

FEBRUARY 2024



## DIRECTOR'S DESK

This month, we focus on the evolving dynamics of global markets and the strategic initiatives we are implementing to navigate these changes effectively. Our commitment to promoting sustainable practices, enhancing market access and supporting the development of science-based regulations. These efforts are crucial in our mission to not only boost export potential but also to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of our sectors.

As we continue to face the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world, the alliance stands as a testament to what we can achieve together. I look forward to sharing our progress and celebrating our achievements with you throughout this year.

### FAEA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

---

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Trade Data • P. 2

---

Program Updates • P. 3

---

CODEX Update • P. 6

---

Monthly Activity Report • P. 7

---

# 2023 TRADE DATA IS IN

In 2023, the global trade of products represented by FAEA members encountered notable shifts, amassing \$473 billion in exports—a 6.5% decrease from the previous year. This downward trend signifies a significant realignment in the global trade landscape, impacted by various economic and geopolitical factors. The United States experienced a 14% decline in exports, with figures plummeting to \$98 billion. This decline underscores the challenges faced by U.S. exporters, including market volatility, trade policy changes and global competition. The top destinations for FAEA-related products in 2023 remained consistent with historical patterns, with the European Union, Canada, China, Japan, Mexico and South Korea leading as the primary importers.

## Regional Trade Highlights

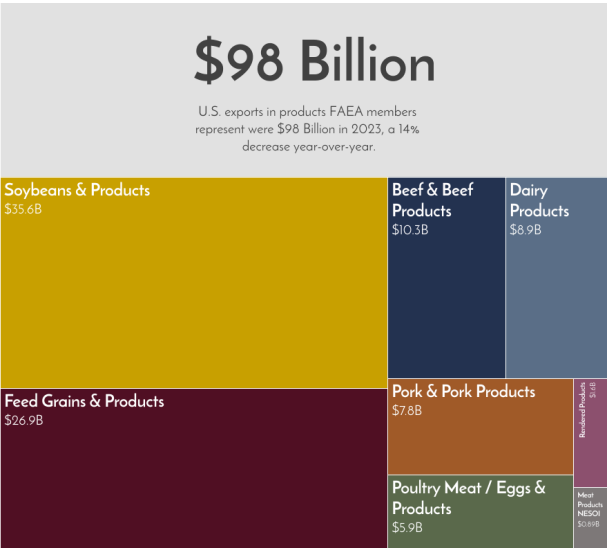
The trade dynamics in specific regions offer insight into the nuanced landscape of global trade:

- Cambodia saw global exports totaling \$934 million, with the U.S. contributing \$48 million. The U.S.'s primary exports to Cambodia were in the feed grains and products category.
- Kenya experienced a 9% downturn, with global exports at \$208 million. The U.S. faced a stark 92% decrease to \$2 million, due to a drop in sorghum exports after the conclusion of sorghum feeding trials in 2022.
- Nigeria's imports from the global market stood at \$711 million, with the U.S. accounting for \$15 million, a 5% increase year-over-year; however, 65% less than exports in 2020.
- Global exports to Bangladesh in 2023 declined 20% year-over-year, reaching \$3.4 billion, of which the U.S. contributed \$397 million, a 7% decrease year-over-year.
- China, a major player in global trade, also recorded a decline in imports. Global exports to China reached \$111 billion in FAEA-related products, a 4% decrease year-over-year, with U.S. exports at \$23.7 billion, a 27% decrease.



### ONLINE DATA

See export trends in FAEA products online



# PROGRAM UPDATES



## INTERNATIONAL FEED REGULATORS MEETING

The 17th annual International Feed Regulators Meeting (IFRM) organized by the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) met during the International Production & Processing Expo at the end of January in Atlanta, Ga. IFMR brings together feed industry representatives and government officials from around the world to discuss critical issues facing the feed sector with IFIF and the FAO.

The group discussed trending issues in the animal feed industry and collaborative solutions to move the industry forward. This year, the group focused on reducing the need for antibiotics through animal nutrition and the safe use of circular feed sources and is needed to utilize them. The meeting reaffirms the feed industries commitment to servicing the animal protein sector, encourages all governments to allow for innovative solutions to the complex matters of today such as climate changes, sustainable products and increasing animal health.

Ruud Tijssens, IFIF Chairman, and Daniela Battaglia of the FAO emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between public and private sectors for sustainable transformation in agriculture and feed industries. The meeting highlighted achievements in feed ingredient assessment and nutritional solutions to reduce antibiotic use. Discussions also covered circular feed, novel ingredients, and the need for global cooperation to ensure feed and food security and safety.

The event included a workshop on circular feed use and regulatory updates from Ghana and the European Commission, reinforcing the role of the IFRM in facilitating international dialogue and cooperation for sustainable and responsible feed and food production.

---

# INVITATION: AMCHAM BUSINESS SUMMIT

We are thrilled to extend a special invitation to all FAEA members to participate in the upcoming American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Business Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, April 24-25.. As the premier U.S. – East Africa forum, this summit presents an unparalleled platform for companies with an eye on expansion into Kenya and the broader East African region.

## Special Call to the U.S. Agricultural Sector

This year, the Foreign Agricultural Service office in Nairobi is keen on assembling a U.S. agricultural delegation to attend and actively participate in the Summit. This is a golden opportunity for FAEA members to showcase their industry, learn about the East African market and engage in discussions that could shape the future of agriculture in the region.

## About the Summit

Hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce Kenya and its partners, the AmCham Business Summit is more than an event—it's a transformative experience that brings together industry leaders from across the globe. Here, forward-thinking companies converge to explore new horizons, forge lucrative deals, and establish valuable connections within the vibrant markets of East Africa.

