



**FAEA Winter Board Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
10:00 am – 12:00 pm EST**

Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom Conference Call	
10:00 am	Call to Order & Approval of June 2020 Board Meeting Minutes	Chairman Jim Sutter
10:05 am	Introduction of Guest and Briefing: Update on U.S. Kenya Free Trade Agreement Office of the U.S. Trade Representative	Kent Sisson Rufino Hurtado
10:15 am	Financials and Budget MAP/GBI Funds Member Funds	Kurt Shultz & Sam Clemence
10:35 am	Update on 2020 Activities Bangladesh Kenya Cambodia Myanmar China Vietnam Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Pakistan Codex Member Priorities	Kent Sisson Rita Kishore All members
11:30 am	2021 GBI Proposal	Kent Sisson & Kurt Shultz
11:45 am	Other Business FAEA Website: Update on Content/Changes FAEA Membership with USAEDC FAEA Member Recruitment (if time allows)	Kent Sisson/All Rosida Nababan Jim Sutter/Kent Sisson
12:00 pm	Adjourn	Chairman Jim Sutter



FOOD & AGRICULTURE EXPORT ALLIANCE

FAEA Winter Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
10:00 am – 12:00 pm EDT

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom Conference Call

Participants:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Jim Sutter | USSEC and FAEA Chairman |
| 2. Ryan LeGrand | USGC |
| 3. Kurt Shultz | USGC |
| 4. Sam Clemence | USGC |
| 5. Katy Wyatt | USGC |
| 6. Jim Sumner | USAPEEC |
| 7. Greg Tyler | USAPEEC |
| 8. Jean Murphy | USAPEEC |
| 9. Nick Gardner | USDEC |
| 10. Jonathan Gardner | USDEC |
| 11. Bill Westman | NAMI |
| 12. Maria Zieba | NPPC |
| 13. Trachelle Carr | NPPC |
| 14. Jessie Sevcik | Elanco |
| 15. Laurie Hueneke | Merck |
| 16. Kent Sisson | FAEA |
| 17. Rosida Nababan | FAEA |
| 18. Rita Kishore | FAEA |
| 19. Rufino Hurtado | USTR |

10:00 am **Call to Order & Approval of June 2020 Board Meeting Minutes** Chairman Jim Sutter

Chairman Sutter called the meeting to order and the minutes were approved.

10:05 am **Introduction of Guest** Kent Sisson
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Rufino Hurtado
Director, Office of Agricultural Affairs
Update on the U.S./Kenya Free Trade Agreement

- Mr. Hurtado (RH) is the lead ag negotiator for the US Kenya FTA
- He thanked FAEA members for submitting input on the FTA objectives
- Two formal negotiating rounds so far across various sectors and FTA chapters
 - 1st round was in July
 - 2nd round was in Nov
- U.S. tabled some draft text including in the ag and SPS chapters
 - The focus resembles the Canada and Mexico agreement Ag chapter
 - Includes some biotech content
 - Covers risk analysis, risk management and risk communication



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- Kenyan also tabled some text
- There is a clear divergence between our respective economies
- In 2nd round walked through each country's chapter text
 - There is broad alignment on SPS
 - Kenya has a concern about being able to do everything given their resources
 - Market Access:
 - Kenya has some vulnerable sectors so will need more discussion on tariff liberalization
 - We want them to embrace biotech and genome editing
 - They have had bans on GE products for production but have made some approval for cotton
- 3rd round of negotiations will be in early 2021
 - The U.S. has negotiating authority under TPA until July 2021
 - It will be an ambitious effort
 - We must recognize that there are some export challenges to Kenya
 - We hope it will be a model for other countries in the Africa region
 - Lots of growth potential for U.S. exports
- Comments and Questions from FAEA Members
 - Jean Murphy: USAPEEC
 - Hopefully the U.S. can get some access for poultry
 - Any info on Nigeria opening for poultry?
 - RH – suggested contacting Joan Hurst at USTR
 - Ryan: USGC
 - What are the market access concerns?
 - RH – have not got to specific products yet but anticipate issues with livestock and poultry. Not sure yet about grains. For dairy there will be challenges.
 - Jessie S: Elanco
 - Thanked FAEA for help on labeling issues in Kenya
 - Given our relationship with Tanzania and Uganda and their relationship with Kenya – how will they respond to the FTA with Kenya?
 - RH – Kenya is part of the East Africa Customs Union but we can still do bilateral negotiations with those other nations.
 - Nick G. USDEC
 - Happy to hear about defining risk analysis. Defining risk analysis is important for dairy.
 - RH – There are a variety of provisions to collaborate in multilateral forms and we will try to incorporate this into the agreement.

