation of the deemed date of default in CIF contracts.*

Gafta 125 Rules – 4.4:

Rule 4.4 of Gafta 125 Rules was amended to read as follows:

"4.4 All submissions and evidence shall be served by sending them to the other party, with copies to Gafta, via email. All submissions and evidence are to be in English or with English translations. Hard copies shall be provided by the parties upon request from Gafta."

Gafta 126 Rules – 4.1:

Rule 4.1 of Gafta 125 Rules was amended to read as follows:

"4.1 The Claimants shall deposit with Gafta such sum as Gafta considers appropriate on account of the costs, fees and expenses of the arbitration. If the deposit is not received by Gafta by 12 noon on the 60th 30th consecutive day after the date on which it was called for, the application shall be deemed to be waived and barred."

Gafta 125 Rules – 24.3 and Gafta 126 Rules – 10.3:

A new rule, Rule 24.3, was added to the Gafta 125 Rules and Rule 10.3 to Gafta 126 Rules on 1 July 2024 to prohibit a defaulter on a Gafta award of arbitration from applying to place another party on the list of defaulters.

"24.3 Any Party to an arbitration or to an appeal, who makes an application, to Gafta, to place the other party in default of this clause [24], shall be prohibited from doing so, if, at the time of the application, they are included on the list of Defaulters as published from time to time by Gafta."

Subclause in the Payment clause of C&F/C&FFO/CIF/CIFFO

The subclause of the Payment clause has been reworded to allow sellers/buyers to agree their own contractual terms. It now reads as follows:

Payment

(c) In the event of a complete set of shipping documents not being available when called for by Buyers, or on arrival of the vessel at destination, Sellers may at their option, in exchange for payment by Buyers, provide a letter of indemnity entitling Buyers to obtain delivery of the goods. Such payment shall not prejudice Buyers' rights under the contract when shipping documents are available."

Subclause in the Default clause in CIF contracts

To remove ambiguity regarding declaring default, the subclause of the Default clause was amended to read as follows:

"In default of fulfillment of contract by either party, the following provisions shall apply:..... (f) Sellers may declare themselves in default at any time after expiry of the contract..."

Gafta No.124 Sampling Rules – 9.5.2.4 and 9.5.3.4

9.5.2.4 Malting Barley samples and analysis, was amended to allow either party the right to request a second and third analysis.

The heading of 9.5.3.4 was amended to add Malting Barley to the heading.

Gafta No.131 Optional Clauses:

An additional Clause is added to the Gafta No.131 Optional Clauses:

"7. Method of Drawing Samples for Goods Destined for EU Operators:

To ensure that shipments are sampled in accordance with EU sampling requirements for the control of contaminants, including pesticide residues, mycotoxins and plant toxins, sampling shall be done per hold. The number of increments to be taken per hold shall be determined as per Table 1 in the Gafta No.124 Sampling Rules based on the Nominated Quantity of each hold. Sets of samples to be prepared per hold and to be made available for testing as required."

Appropriation and Default clause shortening Date of default in CIF contracts

An amendment to the appropriation and default clause has been made to CIF contracts, for standardisation and to recognise modern forms of communication.

Gafta 47 and 49 – Quality Clause and Certificate final

Gafta 47 and 49 have been updated to be in line with other contracts where certificate final is mentioned. Both contracts now contain the full quality clause.

Domicile Clause

The Domicile clause has been amended to make the onus of performed in England robust.

New Staff and Structure to the Arbitration Department

Gafta is pleased to announce some changes to the Gafta Arbitration Department for 2025. **Sophie Priebbenow** and **Kelsey Atkins** are the new Arbitration Assistants, joining **Abigail Buxo** and **Katia Espinosa**. Here are contact details for the team.

Arbitration Manager
Abigail Buxo
AbigailBuxo@gafta.com

Arbitration Assistant
Katia Espinosa
KatiaEspinosa@gafta.com

Arbitration Assistant
Sophie Priebbenow
sophiep@gafta.com

Arbitration Assistant
Kelsey Atkins
kelseyatkins@gafta.com

Any general queries please direct to **arbitration@gafta.com**

Canada harvest report 2025

By Dean Dias, Chief Executive Officer, Cereals Canada

Each year, Canadian farmers decide what to plant and wheat is consistently the largest field crop grown in Canada. This year, according to Statistics Canada data, Canadian farmers planted nearly 8.3M hectares (ha) of non-durum wheat, a 0.5% increase from 2024, and 2.6M ha of durum wheat, a 2.6% increase.

Based on the seeded acres and current yield estimates, the Canadian wheat crop is estimated over 36.6M tonnes, a 2% increase over last year and 13% higher than the five-year average of 32.4M tonnes. Spring wheat is expected to remain steady at 26.6M tonnes and production of winter wheat, which is mostly grown in southern Ontario, is expected to be 3.5M tonnes, an increase of 14% from last year. Durum wheat is expected to increase by 2.4% to reach 6.5M tonnes.

Despite some weather challenges, overall outlook for Canadian non-durum and durum production is positive with good wheat quality for non-durum and durum wheat quality will meet the requirements of our global customers. In June and July, an important period for crop development, precipitation was varied across Western Canada. Moisture is a critical factor in crop production, as the Canadian wheat crop is not irrigated. Overall, there was more rain in July than in June, and crop conditions improved over the summer. In southern Ontario, larger seeded areas had favourable conditions during seeding and harvest, resulting in increased production for 2025/26.

Cereals Canada monitors the Canadian crop throughout the growing season and shares the information on their website so customers can follow along from seeding to harvest.
https://cerealscanada.ca/growing-season-progress/

Expanding expertise in grain assessments

The 2025 crop year also marks a milestone for Cereals Canada, an organisation that has been considered the trusted source for quality information on Western Canadian wheat for over 50 years. For the first time, through a partnership with Grain Farmers of Ontario, the Cereals Canada technical team will analyse the quality of both Western and Eastern wheat classes for its Harvest Assessment Program.

The expanded programme builds on the Winnipeg-based organisation's established reputation as the globally recognised independent expert in Canadian grain quality, processing quality and milling technology. This united, comprehensive approach will help strengthen Canada's global position as a premier wheat supplier.

To conduct the annual Harvest Assessment, Cereals Canada works with exporters to obtain representative samples from four wheat classes grown in Western Canada: Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS), Canada Western Amber Durum (CWAD), Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR), and Canada Western Red Winter (CWRW). This year, the team has added four Eastern wheat classes, including Canada Eastern Soft Red Winter (CESRW) to its roster, with representative samples provided through Grain Farmers of Ontario's annual Ontario wheat harvest survey.

Composite samples of CWRS, CWAD, CPSR, and CESRW from the 2025 wheat harvest will be evaluated for milling performance, flour/semolina quality, and end-product functionality for the New Wheat Crop Report. Depending on the class of wheat, bread, pasta, noodles, and/or cookies are produced in the technical labs at Cereals Canada and thoroughly assessed by the team to evaluate quality.

