Agricultural trade policy in the United States: Can reform advance domestic policy objectives and sustainable development?

Thursday and Friday, 12 and 13 April 2012
Capitol Visitor Center, Washington D.C.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
Amb. Yonov Frederick AGAH

Mr. Yonov Frederick Agah is Nigeria’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO. Until his appointment, Ambassador Agah had served as Deputy Director (Multilateral) from 1991 to 2001 and Director (External Trade) from 2002 to May 2005.

Ambassador Agah has served as the Chairman of the following WTO Bodies: Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) 2006; Council for TRIPS (2007); Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) 2008; Council for Trade in Services (CTS) 2009; Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) 2010; and the General Council (2011). He is presently the Chairman of the Special Session of the Council for TRIPS (TRIPS SS).

Amb. Manzoor AHMAD

Dr Manzoor Ahmad is a Senior Fellow at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva. A Pakistani national, he has served in various senior positions for his government and in international organizations. He was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the World Trade Organization (WTO) from 2002 to 2008. During that period, he chaired the WTO Council for Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) from 2004-2008 and the Balance of Payments Restrictions Committee during 2003-2004. He also served as the Director, Liaison Office, Food and Agriculture Organization to the United Nations from 2008 to 2010. For the last two years, Dr Ahmad has been working as an independent consultant on international trade and food security issues from Geneva and Islamabad. He is also one of the regular panelists on the WTO dispute settlement system.

He acts in various leading capacities in a number of global public policy institutions, think-tanks and as an adviser to the government of Pakistan. He has published several papers in international and local journals on issues relating to international trade and is frequently invited to make presentations at international conferences, academic institutes and other influential forums.

Bruce A. BABCOCK

Bruce A. Babcock is the Cargill Endowed Chair of Energy Economics, the Director of the Biobased Industry Center and a professor of economics at Iowa State University. Professor Babcock’s research interests include understanding energy and agricultural commodity markets, the impacts of biofuels on U.S. and world agriculture, the development of innovative risk management strategies for farmers, and the analysis of agricultural and trade policies.

Professor Babcock is originally from Southern California. He received his B.S. in economics of resource use and his M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of California at Davis, and his Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

David BECKMANN

World Food Prize laureate David Beckmann is one of the foremost U.S. advocates for hungry and poor people. He has been president of Bread for the World since 1991, leading large-scale and successful campaigns to strengthen U.S. political commitment to overcome hunger and poverty in the country and globally. Beckmann is also president of Bread for the World Institute, which provides policy analysis on hunger and strategies to end it. Currently Beckmann is co-chair of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network. He has served as a board member of InterAction, the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, the ONE Campaign, the National Anti-Hunger Organizations, and the U.N. Millennium Hunger Task Force. Prior to joining Bread, Beckmann worked at the World Bank for 15 years, overseeing large development projects and driving innovations to make the bank more effective in reducing poverty.
Sharon BOMER LAURITSEN

Sharon Bomer Lauritsen is Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President. Ms. Bomer has overall responsibility for negotiations and policy coordination regarding agriculture. Responsibilities of the office include Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and World Trade Organization (WTO) Development Agenda (Doha) negotiations on agriculture and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, issues affecting trade in agricultural and food products, monitoring and enforcement of existing WTO and FTA commitments for agriculture, and WTO accession negotiations on agriculture market access. Prior to joining USTR, Ms. Bomer was Executive Vice President of the Food and Agriculture Section at the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) where she led BIO’s Food and Agriculture Section on public policy activities, including overseeing relationships with a wide range of international, federal, state and local entities.

Tom BUlS

Tom Buis joined Growth Energy in March 2009 as the CEO of the organization. Prior to joining Growth Energy, Buis was elected National Farmers Union’s 13th president. Buis had been with the organization since March 1998, previously serving as vice president of government relations. Buis served for nearly five years as senior agriculture policy advisor to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D. In addition, Buis worked for U.S. Rep. Jim Jontz, D-Ind., for nearly five years as legislative assistant and legislative director. He was also special assistant for agriculture to U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind. Before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1987, Buis was a full-time grain and livestock farmer in Putnam and Morgan Counties in West Central Indiana, with brothers Mike and Jeff, who continue to operate the family farm.

Stephanie BURGOS

Stephanie Burgos is a Senior Policy Advisor at Oxfam America, where she manages the policy portfolio on agriculture and trade. She has worked at Oxfam for nine years on a range of food security, agriculture and trade issues. Her prior experience includes working for the UNDP’s Bureau for Development Policy on macroeconomic policy and poverty eradication issues, as well as for the Inter-American Development Bank on capacity building in the area of social policy management. She also coordinated research on the impact of structural adjustment policies as part of an NGO advocacy initiative with the World Bank and spent several years working in Central America on human rights issues. She holds a BA in International Studies and an MA in International Development from American University in Washington, DC.