## Why Attend?

With a proven track record of success, the Summit has become a critical launchpad for business expansion and investment in East Africa:

- **Proven Success:** Attracting top-tier American and regional companies, along with influential government representatives, the Summit has facilitated over \$1 billion in new investment deals and grants.
- **Impressive Participation:** The 2023 Summit alone drew over 1,000 participants from 9 countries, highlighting its significance and impact.
- **Strategic Networking:** It offers a unique opportunity to network with key stakeholders, discuss industry trends, and partner with like-minded professionals aiming to shape the future of the agricultural and food sectors in East Africa.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023



### Interested?

Contact Rosida Nababan at  
rosidanababan@yahoo.com



# GRP TOOLKIT

In 2023, the Food Safety for Food Security (FS4FS) project, part of the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, began a program to help Feed the Future countries implement Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures. This involved developing a toolkit for regulators, in collaboration with the FDA, USAID, and USDA, to enhance SPS regulatory systems under the Global Food Security Strategy. The project aims to improve food safety, nutrition, public health, and trade.

Activities for the toolkit's development included workshops with African SPS regulators and a [literature review](#) on African SPS practices, highlighting the need to address discrepancies and challenges in national implementation due to varying SPS measures and overlapping Regional Economic Communities (RECs) memberships. The toolkit, guided by the STDF's Practical Guide on SPS GRP, will help assess and improve the development, implementation, and review of SPS measures. After pilot testing in Nigeria, Zambia, and Kenya, it is set to be finalized in 2024 for broader adoption.



## **FAEA INVOLVEMENT...**

In June, in the spirit of World Food Safety Day, FAEA, in collaboration with its partners the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the University of Missouri's Africa Food Safety Initiative (AFSI), the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) and the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Nigeria (FMHSW), will conduct the first meeting and workshop for newly formed Technical Working Groups (TWGs). These TWGs, comprising experts from the public, private, and academic sectors, aim to facilitate the creation of science-based regulations for the enactment of Nigeria's forthcoming Food Safety and Quality Law. The GRP toolkit will be introduced and tested during this workshop.

# CODEX UPDATE

## FAEA CODEX WORK PLAN

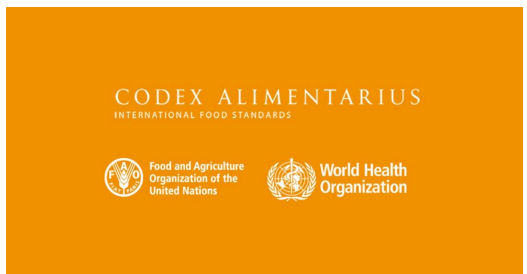
We are excited to share with you our latest initiative to deepen FAEA members' understanding and engagement with Codex standards. Our staff are organizing a Teams meeting specifically designed for members eager to learn more about the Codex processes, committees and how to effectively use the Codex website to track relevant committees and access crucial information.

We will link FAEA members with lead Codex committee staff in the U.S. Codex office and encourage membership to join the Food Industry Codex Coalition (FICC), to avoid duplicating efforts and to bolster expertise in international food safety standards. The FICC, a leading expert group hosted by the U.S. Dairy Export Council, meets monthly to discuss updates and important matters in Codex.

Our goal is to ensure every FAEA member has a solid foundation in Codex matters. For those actively participating in Codex committees, we encourage your active engagement in FICC discussions to address and inform us of any critical issues that may affect the Codex process. This proactive approach allows FAEA to represent and protect members' collective interests effectively.

Our commitment to you includes regular updates on upcoming Codex meetings and committees, insights into reports that may affect our sectors, assistance in joining relevant committees or working groups and vigilant monitoring of any potential threats to the Codex system.

We are dedicated to acting and advocating on behalf of our entire membership to ensure the stability and integrity of international food safety standards. As our next steps, we plan to reach out to each of our members individually to identify any additional staff who wish to be engaged in and informed about Codex activities and work. This personalized approach will ensure that we capture all interested parties within your organization, facilitating a more comprehensive and inclusive participation in the Codex process. We aim to tailor our support and updates to meet the specific interests and needs of your team, enhancing our collective impact on international food safety standards.



We look forward to your active participation and engagement in these initiatives, as we work together to strengthen our position in the global food safety landscape.

# ED MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

In February, I continued to drive the implementation of our programs, focusing on key initiatives across Nigeria, Kenya and Cambodia. In Nigeria, I maintained weekly communications with the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the University of Missouri, facilitating the development of four technical working groups (TWGs) that emerged from our November workshop. These groups are dedicated to enhancing risk-based regulations, food and feed safety, improving food and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) inspections, advancing traceability and supporting technologies, and fostering education and research for stakeholders. We are preparing for the inaugural meeting of these TWGs at a technical workshop scheduled for June, aligned with World Food Safety Day, where FAS will introduce its GRP toolkit.

For Kenya, I orchestrated plans for a late-April workshop to collaboratively forge a roadmap with the private sector, pinpointing their capacity-building needs. This initiative aims to establish a model for sustainable public sector training, in partnership with a local university and TradeMark Africa, with the vision of extending this model throughout the region.

In Cambodia, my focus was on aligning with existing food safety efforts to prevent overlapping initiatives. I engaged in understanding the roles of international organizations like FAO, WHO and UNIDO in food and feed safety. This understanding will guide our collaboration, especially in our upcoming workshop designed to unite government and private sectors for effective information sharing, capacity building and the creation of a consultative rule-making process for the Food Safety Law.

Additionally, I updated our tariff codes to reflect new membership, AFIA, and prepared the 2023 trade data for dissemination on our [website](#). February was a month of significant progress in our strategic initiatives, setting a robust foundation for the rest of the year.

-Gina Tumbarello