Samples are still being analysed, but as of 30 September 2025, CWRS is grading as a number two or better with a protein range of 13.0-14.0%, CWAD is grading as a number three or better with a protein range of 14.0-15.0%, and CPSR is grading as a number two or better with a protein range of 12.5-13.5%. CESRW, the majority of the Eastern crop, is grading at a number two or better with protein expected to be in the range of 9.0-9.5%.

This, however, is just an initial snapshot of the team's preliminary findings. Cereals Canada will release a full assessment on 18 November, when it presents the 2025 New Wheat Crop Report. The report, which will be available on **cerealscanada.ca**, will provide detailed information on milling performance, functionality and end-use applications of this year's Canadian wheat.

Cereals Canada experts and value chain members will present the report and data to customers through two webinars on 18 and 19 November. Customers can register for the 2025 New Wheat Crop Report webinars on the Cereals Canada website or the links below.

The technical experts at Cereals Canada understand the data needed to support domestic and global markets.

2025 New Wheat Crop Report Webinar for Customers in Asia and the Middle East
18 November 2025 at 10:00 PM CST

Cereals Canada will be presenting data for CWRS, CWAD, and CPSR. Open to global customers of Canadian cereals; interpretation will be available in Mandarin, Japanese, and French.
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hObWNn4mRy2R-2qFm9XDew#/registration

2025 New Wheat Crop Report Webinar for Customers in Europe and the Americas
19 November 2025, 8:00 am CST

Cereals Canada will be presenting data for CWRS, CWAD, CPSR, and CESRW. Open to global customers of Canadian cereals; interpretation will be available in French, Spanish, and Italian.
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RjWcSGPXS-OWq9n20bNiBg#/registration

Cereals Canada is the national, not-for-profit, industry association representing the Canadian cereal grains value chain. We value relationships and work with government and stakeholders to provide timely, expert technical information and deliver best-in-class customer experience. We are dedicated to supporting the Canadian cereals value chain including farmers, exporters, developers, processors, and our customers around the world with a focus on trade, science and sustainability. We support our members and others in the cereals value chain with six technical laboratories located in our downtown Winnipeg, Canada, headquarters, including an analytical lab, a pilot mill, an end-products area, and a specialty milling facility.
https://cerealscanada.ca/what-we-do/

Indian Kharif harvest prospects mixed; overall satisfactory due to good monsoon

By G. Chandrashekhar

As India's 2025 southwest monsoon season ends, it is clear the country as a whole has enjoyed above normal rainfall – 108% of long period average. Yet we have pockets of deficit of about 19% in eastern and northeastern (Bihar, Assam) parts of the country.

It is not so much the total quantum of rainfall during the season, but temporal and spatial distribution that is critical for agriculture. From that perspective, August and September witnessed excessive precipitation in some parts of the country (Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan) that has reportedly inflicted crop damage.

Reports of adverse impact on paddy and pulses crops are already in the public domain. Anecdotal reports suggest excessive rains hurt crop quality too.

Here's an assessment of the likely harvest size of key Kharif crops. Forecast production numbers are stated in a range. All data on acreage, rainfall, production target and 2024 production are government's official numbers. The forecasts for 2025 Kharif crop production are by the author G. Chandrashekhar (proprietary research).

RICE: Season's production target set by the government was 123M tonnes. While normal planted area (5-year average) is 40.3M hectares, this season's planted area is 44.1M ha, higher than last year's 43.6M ha. Rice production is estimated at 123-125M tonnes (slightly up from 121.8M tonnes in 2024). Rice stocks in the country are far above the buffer norm. Export restrictions have been lifted.

MAIZE: Production target for the season is 26M tonnes. At 9.5M ha, maize has witnessed a marked expansion in planted area (8.8M ha last year) following higher demand for the crop for ethanol production to meet the government's biofuel programme. Maize harvest size is expected to be 26-27M tonnes, higher than the 24.8M tonnes of last year's Kharif.

PULSES: This protein-rich legume has faced challenges. The official production target was reduced from 9.5M tonnes in 2024 to 8.0M tonnes this season. Planted area stands at 12M ha, marginally up from 11.9M ha last year. Despite satisfactory initial rains, excessive rainfall in August in pockets of Maharashtra and Karnataka has damaged crops. Production is set to decline to anything between 6.7M and 7.0M tonnes, down from 7.5M tonnes of last Kharif. To augment availability and rein-in price rises, imports of specified pulses including pigeon pea (tur/arhar) and black matpe (urad) are allowed tariff-free until March 2026.

OILSEEDS: In addition to the two key oilseeds of the Kharif season, soybean and groundnut, small quantities of sesamum, nigerseed, sunflowerseed and castorseed are also cultivated. Soybean planted area is down 900,000 ha to 12.0M ha this season while groundnut area is down 160,000 ha to 4.8M ha. Considering satisfactory rainfall over the soy belt in Madhya Pradesh, Vidharba in Maharashtra and parts of Rajasthan, soybean yield is expected to be satisfactory. Harvest size is likely to be in the 12.0-12.5M tonnes range, falling well short of the 16.2M tonnes target. It is widely recognised that the government's 2024 production estimate of 15.2M tonnes was overstated by 15-20%. In effect, there's no significant change in soybean production. As the groundnut bowl of India, Gujarat received excellent rainfall, yields are set to improve there. Overall, groundnut crop size would be in the 11-12M tonnes range, higher than the production target of 10.5M tonnes and higher than the 10.4M tonnes produced in the last Kharif.

COTTON: The multipurpose crop (fibre, food, feed) has been losing acreage in the last three years. This season, area is down to 11.0M ha (from 11.3M last year and the 5-year average of 12.9M ha). Excessive rains in key cotton growing areas of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Punjab and pest infestation have resulted in crop loss. The government reduced the production target from last year's 35.0M bales (170kg each) to 33.5M bales this year. Yet, harvest size is set to fall to 29.5-30.5M bales, far short of even the reduced target. Last year, production was 30.7M bales. Crop quality is also likely to be compromised. India is now a net importer of raw cotton. Tariff free import is allowed till 31 December 2025. For 2025-26, import is forecast at 3.5-4.0M bales.

SUGARCANE: Planted area has been expanding steadily and stands at 5.9M ha this year (sugar year 2025-26), up from last year's 5.7M ha and the 5-year average of 5.2M ha. As compared with the cane production target of 469M tonnes and 2024 production of 450M tonnes, this year's cane output risks a decline to 440-460M tonnes because of excessive rainfall in the growing areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Government has recently lifted the December 2023 restriction on diversion of cane for ethanol. After allowing for cane diversion for ethanol, sugar production for 2025-26 is likely to be around 30M tonnes, slightly less than last year.

Rains continuing till end-September are expected to improve soil moisture for Rabi planting (major crops: wheat, rapeseed/mustard, chana/chickpea) to commence late October. Reservoir storage levels are satisfactory and higher than last year.

Given the combination of Kharif production prospects, large public stocks of wheat and rice (about 30M tonnes each) with government agencies and a liberal import policy (pulses, edible oil), the risk to food inflation is limited. If Rabi prospects turn out to be satisfactory, food prices may remain consumer friendly. Weather could be a spoilsport.