10:15 am

Financials and Budget
MAP/GBI Funds
Member Funds

Sam Clemence



- GBI Funds: Due to COVID, FAEA staff has not been able to travel since February, however they have been doing as much as possible via virtual meetings, consultants on the ground in Bangladesh and Kenya, and discussions on how to collaborate with FAS Trade and Regulatory Capacity Building Division staff and their program implementers.
- FAEA funds: Were used almost exclusively to pay fees and expenses for Kent, Rosida and Rita. Should have adequate FAEA funds with carryover to keep everyone on board at least through 2021.

10:35 am

Update on 2020 Activities

Kent Sisson

- Since the last Board meeting in June, Kent, Rosida, and Rita conducted 4-5 Zoom meetings with FAS staff in Washington from the Trade and Regulatory Capacity Building Division (TRCBD) as well as with FAS overseas staff covering Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Myanmar. In doing so, we have agreed to collaborate with TRCBD staff responsible for their food safety and SPS activities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Myanmar in addition to what FAEA is doing on it's own. This has been very helpful in keeping us active in markets where we would not otherwise be doing much due to COVID. We have also learned more about the Food Safety Network (a collaboration between USDA/FAS, USAID, and FDA) that has been doing work and has many training modules developed by Texas A&M that FAEA can also use.

FYI, most of FAS American Foreign Service Officers are now back in-country or soon will be.

- FAEA Activities

Bangladesh

- FAEA is working with two organizations in Bangladesh.
- **Alcumus:** In May, FAEA hired Alcumus (\$3,150 per month retainer) to carry out two functions. First, to gather, analyze, and report information that is important for FAEA to best understand developments and changes in Bangladesh's food and feed safety laws and regulations. (FAEA staff post the monthly reports on the Members Only page of the website.) Second, to assist in planning and implementing FAEA technical assistance and capacity building activities, as needed. (Alcumus Bangladesh provides a wide variety of food compliance, food safety, certification, and risk management services to its clients in Bangladesh.)

Up to now, FAEA has not conducted any training or capacity building activities. So Alcumus is only carrying out the intel gathering and reporting function. We will likely discontinue the FAEA reporting function with Alcumus for 2021 but call on them (as needed) to assist with implementing any technical assistance and training activities.



- **International Development Group (IDG):** Also in May, FAEA signed an MOU with the IDG to collaborate with them in implementing USAID’s trade facilitation program under the Feed the Future Program starting in FY 2021 (Oct-Sep). There is no commitment of FAEA money to pay IDG, but FAEA will jointly fund projects and activities with the group. So far we have identified several activities for collaboration with them. Because there are so many organizations working in the Food Safety space in Bangladesh using USDA, USAID, and other funding sources, FAEA, IDG and FAS decided the first step is to determine who is doing what to avoid duplication and redundancy. FAEA organized a Zoom meeting Oct 19 that included FAEA, USGC, IDG, FAS/Wash, FAS/Dhaka, USAID Washington and Dhaka, Alcumus, Kansas State University, and Land O’Lakes/Venture37. We each shared what we are doing and agreed to have quarterly meetings that will be coordinated by FAS/Dhaka in the future.

We are now waiting to hear back from IDG on which activities to start implementing. Most will be in calendar year 2021. FAEA staff will travel to Bangladesh as soon as we are able to in 2021 to meet with IDG and Alcumus staff as well as follow up with FAS staff and contacts with relevant Bangladesh regulatory officials.

Kenya

- FAEA hired Ms. Charity Mutegi effective September 14, 2020 to be the FAEA liaison with Kenyan Government officials who are drafting new food safety legislation in the country. Ms. Mutegi is located in Nairobi and in addition to coordinating FAEA guidance and assistance in developing the food safety legislation, she is also representing FAEA in planning and implementing technical assistance and education activities that will facilitate the drafting and completion of the legislation and subsequent implementing regulations.

Charity is coordinating Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings which guide the drafting of the legislation. There are about 25 staff from Ministries of Ag, Health, Trade and the Attorney General’s office that make up the TWG. The first and subsequent offsite meetings of the TWG members are being sponsored by FAEA. The first will be held the week of December 7. Rufino Hurtado will give a presentation at that meeting. The second meeting is planned for mid-January.

As explained by Rufino, Kenya FTA negotiations have started. USTR and FAS have asked FAEA to support the FTA with activities once it is approved and implemented as part of the SPS component of the agreement.