Harry DE GORTER

Harry de Gorter teaches and conducts research on the applied welfare economics and political economy of agricultural trade policy. Much of his recent work has been on biofuels and agricultural trade reform and the Doha Development Agenda, especially the impact of subsidies and protection on developing countries. His research is both theoretical and empirical with direct policy implications for governments, international institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Since early 2007, he has embarked on a massive research program on the social costs and benefits of biofuel policies, including implications for the environment. He is a leading expert on the policy economics of biofuels, has been involved with the Doha negotiations and WTO trade disputes concerning biofuel policies, and is currently advising the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Bank on the social costs and benefits of alternative biofuel policies.
In collaboration with:

Eugenio DIAZ-BONILLA

Mr. Eugenio DIAZ-BONILLA is an Argentine national and is the Executive Director for Argentina and Haiti at the Inter-American Development Bank. He has more than 30 years of professional experience as an economist, working with the public and private sector in different developing countries. He has been consultant and staff member with several international organizations: the World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), Organization of American States (OAS), and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). He has written extensively on economic development, trade, poverty and food security issues. He holds a degree in Economics from the Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina), a Master in International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Johns Hopkins University as well.

Robert DINEEN

Robert Dinneen is the President and CEO of the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), the leading trade association for America’s ethanol industry. As the ethanol industry’s lead lobbyist before the Congress and Administration, Bob has been instrumental in advancing policies that protect the environment, strengthen the U.S. economy, and promote energy independence. Prior to joining RFA, Bob worked in the U.S. Congress for various Representatives and congressional committees. Bob graduated from the Catholic University of America with a bachelor’s degree in political science.

Kimberly Ann ELLIOTT

Kimberly Ann Elliott is a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development and the author or co-author of numerous books and articles on trade policy and globalization, with a focus on the political economy of trade and the uses of economic leverage in international negotiations. From 2002 to 2003, she served on the National Academies Committee on Monitoring International Labor Standards, and in 2009 she was appointed to the USDA Consultative Group on the Elimination of Child Labor in U.S. Agricultural Imports. Elliott received a Master of Arts degree, with distinction, in security studies and international economics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (1984) and a Bachelor of Arts degree, with honors in political science, from Austin College (1982). In 2004, Austin College named her a distinguished alumna.

Amani ELOBEID

Amani Elobeid is the international sugar and ethanol analyst with the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at Iowa State University. Her FAPRI work centers on developing and maintaining the international sugar and ethanol models including updating estimates, and keeping track of the macroeconomic, domestic and trade policy environments. Elobeid’s research involvement has been in the areas of food security and food aid, international trade, and biofuels markets. Elobeid received a B.S. in economics from the University of Khartoum, Sudan, and an M.S. in economics from Iowa State University. She first came to Iowa State as a Fulbright Scholar and finished her Ph.D. in economics at ISU in 2001. Prior to joining FAPRI-CARD, Elobeid worked as an instructor in the Department of Economics and the Department of Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State.
Amb. ERWIDO

Erwidodo is Indonesia’s Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative in Charge of the World Trade Organization (WTO), starting from October 2008. In 2010, he was Chair of the Committee on Trade and Development, WTO and he is now serving as Chair of the Council for Trade in Services. From 1998 to 1999, he was Deputy Director for Research Program at the Centre for Agro-Socioeconomic Research, Ministry of Agriculture. From 1999 to 2001, he served as Director of the Centre for Social Economic Research on Forestry and Estate Crops, Ministry of Forestry and Estate Crops. In 2004, he was transferred to Ministry of Trade to serve as Director General of Trade Research and Development Agency (TREDA) until 2008. During the period of 2005-2008, he was also named as Vice Chairman of the National Tariff Team and Vice Chairman of the Negotiating Team on Agriculture, under the National Team for International Trade Negotiation.

Scott FABER

Scott Faber heads a team for the Environmental Working Group dealing with food and farm legislation, chemical Policies and other issues important to EWG. He has previously served as Vice-President for federal affairs for the Grocery Manufacturers Association, a food-and farm manager for the Environment Defense Fund and as a senior director for public policy for American Rivers.

Joseph GLAUBER

Joseph Glauber serves as Chief Economist at the Department of Agriculture (USDA). As Chief Economist, he is responsible for the Department’s agricultural forecasts and projections and for advising the Secretary of Agriculture on economic implications of alternative programs, regulations, and legislative proposals. He is responsible for the Office of the Chief Economist, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit analysis, the Global Change Program Office, and the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses.