G. Chandrashekhar is an economist, senior editor and policy commentator specialising in agri-business and commodity markets. Views are personal.

Russian production outlook

By Nathan Kemp, Darren Cooper and Diana Sarungbam, International Grains Council (IGC)

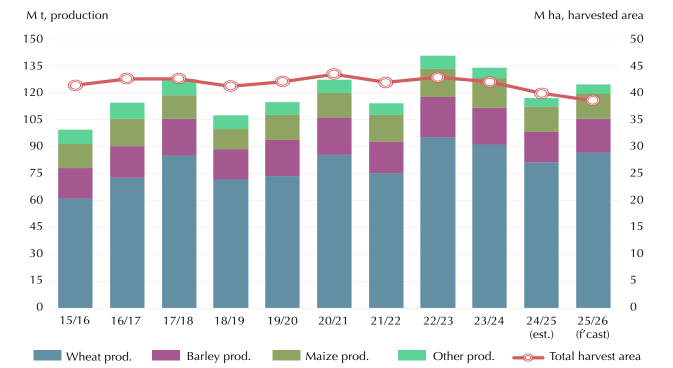
Grains

Given shrinking profitability compared to alternatives, Russian total grains (wheat and coarse grains) acreage declined for a third successive season in 2025/26, dropping to a fresh 15-year low. Amid relatively flat domestic demand and, with export duties and quotas a disincentive, soft global grain markets have sparked additional interest in more lucrative oilseed and pulse crops. Among the core grains, wheat and maize plantings dropped y/y (year-on-year), while rye acreage slumped to historical lows, down by half in just five years.

With area losses more than offset by an improvement in average yields, total grains production rose by around 6% y/y, to an estimated 124.5M tonnes, still down by 2% versus the prior five-year average and some 16.1M below the 2022/23 peak. The final outturn surpassed early-season expectations, buoyed by robust winter wheat productivity in the Central and Volga regions, as well as overall strong results from the spring harvest. In contrast, it was another disappointing season across southern Russia, where drought lingered for much of the autumn sowing window and during crucial growth stages.

Russia is expected to be the world's third largest exporter of grains (behind the US and Argentina) in 2025/26, with total shipments (July/June) projected at 50.8M tonnes, down modestly compared to the season before. The country will remain the dominant supplier to the global wheat market, accounting for around one-fifth of overall trade flows. After a slow start, dispatches accelerated more recently, but continued to trail last year's volumes, with full-year shipments seen at 43.4M tonnes (45.0M last year). While flows will continue to be influenced by floating export taxes, currency movements and resulting export margins, this season's increased logistical costs due to limited exportable supplies in southern producing regions may hamper competitiveness of local supplies.

Total grains: Russia harvested area and production



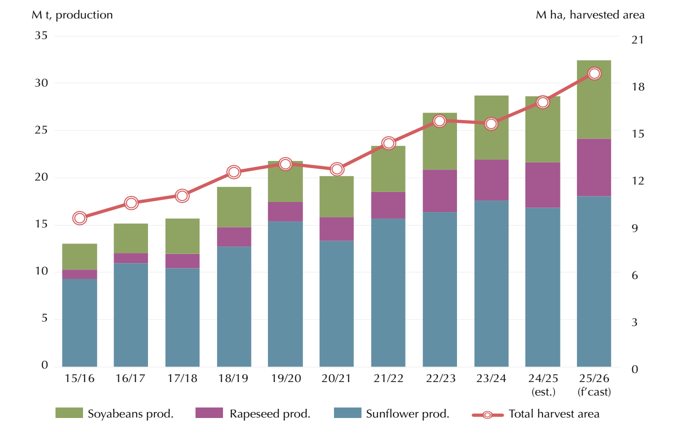
As an aside, the analysis of Russian grains and oilseeds supply and demand fundamentals remains complicated by difficulties accessing official statistics and also by the inclusion of occupied Ukrainian territories in some data series. The International Grains Council's production estimates exclude estimated output in these regions.

Oilseeds

Oilseeds have become an increasingly important crop choice for the nation's growers over more than a decade, encouraged by rising local and international demand. While sunflowerseed remains by far the most important crop, the production of alternatives has expanded significantly. The Council forecasts aggregate oilseeds output in 2025/26 at 32.4M tonnes, the 13% y/y gain tied to a record area for harvesting and a slight uptick in yields; within the total, production of sunflowerseed is forecast at an all-time high of 18.1M tonnes (+7%), with soyabeans and rapeseed also seen at peaks of 8.2M (7.0M) and 6.1M (4.7M), respectively.

While Russia does export unprocessed sunflowerseed, the bulk of its harvest is channelled to the domestic crushing industry, with processing shaped by demand for derivative products – namely sunflower meal and sunflower oil – mainly from buyers in the CIS, Asia and Africa. With another sizeable crop expected, supplies of both products are expected to expand, paving the way for potentially expanded shipments in 2025/26.

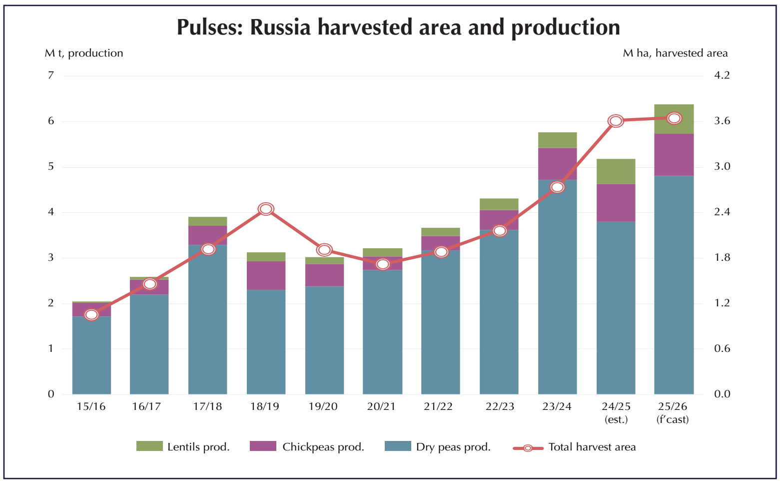
Oilseeds: Russia harvested area and production



Boosted chiefly by demand from Chinese processors, Russian soyabean exports have expanded in recent years and now typically exceed 1.0M tonnes, while shipments of processed soya products continue to gain importance. Similarly, rising local harvests have bolstered exportable surpluses of rapeseed and derivatives, with exports trending higher on sustained demand from China in recent seasons.

Pulses

Russia has emerged as a small, but important producer of pulses over the past decade, encouraged by rising local and international demand. The production of dry peas, which account for a sizeable share of overall output, is forecast to expand by one-quarter y/y in 2025/26, to around 4.8M tonnes, underpinned by a return to normal yields after dropping to a multi-year low in the prior season. Similarly, chickpeas output is set to climb for a fifth consecutive year, to 0.9M tonnes (+16%), with acreage continuing to trend higher given robust export interest. Production of lentils has steadily grown, Russia surpassing the US and Turkey to become the world's fourth largest producer. The 2025/26 harvest is projected to expand by 14% y/y, to a record 0.6M tonnes, chiefly on improved yields.



