



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate A – Strategy & Policy analysis
A.1 – Policy perspectives

Brussels, 28 July 2022
AGRI.A.1/ /5977540

NOTE FOR THE FILE

Subject: Mission report USA: Participation in agrochemical conference in Raleigh, North Carolina and visit to Washington DC – 11 – 15 July 2022

1. KEY TAKE AWAYS

- The Farm to Fork narrative from the Trump administration still alive and very much used by stakeholders and US administration (and international trading partners). In particular the perception that Farm to Fork leads to less production. Outreach on the Farm to Fork Strategy, adopted in the midst of the pandemic, is therefore very relevant.
- Discussion about sustainability and climate change open and constructive and a lot of shared assessment of the challenges. In the US, the solution fully focusses on innovation and technology, as demonstrated by different speakers during the AgChem conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. The necessity for a food system transformation is not on the radar of most stakeholders or government representatives; however, at technical level, USDA works on system approaches and sustainability measurement.
- Bilateral cooperation and communication is very constructive, also thanks to Collaborative Platform on Agriculture (CPA), which provides a unique opportunity for more outreach on key EU agricultural policies (CAP, Farm to Fork, Horizon).

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Government	Percentage
Current government	65%
Previous government	35%

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Figure 1: Experimental setup. A participant is seated at a table, viewing a screen. The screen displays a horizontal line with a vertical line intersecting it. The vertical line is labeled 'L' and the horizontal line is labeled 'H'. The participant is looking at the intersection point. The diagram is labeled 'Figure 1' and 'Experimental setup'.

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Age Group	Should do more	Should not
18-29	85%	15%
30-49	85%	15%
50-69	85%	15%
70+	85%	15%

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

USDA: [REDACTED] Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS),
[REDACTED] [Art. 4.1b Privacy] (FAS).DG
AGRI/EUDEL: [REDACTED] Agricultural Counsellor at the EU
Delegation to the US.

The meeting aimed at discussing cooperation on productivity growth, both within the collaborative platform for agriculture between both administrations, as well as in the sustainable productivity growth coalition. Secondly, the meeting aimed to exchange views on the approaches to food systems in view of recent US policy announcements.

The USDA thanked the EU for its decision to join the sustainable productivity growth coalition and asked whether the EU could not encourage its Member States to also join the coalition. The USDA underlined the three dimensions of sustainability would need to be considered in the coalition, not only the environmental one. A half day conference had been planned in October, which is the moment the University Virginia Tech will publish its annual analysis of agricultural productivity. Ms Bailey underlined the need to build alliances with the FAO, OECD, etc.

[Art. 4.1b Privacy] indicated the Commission was collecting projects to submit for the first annual report in September, recalled the importance of cooperation with international

partners such as FAO and OECD and recalled that bilateral work on productivity could feature in the 2023 agenda of the Collaborative Platform for Agriculture.

[Art. 4.1b Privacy] briefly introduced the state of play of implementation of the Farm to Fork Strategy and asked about the US policy on “Transforming the US food system” and in particular about the role of the environment in this programme.

USDA representatives replied that there would be some (voluntary) enhancements of US conservations programmes and recalled a 30 by 30 commitment to the benefit of biodiversity. They focussed their response regard the US initiative on the economic aspects contained in the said press release.

The discussion about CPA was positive throughout. Both, [Art. 4.1b Privacy] and [Art. 4.1b Privacy], highlighted that the platform has achieved its main objectives and established an excellent basis for an open and constructive dialogue between AGRI and USDA. Both sides agreed that the work on food security would remain a priority with a solid follow up of the workshop. In view of the work programme 2023, USDA was also interested in including the debate about sustainable labelling and other challenges of measuring sustainability. USDA refer to an internal workshop of life cycle assessment and, at technical level, would be very happy to share their ongoing work in the area.

While most topics were only touched upon and time did not allow to dig deeper, the meeting focussed on the positive developments in bilateral cooperation, particularly the CPA, as well as the sustainable productivity coalition and colleagues in FAS seemed genuinely interested and highly motivated to continue if not intensifying our bilateral work.

The report was prepared jointly by [Art. 4.1b Privacy] and [Art. 4.1b Privacy] (EUDEL).

[Art. 4.1b Privacy]

c.c.: [Art. 4.1b Privacy] W. Burtscher, M. Scannell, J. Clarke, [Art. 4.1b Privacy].

[Art. 4.1b Privacy]

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Annex

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