Cambodia

- FAEA added Cambodia to the 2020 activity plan and shifted some funding to sponsor 1-2 virtual presentations for Cambodian officials at the request of FAS Washington as part of the TRCBD work plan. Topics will cover WTO and SPS obligations and enquiry point notifications. (Note: These presentations will now be conducted in 2021.)



- Sharon Bomer Lauritsen (recently retired from USTR as the Assistant USTR for Ag Affairs) will prepare and give the presentations. FAEA is now working with Sharon and FAS on the details of the presentations.
- FAEA hopes to use Sharon as needed for other countries in 2021, perhaps Kenya, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, for example.

Myanmar

- FAEA has agreed to assist in preparing regulations for the **Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD)** for implementing their new **Animal Health and Livestock Development Law** signed this past August. FAEA has a copy of the unofficial English translation of the law. It covers production and processing from farm to retail, import/export, lab testing, vet drugs, and feed ingredients. FAEA is helping to identify what regulations are needed for implementing the law.
 - FAEA will ask USDA and other regulatory agency staff (and/or consultants like Sharon Bomer) to review the draft regs and provide comment and guidance.
- Myanmar is also preparing an **Animal Feed and Veterinary Drug Law**. FAEA has agreed to work with them in 2021 to provide tech support and assistance in drafting the law.

China

- FAEA will work with Jennifer Lee of the US/China Agriculture and Food Partnership (AFP) in China by supporting and participating in a couple regulatory workshops that AFP is coordinating with the three primary regulatory agencies in 2021:
 1. State Market Regulatory Administration (SMRA)
 2. National Health Commission (NHC)
 3. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)
 - One workshop will cover meat and poultry slaughter and processing standards w/MARA, including related supply-chain pilot and standards dialogue. This program will be an online public and private dialogue and include FSIS with MARA.
 - The other is also a public/private dialogue on food safety with SMRA and NHC - including updates, discussion, and training on the latest food safety standards and regulations.

Vietnam

- FAEA held a Zoom meeting with the FAS office this past summer. No activities are currently planned but FAS Vietnam agreed to monitor food and SPS issues of interest to FAEA and inform us of any new developments.



Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Pakistan

No activities were conducted in these countries during 2020 as explained below.

- **Ghana and Nigeria:** No new developments or progress in adoption of the Animal Production Law or Food Safety Law, respectively. FAEA will continue to monitor the situation via FAS offices and other contacts. FAEA shifted \$30,000 for use in Kenya (\$25,000) and Cambodia (\$5,000)

We continue to support Mabel Aworh of the Nigeria Min of Ag to participate in the Codex Committee on Residue of Vet Drugs in Foods meeting in July 2021 in the U.S.

- **Ethiopia and Pakistan - Country Engagement:** Originally planned exploratory visits to each country in 2020 but no activity due to COVID travel restrictions. FAEA shifted \$45,000 from Country Engagement for use in Cambodia.
- Q: Ryan Legrand
 - Is FAEA involved in supporting the African Union efforts?
- A: Kent Sisson and Bill Westman
 - Kent: Yes, FAS staff approached FAEA this past summer and we agreed to provide support but there were no specifics discussed or agreed to.
 - Bill: A high-level interagency committee has been formed between USDA, USAID and other agencies to identify how the USG can support the effort, but again no specifics have been discussed.
 - NOTE from Kent: Not sure how the new U.S. Administration will or will not engage on this issue.

- Codex

- Rita Kishore keeps abreast of all Codex issues, developments and member interests through her on-going engagement with the U.S. Codex office, FAEA members, FICC, and others.
- She follows the Codex committee meetings and participates virtually when of interest to members. She also sends members information and advises them of opportunities to provide comments on Codex related matters.

- Member Priorities

All members

Board Discussion/Feedback/Guidance: What are your priorities for 2021? What is your guidance for FAEA engagement in calendar year 2021?

- **USSEC**

- Priorities have not changed much from the June Board meeting
- **Bangladesh** – is of interest and FAEA needs to keep up the engagement