World's first China-Europe Arctic express route opens at China's Port

By Alan Ding, Gafta Beijing Office

The container ship Istanbul Bridge completed its loading operations at the northern area of Ningbo-Zhoushan Port, and departed on 23 September for the Port of Felixstowe, the largest container port in the UK, marking the official launch of the world's first China-Europe Arctic express route. The cargo onboard arrived in Felixstowe 20 days later, which is half the time that traditional southern sea routes take.

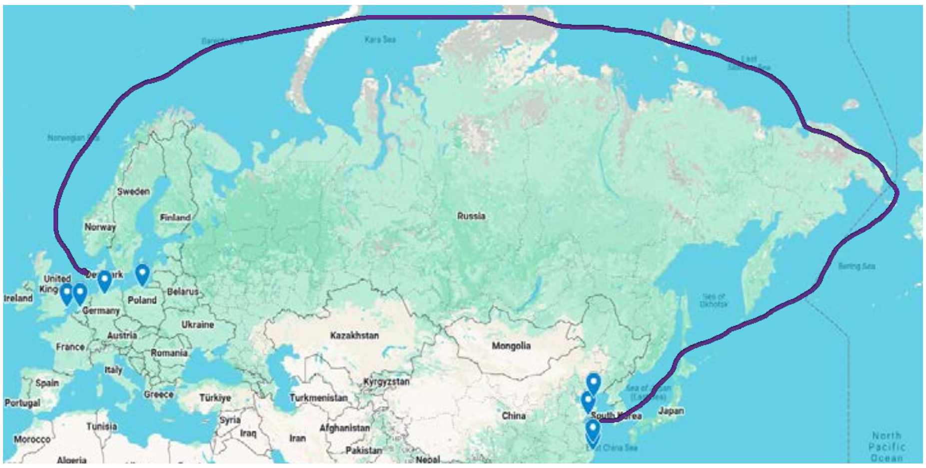
This Arctic route links major Chinese ports including Ningbo, Shanghai, Qingdao and Dalian at one end, and key European ports such as Felixstowe in the UK, Rotterdam in the Netherlands, Hamburg in Germany, and Gdańsk in Poland at the other. It is the fastest container shipping route between China and Europe's main ports. By crossing the Arctic Ocean, the route significantly shortens the journey and transport time. While no agri-commodities were on board the Istanbul Bridge, this is an important development for shipping, as global warming continues to make the Arctic more accessible.

The route currently offers a relatively safe geopolitical environment. The regions it passes through are politically and economically stable, which reduces risks such as piracy, congestion and the spillover of conflicts. This enhances the safety of shipping fleets, opens up the Ice Silk Road, and secures the third corridor of the China-Europe supply chain.

The express route not only significantly shortens the journey and transportation time, helping reduce costs and improve efficiency, but also carries important strategic significance, analysts said. Strategically, it can effectively reduce the risk of blockades or restrictions, ensuring greater autonomy and security in transportation. In the long run, it will also promote diversification in trade patterns and strengthen the resilience of the global trade system against risks.

In 2018, China released a white paper titled "China's Arctic Policy," saying that China hopes to work with all parties to build a "Polar Silk Road" through developing the Arctic shipping routes. The China-Europe Arctic Express route helps reduce the need for gauge changes on the Europe-bound land railways, cutting train dwell times and thereby improving economic efficiency. At the same time, shipping via the high seas avoids the inconveniences caused by sudden incidents arising from geopolitical conflicts in Europe.

The route can also be an important public good contributed by China to the international community, and countries such as Japan and South Korea can take part by cooperating with China in developing the route.



Ukraine market update

By Anna Golodova, Director, Gafta Kyiv office

In September 2025 Gafta Kyiv office held two committee meetings. The Ukrainian Regional Trade Committee (URTC) meeting was held on 15 September and the Black Sea Trade Committee (BSTC) met on 17 September. The members of the URTC discussed production and export for 2025/26, including market access issues.

Harvesting of the later crops has continued with the volumes at 2 October looking as follows so far: sunflower seeds – 3 million hectares harvested with the crop so far at 5.5M tonnes and average yield of 1.83t/ha, soybeans – 1 million hectares harvested with the crop so far at 2.2M tonnes and average yield of 2.22t/ha, corn – 405k hectares harvested with the crop so far at 2.0M tonnes and average yield of 5.08t/ha.

The harvest of corn and soybeans is expected to be quite good. As regards sunflower seeds in the southern and central parts, farmers cannot compensate for the losses caused by drought this year (Kirovograd, Poltava, Vinnitsa regions). The rains during wheat harvesting have partially influenced the quality of wheat in central, western and northern parts of Ukraine. The share of wheat is 34% milling to 66% feed.

Analysing production and export surplus the following figures were discussed:

Wheat production
22.5M tonnes with the export surplus being about 16M tonnes

Barley production
5.3M tonnes, export surplus – 2.3M tonnes

Corn production
33.5M tonnes, export surplus – 28M tonnes

Rapeseed production
3.3M tonnes, export surplus – 2.3M tonnes

Soybean production
5.5-5.8M tonnes, export surplus – 2.6M tonnes

Sunflower seed production
about 12M tonnes

Notwithstanding the drought which has influenced the expected volumes of sunflower seed production from nearly 14M tonnes down to below 12M tonnes there is still a hope that, because the yield in some regions is higher, the total volume of sunflower seed production will be about 12M tonnes. The soybean and corn yields are high this season which may bring better production volumes.

In total the production is about 80.5M-81.5M tonnes, depending on the harvested new crop of sunflower seeds and corn. Export of grain is forecast at about 51M tonnes, with oilseeds and their processed products at about 10M tonnes which makes the total export forecast for 2025/26 about 61M tonnes.

Information on Ukraine export routes shows that nearly 95% of exports have been transported by sea; 88% via the deep sea ports, 7% via the Danube ports, 5% cross border transportation.

Wheat is mainly being exported to Egypt and Indonesia, while barley goes mainly to China.

Some tendencies are being tracked in the way the farmers have been selling their commodities: previously the pattern was more or the less the same when the farmers used to sell under the pressure of the new crop, but the last season showed that the farmers were not eager to sell immediately and have been waiting for better prices. This can be explained by the increased financial stability obtained by the farmers with better storage conditions available. Another reason is the stability brought about by exports moving through the Ukrainian Sea Corridor. This season again the trade observes export trade is similar to last season, with farmer sales starting, but at a slow pace.

With regard to the sowing campaign for the next crop, the expected sown area will be less by 230k hectares compared to the previous season. Therefore, wheat area will be about 4.8M hectares, barley area will be around 576k hectares and rapeseed area 1.1M hectares (1.2M hectares last year).

It should also be mentioned that looking at the meteorological map, drought is still affecting the eastern, southern and parts of central regions, notwithstanding small amounts of rainfall in some areas. Hopefully, the rains in October will change the situation for the better.

Harvest operations in the south of Ukraine

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues – 56th Session

The 56th session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR56) took place in Santiago, Chile on 8-13 September, hosted by China and co-hosted by Chile. It was attended by delegates from 48 member countries and nine observer organisations, including the Global Pulse Confederation and CropLife. The session was officially opened by the Minister of Agriculture of Chile, Ignacia Fernández, and the Chief Agronomist of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China, Pan Wenbo. Both emphasised the importance of multilateral cooperation and the use of science and technology to protect human health and facilitate the fair trade of food.

In his speech, the Codex Alimentarius Commission Chairperson, Allan Azegele, spoke of the wide-reaching impacts of CCPR work. "The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues has long stood as one of the pillars of the Codex system," he said. "The decisions made in this room resonate far beyond our deliberations, they reach farmers in their fields, regulators in their offices, traders in global markets, and ultimately, consumers at their dining tables." He also acknowledged and expressed his respect for "the sheer complexity" of CCPR work.

Codex Alimentarius Secretary, Sarah Cahill, also referenced the importance of this Committee's work, noting that "pesticide residues consistently top the list of food safety-related specific trade concerns raised in the WTO SPS Committee." Thus, "this underscores the importance of your work and the need for continued efforts to develop, adopt and implement Codex maximum residue limits (MRLs)," she told the meeting.

The meeting addressed a variety of issues, including MRLs for pesticides in food and feed, for milk and milk fat and for okra, and guidelines for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and related stock solutions of pesticides during prolonged storage. Delegates also continued to discuss the management of unsupported compounds without public health concerns and the coordination of work between CCPR and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food.

Issues raised included the assessment of food safety implications from the use of environmental inhibitors, such as those used on growing crops to reduce the environmental impact of nitrogen loss, in agrifood systems. The FAO has published a report titled *"Food safety implications from the use of environmental inhibitors in agrifood systems"* and these products will continue to be assessed by the FAO. There was also consideration on grouping minor crops for the purpose of setting MRLs, as raised by the Global Pulse Confederation (GPC). Some discussion took place on the scientific findings with regard to grouping *Phaseolus* and *Vigna* crops, and these will continue to be scientifically assessed. Some discussion on sampling procedures for crops under new cultivation methods such as precision agriculture also took place.

The establishment of Codex schedules and priority lists of pesticides for evaluation in 2026 were agreed, including two new compounds, Fenmezoditiaz and Metyltetraprole, 20 compounds on the "new use – other" list and two on the periodic review list.

Pesticide/commodity combinations put forward by CCPR56

Several pesticide/commodity combinations were agreed, and these will go forward for approval at the 48th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48), due to take place in Rome on 10-14 November. The pesticides listed below are those for which MRLs in cereals or general produce were agreed:

Chlormequat (barley), Folpet (barley, wheat), Prochloraz (barley, wheat), Propiconazole (rice), Etofenprox (rice), Tebuconazole (cumin seed), Tebufenozide (rice), Fipronil (barley, beans, peas, cotton seed, maize, rice, soybeans and products, wheat), Novaluron (almonds, rice, tree nuts), Cyproconazole (beans, peas, legume feeds), Flubendiamide (rice), Acetamiprid (beans, peas), Flupyradifurone (rape seed), Fosetyl Al (rice), Pydiflumetofen (cotton seed, underground immature beans), Tetraniliprole (barley, rice, wheat), Fenpropidine (barley, cereal grains, triticale, wheat, wheat bran), Florpyrauxifen-benzyl (maize, rice).

These pesticides with their proposed MRLs for specific commodities are listed in Appendix III of the meeting report (see below for link). Appendix IV lists 30 pesticides for which current MRLs are put forward for revocation by CAC48 (with new MRLs proposed for some of these in Appendix III).

The report of CCPR 56 can be found here:
https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-meetings/de/?committee=CCPR

Trade Foundation Course
Istanbul, 9-12 September 2025

The latest Trade Foundation Course was the first to be held outside of London for over three years. We welcomed 24 delegates from across the globe to Istanbul where they engaged in case studies, Q&A sessions and presentations delivered by a range of expert speakers. The course helps to explore commodity shipping, Gafta contracts and the Gafta arbitration process, so the delegates obtain insights into different aspects of the agri-commodity industry.

Our industry experts came from AGA Partners law firm, Hill Dickinson LLP and Aslan and Partners as well as Gafta staff and Qualified Arbitrators. Gafta President Paul Harrison also joined us for a case study focusing on the role of superintendents and other sessions throughout the course.

11th African Grain Trade Summit

Gafta's Director General, Jaine Chisholm Caunt OBE, attended the 11th African Grain Trade Summit, held in Zanzibar on 2-4 October 2025. Jaine participated in the Opening Ceremony, where she delivered some official welcome remarks, alongside a panel of distinguished speakers including Arnaud Petit, Executive Director of IGC and senior government officials from Tanzania and Kenya.

Gafta President, Paul Harrison of SGS, also took part in the conference, contributing to a High-Level panel discussion titled "Grain Quality and Food Safety – Harmonising Standards and Combatting Aflatoxins for Competitive Trade."

The event provided an excellent opportunity to engage with key stakeholders across the African grain trade sector and strengthen Gafta's presence in the region. Over 200 delegates discussed cross-border barriers to intra-African trade and the need to remove bottlenecks, harmonise systems and build integrated, resilient grain corridors. These discussions included a stocktake of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), launched in 2021 as a framework to reshape the continent's economic landscape, connecting 55 countries, creating a single market of 1.4 billion people, and unlocking an estimated $3.4 trillion in economic value.

Thank you to Gerald Masila, Executive Director of the Eastern Africa Grain Council and his team, for organising this important event.

Arnaud Petit, Paul Harrison and Jaine Chisholm Caunt OBE at the African Grain Trade Summit

Commodity Dispute Resolution Course
Vienna, 23-24 September 2025

Gafta returned to Vienna in September to run a Commodity Dispute Resolution Course for the first time since 2019. This course was sponsored by Gafta member law firm HFW with Stephanie Morton and Michael Buisset presenting throughout. We were also joined by Gafta Qualified Arbitrator Daryl French who ran a fireside chat giving insight into the industry. We were also pleased to welcome our guest Phillip Landolt, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) and Chair of CIArb's Europe branch, who joined us for this course.

Q&A with Elena-Mihaela Constantinescu – new Gafta Arbitrator

Many congratulations to Elena-Mihaela Constantinescu, who successfully passed the Gafta Arbitrator Examination and has been officially listed on Gafta's website as a Qualified Arbitrator. Elena-Mihaela kindly took the time to answer a few questions from Gaftaworld, reflecting on her professional journey, experience in arbitration, the path to qualification and her insights into the role.

1. Can you tell us a bit about your background, how you got into the trade and your current role?

I commenced my career in the agri-business sector as a Trade Execution Specialist in 2010, shortly after graduating from Law University and obtaining a master's degree in Maritime Law. This role marked the beginning of my professional journey and, over the past 15 years, I have gained extensive hands-on experience, managing the full lifecycle of contracts.