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- **Kenya** – the market and the work FAEA is doing there is important. It also sets an example and can have collateral impact for the rest of the markets in Africa that see Kenya as a leader in the region. Would be supportive of putting more than the \$100,000 currently requested for Kenya in 2021.
- **China** – the market and the FAEA engagement there is important to continue
- **Nigeria** – remains important as a potential market
- **Pakistan** – is doing a lot on their own biotech approval system – it is a top 10 market for U.S. soy
- **Myanmar** - we are seeing rapid growth in the country
- **USAPEEC**
 - Appreciates the work of FAEA and its efforts in the various markets
 - **Asia** in general is very important. Have set new export records to both China and Vietnam
 - **China** – very happy to have regained access to the market. **Nucleic acid testing for COVID-19 is being conducted in China to stop imports of some products. The tests are not that accurate. It would be good if FAEA could do something to push back on this testing.**
 - **Vietnam** – remains an important market
 - **Cambodia and Myanmar** – not having much success there yet
 - **South Asia**
 - **Pakistan** - is important
 - **Bangladesh** – planning to look for more opportunities there
 - **Africa**
 - **Ghana** is important market
 - **Kenya FTA** is important for all of Africa
 - **Nigeria** is important but we need to get access
- **USDEC**
 - **China and Vietnam** are most important
 - **Africa**
 - **Kenya and Nigeria** - for dairy we need to be more strategic e.g., support greater business development
 - **Cambodia and Myanmar** – supportive of continued FAEA work there
 - **Codex** – Engagement on CCAFRICA is important
- **USGC**
 - **Kenya** and support for the FTA is important not only for Kenya, but the entire African continent to serve as an example for other African countries.
 - **Vietnam and Myanmar** are also very important markets for grain and for FAEA to be engaged
- **NAMI**
 - **Kenya** is the focus for their members’ investment and NAMI is working on a concept paper and proposal for their increased engagement there
 - **Uganda** also of interest – full value chain project
 - **China** – is an important market and NAMI appreciates FAEA support of AFP
 - NAMI supports the work of FAEA in the other target markets as well

- **NPPC**
 - Along same lines as NAMI but their focus is SE Asia
 - **Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam** in particular are most important
 - **China** is rebuilding its swine herd so don't know how long that market will continue to grow – so want to focus on other markets like **Vietnam** (where ASF is also leading to reduced supplies of pork)
 - **Africa** is important as a 2nd tier market but NPPC has not been able to focus much of its resources there
- **Elanco**
 - **#1: Kenya** very strategic and important as a focus for the region
 - **#2: China** and full implementation of the Phase 1 agreement
 - **#3: ASEAN – Vietnam, Cambodia Myanmar** – keep the engagement going
 - **Codex** – a number of committees are important for FAEA to follow, especially the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) – it is important to continue to support risk analysis
- **Merck**
 - Appreciates FAEA work
 - CCRVDF committee is important for FAEA to follow
 - What happens in one committee can bubble over into others
 - FTA's in general are good for Merck so they support the **Kenya FTA** and FAEA engagement there
 - **China and Vietnam** remain important

11:30 am

2021 GBI Proposal

Kent Sisson
Kurt Shultz

- No word yet on when 2021 GBI funding will be approved/announced
- 2021 GBI Proposal and budget is on the Members Only page of the website
- FAEA requested \$440,000 in GBI funds as follows:
 - Kenya \$100,000
 - Bangladesh \$100,000
 - Africa Regional \$ 80,000
 - China \$ 80,000
 - South/Southeast Asia \$ 40,000 (+15,000 in FAEA funds for Vietnam)
 - Codex Support \$ 40,000
- Due to COVID travel restrictions, FAEA staff members do not expect to do any travel until after the first quarter of 2021, at the soonest.

11:45 am

Other Business

Kent Sisson/All

FAEA Website: Uses & Feedback

Rosida Nababan

- Launched around July 1. Announced to FAS Washington and overseas offices. Also to our partners and contacts in FAEA target markets.



- To keep abreast of developments, FAEA suggests members visit the Members Only page the first week of the month to see the latest budget and expenditures and read the monthly activity and Codex reports prepared by FAEA staff. Please contact FAEA staff if you want to follow up on anything in more detail.
- In January Rosida will be adding two new spreadsheets for tracking the budget and expenditures and also a calendar spreadsheet that shows planned activities tied to the FAEA budget.

USAEDC Membership for FAEA

- FAEA was approved as an Allied Member (\$750 per year) to USAEDC. FAEA will use its membership as an opportunity to keep up-to-date on MAP and GBI funding issues and changes in rules as well as for networking and membership recruiting purposes.
- FAEA Exec Director is participating in the USAEDC virtual workshop in mid Nov.

FAEA New Member Recruitment List

- On hold for now until we have opportunity to network with potential members at the two USAEDC meetings in July and November 2021 – and also have more accomplishments to share on the website. Prospective new members to approach are:
 1. US Meat Export Federation
 2. North American Renderers Association
 3. North American Export Grain Association
 4. U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.
 5. Pet Food Institute
 6. U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association

12:00 pm Adjourn

Chairman Sutter adjourned the meeting on schedule at 12:00 pm.