Why agri-business? I have always believed that providing food is a fundamental pillar of our society, vital to global stability. This industry represents a constantly evolving sector, shaped by shifting markets, emerging trends and challenges. It is a field that never stands still, and for me, that makes it both intellectually stimulating and professionally rewarding.

Currently, I hold the position of Commercial Director at CEREALCOM DOLJ, one of the leading companies in Romania's agri-business sector, with a strong presence in the domestic and international grain markets. My role involves shaping and guiding the commercial strategy of the company. I focus on building strong relationships with clients, suppliers and managing trade execution, while aligning our sales, procurement and market development strategies with the company's long-term vision.

2. What made you decide to pursue the Gafta Professional Development courses? How did you hear about them?

I decided to pursue the Gafta Professional Development courses to deepen my expertise, to keep myself informed with industry best practices in the agri-business and commodity trading sectors. Given the evolving nature of global trade regulations, continuous learning is essential to maintaining a competitive edge and ensuring compliance.

I first learned about Gafta's courses through industry peers and professional networks, who highly recommended their comprehensive curriculum and practical relevance. The reputation of Gafta as a leading authority in the grain and feed trade made it a natural choice for advancing my professional development.

3. What relevant experience do you have that will help you with your new role as a Gafta Qualified Arbitrator?

My legal background, a master's degree in Maritime Law and 15 years of experience in the agri-business sector have given me a solid understanding of contract law and trade practices. Over the years, I've been involved in various trade scenarios, which I believe provides a helpful perspective for taking on the responsibilities of a Gafta Qualified Arbitrator.

4. Can you tell us about your experience with the courses, and how they helped you prepare for the Arbitrator examination?

The Gafta Professional Development courses were tremendously valuable in preparing me for the Arbitrator examination, by providing a deeper understanding of the industry's best practices, dispute resolution techniques and the legal frameworks that shape international trade. Besides the valuable theory, the practical focus of the courses made the learning experience more relevant.

5. Have you any comments on the Gafta training process and its arbitration procedures?

I've found the Gafta training process to be highly comprehensive and well-structured, designed not only to provide theoretical knowledge but also to focus on practical application. The content is relevant and directly applicable to actual-case scenarios in the agri-business sector. As for the arbitration procedures, I appreciate how they are detailed and construed, ensuring fairness and clarity while adapting to the complexities of international trade.

6. Finally, what do you think is the most important benefit of doing Gafta's training? And how do you think our offerings contribute to the overall success of the industry?

The greatest advantage of Gafta's training is the practical expertise it provides, enabling professionals to navigate the complexities of international trade and arbitration with confidence. The courses not only cover key industry principles but also equip participants with the skills to apply these in real-world situations. Gafta's offerings play a crucial role by ensuring that its professionals are well-prepared, adhere to high standards and can resolve disputes efficiently. This fosters trust and stability, which are vital for the continued growth and sustainability of the global agri-business sector.

For more details on arbitrations and the list of Gafta Qualified Arbitrators, visit Gafta's website. There are also details on all Gafta's training courses and exams:

www.gafta.com

Trade digitalisation discussed at Beijing workshop as China prepares Maritime Law amendments

Alan Ding, of Gafta Beijing Office, presented on "ePhyto Implementation in the Grain Trade" at the workshop on "Phytosanitary Measures and Standards" held on 10 September, the day before the 32nd Beijing Seed Industry Conference. Hosted by China National Seed Trade Association (CNSTA), the workshop was jointly organised by the International Seed Federation (ISF), the Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA) and CropLife. It was well attended by representatives of the plant breeding industry as well as government officials, including those from China's customs administration (GACC) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). This was a timely gathering as China is currently updating its Maritime Law for the first time since its enactment in 1992. This is expected to introduce a nationwide legal framework for electronic transport records in China.

Alan Ding (in the foreground) at the Beijing Workshop

Alan was representing the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) and he took the opportunity to stress the increasing importance of electronic phytosanitary certification for grain flows around the world. He explained the importance of internationally-aligned, science-based policies, regulations and standards for the smooth flow of grain, most of which is transported in bulk shipments that range from 20,000 to 70,000 tonnes per vessel, he explained. "ePhytos reduce delays, improve accuracy, and help ensure that grain reaches its destination reliably," Alan told the audience.

Over 96 countries are now using the IPPC ePhyto hub to reduce administrative burdens, prevent errors and help avoid clearance delays at ports. Alan explained how this improves efficiency, lowers costs and contributes to a reliable food supply, as well as reducing the environmental impact of trade. International cooperation improves supply chain predictability and, on behalf of the IGTC, Alan encouraged China, as a leading grain importer to continue its engagement with the IPPC project, so that systems are interoperable and consistent with international trade practice. "Centralised ePhyto systems are strengthened by China's participation," he said.

Nathalie Lim, Singapore Marketing & Communications Manager

We are pleased to introduce Nathalie Lim, who joined Gafta full-time earlier this year as Marketing and Communications Manager for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Based in Singapore, her role is to strengthen Gafta's presence in the region, supporting members, promoting Gafta services and creating spaces for connection across the supply chain. "Day to day, that means everything from shaping our digital presence, to ensuring Gafta is visible at international conferences, where conversations about trade and agriculture take centre stage," Nathalie told Gaftaworld.

"My career has taken me through two very different but equally fast-moving industries; farm-tech and consumer products. In farm-tech, I led marketing efforts that translated technical innovations (sometimes as complex as food traceability with blockchain technology) into messages that farmers, regulators and investors could engage with. The challenge was to make the science tangible without losing its depth, a balancing act I came to enjoy. In the consumer product space, I worked on brand building and e-commerce strategies across Asia-Pacific. There, data-driven communication was everything: how you reached people, how you kept them engaged, and how you built trust in crowded and dynamic online markets."

Alongside work, Nathalie completed her MBA at Singapore Management University, focusing on strategy, leadership and digital transformation. The programme gave her a broader view of how communication fits into global business and reinforced her belief that effective messaging is critical for resilience in industries facing rapid change.

"Looking ahead, I hope to contribute to Gafta's growth in Asia by expanding regional networks and supporting initiatives that bring students and young professionals into agricultural trade", said Nathalie. "I am especially interested in how digitalisation, communication and trade policy advocacy can work together to strengthen supply chains, foster innovation and create opportunities for dialogue across the industry.

"I am delighted to be part of Gafta's global community and look forward to engaging with members in the region, whether through events, collaborative partnerships or the many conversations that shape the future of our trade!"

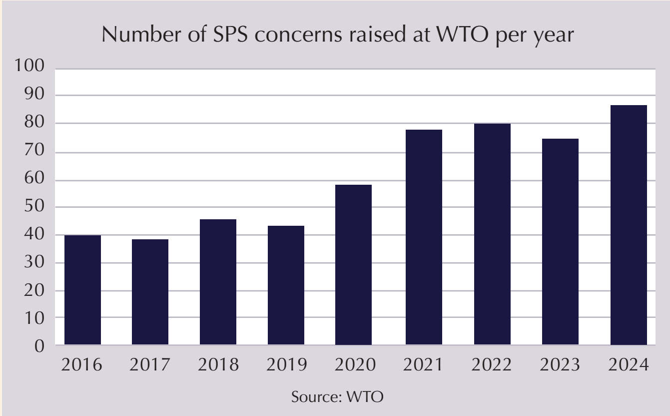
Nathalie can be contacted at: **NathalieLim@gafta.com**

IGC webinar on non-trade measures, 25 September 2025

The global grains, oilseeds, rice and pulses trade has grown by more than 20% in the last decade. This trade plays a vital role in the global food system while also enhancing the resilience of national food security in the face of climate uncertainties. The use of non-tariff measures (NTMs) has grown in number and diversity whilst tariffs reduced over recent years.

The International Grains Council (IGC) held a webinar to address the key trade-related NTM challenges on 25 September. June Arnold, Head of Policy, presented for Gafta in the panel discussing *"Solutions to address non-tariff measures in the grains trade"* from a private sector perspective, together with WTO and UNCTAD colleagues. The development of new initiatives related to non-technical standards has increased the costs and complexity of grain trading. Divergence of MRLs globally, lack of harmonised GMO approvals, the patchwork of policies relating to gene editing and the growing list of import requirements that cause uncertainty for the trade are among the NTMs most vocalised amongst Gafta members. NTMs are a growing challenge for the grain trade and compliance with them even more challenging.

International standards are the most trade promoting, eg Codex standards, sensible commercialisation of GMOs and gene edited products (moving away from zero tolerance policies) and agreement to follow internationally accepted phyto standards. Secondly, regulations should be science-based and as least trade restrictive as possible to promote trade and ensure food security. Lastly, when developing new legislation, the private sector calls for more regulatory clarity and transparency. The challenges are clear; zero tolerances are impractical but limits need to be backed by science-based solutions. Delays and poor communication will disrupt supply chains and increase costs; hence, more transparency is required. By reducing risk, supply chains will be more competitive but need to rely on good monitoring systems to ensure safe food and feed.



Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures account for the largest number of trade concerns raised by member countries at the WTO. The EU and USA are the most active in raising SPS concerns at WTO, followed by Brazil, Argentina, Canada, China, India, Chile, Australia and Mexico. The principal countries responding to SPS trade concerns are the EU, followed by USA, China, Japan, Australia, India, Russia and Republic of Korea.

EU ratification of the EU-Mercosur trade agreement remains unclear

The EU Commission has published the legal texts of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement (see Gaftaworld, April 2025 edition for more details). Member states of the EU however remain divided over the proposal despite Commission attempts to reassure the agriculture interests of the EU through a proposed regulation of 8 October introducing safeguards for many products, with provisions for certain sensitive products including beef, rice, honey, poultry, eggs, ethanol and sugar.

The EU Commission proposes that the trade part could enter into force well before the full partnership agreement, as this would only require a qualified majority of member states (55% of member countries representing 65% of the population) to approve it. Members of the European Parliament are however planning to take the matter to the Court of Justice for the EU, to ask for an opinion on the draft agreement, in particular with regard to the "rebalancing mechanism", which was introduced to give Mercosur countries greater policy space for their industrial development. It allows both parties to seek compensation or adjustment in the form of tariffs or quotas if they believe the other party has introduced a measure that "nullifies or substantially impairs" the benefits of the agreement. Such a court case could significantly slow down the process of ratification.

AIC Reception at House of Lords

The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC), the UK's representative body for the agricultural supply trade, held a reception in the House of Lords on 11 September. Hosted by Lord Curry of Kirkharle CBE, the event saw more than 130 people representing the breadth of UK and EU agri-food supply chains come together with MPs and Peers, as well as European Commission and embassy officials. June Arnold, Gafta's Head of Policy, attended. "We were very pleased that June was able to join us," Robert Sheasby, AIC's Chief Executive, told Gaftaworld.

Michael Bellingham, Chief Executive of UK Pet Food with June Arnold

Robert Sheasby, Chief Executive of AIC

Global Trade Policy Committee, October meeting

Gafta's Global Trade Policy Committee met on 9 October and identified many challenges for the international trade, including bilateral trade agreements, Argentina's export taxes and trade disruption arising from export duties on oilseeds in Ukraine. Technical issues on sampling and analysis of pesticides and mycotoxins, concerns about the future EU approach to import tolerances for active substances, the EU review of copper MRLs, uncertainty around EUDR postponement and its scope as well as the latest developments on gene editing were discussed.

Developments in digitalisation of trade documents was also an important issue for discussion; Gafta is focusing on representation and advocacy with partners. On seedcake, it was noted that Gafta submitted a further paper on UN entries for transport of seedcake to support a proposal for thresholds of 4% oil and 13% moisture for soybean meal, cottonseed meal, rapeseed meal and sunflowerseed meal to the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Further testing is underway to meet UN requests for information on water activity and self-ignition. A full report will be shared after the next meeting in December in Geneva.

Sensitive negotiations continue on the EU's new genomic techniques (NGT) policy

Gene editing regulations are evolving quickly across the world. As the EU advances its regulatory framework, those trading partners exporting commodities to the EU are watching policy developments closely under the EU's Danish Presidency. Amidst ongoing negotiations, the agricultural commodity trade remains concerned about any potential traceability and labelling requirements for category 1 NGTs and the potential for further trade disruption as the EU regulatory approach is likely to diverge. Mandatory traceability and labelling would impose unnecessary costs, enforcement burdens and trade barriers. Added to these concerns are patents and the European Parliament's call for "sustainability requirements" to be part of the process for cultivation approvals.

Negotiations remain complex due to their impact on various segments of the agri-food value chain and trade-offs a reality.

Nigeria plans to introduce GMO labelling

In a press release issued by the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Nigerian government announced it is planning to introduce labelling and traceability protocols for GMO products. "By working together, we can transform perceptions about biotechnology and ensure innovations like GMOs contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's food security and nutritional advancement," said John Atanda, National Coordinator of the Food Safety and Quality Programme in the Food and Drug Services Department. "With robust regulations in place, including labelling and traceability protocols, we aim to reinforce public trust and transparency".

In his keynote address at a recent workshop in Abuja, Professor Abdullahi Mustapha, Director-General of the National Biotechnology Research and Development Agency, highlighted tangible benefits already recorded by Nigerian farmers through biotechnology adoption, citing yield increases of over 50% in TELA maize pilot projects, reduced pesticide use in Bt cowpea cultivation and improved cotton yields.

GMOs: Post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) plan in EU

A PMEM is required for all applications within the EU for the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs and for the placing on the market of food or feed products containing or consisting of GMOs. If placing on the market of food and feed containing or consisting of certain GM agricultural crops (cotton, maize, oilseed rape and soybean), a template for the PMEM has been developed in cooperation with operators to ensure a harmonised implementation of such plans. For full information, refer to:
https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/genetically-modified-organisms/post-authorisation/monitoring-plans-and-reports_en

Commission proposes measures to ensure timely implementation of EU Deforestation Regulation

As we go to print, the European Commission on 21 October announced solutions to allow for the timely implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), indicating that implementation would go ahead by the end of the year. The proposal contains solutions to the EU information system, meaning it would be fully operational for large and medium companies by 30 December 2025. There will only be one submission in the EUDR IT system at the entry point on the market for the entire supply chain. The focus will remain on operators first placing goods on the market.

The proposal also simplifies reporting obligations for the EU downstream value chain who will no longer be expected to complete due diligence statements, unlike the upstream operators who will still have to continue to exercise due diligence. There will be a grace period for six months on checks and enforcement to allow for a gradual phase-in. The EU Parliament and Council will now discuss this Commission proposal which needs formal adoption before it can come into effect. Members are encouraged to stay informed as this discussion develops and we approach 30 December.

IMO net-zero agreement postponed

The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) agreed on 17 October to adjourn the talks on mandating the net-zero framework as agreed at the MEPC meeting in April (see Gaftaworld, April and June issues). The measures agreed in April would have come into force in 2027, but this delay means implementation will certainly be for 2028 at the earliest.

WTO SPS Chair meets with IAFN Codex Coalition

On 6 October, June Arnold, Gafta's Head of Policy, participated in a meeting with the new WTO Chair to the SPS Committee, Maria Combe. Trade representatives presented on the private sector engagement on enhancing Codex, which represents 30 commodity sectors and discussed future engagement with the WTO following the strategic review of the SPS Agreement, as well as support for the WTO group on transparency.

NEW MEMBERS

Full contact details for all members are available on the Gafta website Members Directory

CATEGORY A – TRADERS

AGROMARK TRADING COMMODITIES LIMITED
Malta
T: +356 7754 8642
C: Mr Tolga Unal
E: tolga.unal@agromarktrading.com

FIRST MILLS
Saudi Arabia
T: +966 920010375
W: www.firstmills.com/en
C: Mr Abdulkareem Alfuraydi
E: abd.alfuraydi@firstmills.com

HOLAGRI LIMITED
United Kingdom
T: +44 7702 663809
C: Mr Abbasali Merali
E: abbasali@holagri.com

LOUIS DREYFUS COMPANY UKRAINE, LLC
Ukraine
W: www.ldc.com/
C: Mrs Yullia Sukmanska
E: yuliia.sukmanska@ldc.com

PAXTON TRADING DMCC
United Arab Emirates
C: Mr Ozgur Ozkurt
E: paxtontradingdmcc@gmail.com

CATEGORY B – BROKERS

AVPM TRADE OÜ
Estonia
T: +38 098 319 89 93
W: www.avpmtrade.eu/
C: Miss Yuliia Marienko
E: yuliia.marienko@avunion.lt

CATEGORY C – SUPERINTENDENTS

ALFRED H KNIGHT DO BRASIL LTDA
Brazil
T: +55 2122631214
W: www.ahkgroup.com/
C: Mr Alexsandro Rocha
E: alexsandro.rocha@ahkgroup.com

AMPROTEK VIETNAM LTD
Vietnam
C: Mrs Dat Pham
E: dat@amprotek.org

CHANGSHU FSI TESTING & INSPECTION CO., LTD.
China
T: +86 13506248393
C: Mr Liyin Chen
E: info@fsi-tec.com

OPERAGRO SURVEYOR SRL
Uruguay
T: +598 2915 1189
W: www.operagro.com
C: Mrs Shannon Yu
E: shannonyu@operagro.com

CATEGORY E – INDIVIDUALS

MR DENIS BUKHAROV
United Arab Emirates
E: den.buharov@gmail.com

MS MAY HAIDAR
United Arab Emirates
E: may.haidar@copmer.com

REBECCA JONES
United States
E: rajoneslaw@gmail.com

CATEGORY G – PROFESSIONAL FIRMS

AGROINSPEKT D.O.O.
Slovenia
Telephone: +386 1 43 15009
W: www.agroinspekt.si
C: Matej Jesenko
E: matej.jesenko@agroinspekt.si

KEYSTONE LAW
United Kingdom
C: Miss Hannah Doherty
E: hannah.doherty@keystonelaw.co.uk

CATEGORY J – FUMIGATORS

FUMIGATION TECHNOLOGIES
Ukraine
T: +380(68)2342184
C: Dmitro Solyanik
E: info@fumtech.com.ua

SYNERGY GLOBAL LLC
Ukraine
C: Mr Vitalii Kolchenko
E: synergy.global@ukr.net

CATEGORY L – STUDENTS

MS ANUSHKA PURI
Singapore
E: anushkar.p.2023@mm.smu.edu.sg

MR ERENALP RENCBER
Türkiye
E: erenalprencber@gmail.com

Market access for pulses discussed in Cologne, Germany

The joint Gafta-Global Pulse Confederation (GPC) Market Access Committee took place on 3 October in Cologne at the same time as the large food and beverage trade fair, Anuga, was taking place. Members discussed market access issues, including import policies in Turkey and India, global tariffs, bilateral agreements and global policies challenging the pulses market. Compliance, due to lack of harmonised MRLs and import tolerances, together with the lack of harmonisation of measurements of uncertainty continue to challenge the trade. The first meeting of the Gene Editing Task Force took place in early September and is focusing on the legislative status in key markets, consumer acceptance and ensuring the pulses sector is ready for commercialisation of GE pulse crops.

2025/26 Calendar

Commodity Shipping

16-17	Sep 2026	Sao Paulo

Trade Foundation Course

24-27	Feb 2026	London
23-25	Sep 2026	New Orleans

Commodity Dispute Resolution

20-21	May 2026	Amsterdam
13-14	Oct 2026	Dubrovnik

Social Events

28	Nov 2025	Arbitrators' Luncheon London *Sponsored by* HILL DICKINSON

Seminars

27	Nov 2025	Arbitrators' Masterclass London *Sponsored by* HILL DICKINSON

For more information on all Gafta events, go to: www.gafta.com/events

European Commodities Exchange 2026, Berlin

This year's European Commodities Exchange in Berlin was a resounding success with over 4,000 industry professionals convening for two days of networking and collaboration. It was a pleasure to reconnect with familiar faces and build new relationships with industry professionals from across the commodities sector. A huge thank you to QSS GLOBAL S.A. for being an amazing host and providing a wonderful stand for us to share. A sincere thank you to everyone who visited our stand to learn more about Gafta's work and the positive impact we strive to make within the industry.

The European Commodities Exchange will take place in Rotterdam next year on 5-6 November.

@Gaftaworld

Registered in England & Wales with liability limited by guarantee under Company no. 1006456 I VAT Registration No. GB 243 8967 24

Gafta Promoting international trade

The Grain and Feed Trade Association

9 Lincoln's Inn Fields I London I WC2A 3BP I UK
T: +44 (0) 20 7814 9666 I F: +44 (0) 20 7814 8383
E: post@gafta.com I W: gafta.com