Dan GLICKMAN

Dan Glickman served as the United States Secretary of Agriculture from 1995 until 2001. He serves as a Senior Fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center, where he focuses on public health, national security, and economic policy issues. He also co-chairs BPC’s Democracy Project and co-leads the center’s Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative. He also serves on the board of directors of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and the board of Friends of the World Food Program. He also serves on the Council on American Politics, which brings leaders from the forefront of today’s political and communications arena together to address issues facing the growth and enrichment of GW's Graduate School of Political Management where he also teaches courses.
Chandler GOULE

Chandler is the National Farmers Union's chief lobbyist and manages the NFU government relations department. He serves as the primary point of contact on all legislative matters for the organization. Chandler's portfolio issues include livestock, commodities, dairy, check-off programs, competitive practices, and biotechnology, aquaculture, trade and tax issues.

Mario JALES

Mario Jales is a Ph.D. candidate in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University. Formerly, he was project director and senior researcher at Brazil’s Institute for International Trade Negotiations (ICONE), research analyst at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and coordinator of the Brazilian Studies Program at Georgetown University. He has worked in consultancy projects for a number of international institutions, including the World Bank, OECD and FAO. Mr. Jales holds master degrees from Stanford University and Georgetown University.

Sallie JAMES

Sallie James is a policy analyst with Cato’s Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies. James writes and speaks on a variety of trade topics, with a research emphasis on the subject of agricultural trade policy. Before joining Cato in 2006, James was an executive officer in the Office of Trade Negotiations in the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, working on industrials market access negotiations. Prior to that she was a Senior Policy Adviser in the Australian Government’s Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. James received her Bachelor of Economics and Master of Economics degrees from the University of Adelaide, and her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Western Australia.

David MILLER

David Miller is the Assistant Deputy Administrator at the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Andrew NOVAKOVIC

Andrew Novakovic does applied research and has extension responsibilities that focus on the economics of dairy markets. Specific research interests are in marketing systems, federal and state market policies, the efficiency and performance of markets, interregional and international competition, transportation, and operations analysis. In 2010, Dr. Novakovic was named Chair of the first Dairy Industry Advisory Committee by Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack.

In addition to his primary focus on dairy markets, Dr. Novakovic provides extension support in the areas of agricultural and food policy, food markets, and agricultural trade policy.
Eric OLSEN

Eric Olsen is the Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy at Feeding America, the nation’s largest hunger-relief organization. Olsen is responsible for the coordination of all resources and research on issues of domestic hunger, public policy and related topics for Feeding America public policy initiatives, publications, and public education activity. Prior to his role at Feeding America, Olsen was Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Public Policy at Mars, Inc., the third largest food company in the world. He was responsible for public policy and stakeholder engagement on a variety of topics including health, nutrition, school nutrition, food safety and agricultural development.

David ORDEN

David Orden is a senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute and a professor of agricultural policy and trade at Virginia Tech University. His areas of interest are the political economy of agriculture, international trade policy, and the macroeconomic impacts on trade. His work also examines the determinants and effects of various technical barriers to international agricultural trade, and the resolution of trade disputes in the World Trade Organization. Dr. Orden has served as a visiting scholar at Stanford University and the University of New South Wales. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1984.

Miguel RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Miguel Rodriguez-Mendoza is currently a Senior Fellow in ICTSD. From 1999 to 2002, he served as Deputy Director-General of the WTO. Between late 2002 and the end of 2004, Mr. Rodriguez Mendoza led the Geneva office of Van Bael & Bellis, a Brussels-based international law firm that specializes in EU and international trade law. Between 1991 and 1994, he was Venezuela’s Minister of State and President of the Institute of Foreign Trade, Venezuela’s governmental body responsible for the country’s trade policies.

Amb. Ronald SABORIO SOTO

Mr Saborío has been the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) since 1992. In that capacity, he has participated in the GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda, and various other negotiations, as well as in the regular work of the multilateral trading system. He has been actively involved in the dispute settlement system of the WTO, as well as under the GATT. He has been a panellist in a number of cases. Since 2006 he is the Chairman of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body, Special Session. He has chaired other WTO regular and negotiating bodies since 1998.
Randy SCHNEPF

Randy has been an economist with the Agriculture and Food Section of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) at the Library of Congress since 2003. Randy has published extensively on agricultural and trade policy issues. Since joining CRS, Randy has worked on issues related to U.S. farm policy, agricultural transportation and commodity markets, agriculture-based renewable energy production and its impact on the agricultural sector, and agriculture in the WTO including trade disputes and the on-going Doha Round. Prior to joining CRS, Randy spent ten years with USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) Randy has a B.S. in economics from the Univ. of South Dakota, an M.S. in agricultural economics from the Univ. of Kentucky, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the Univ. of Minnesota. Randy is originally from Rock Rapids, Iowa.

Amb. S.B.C. SERVANSING

Mr. Shree Baboo Chekitan Servansing is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mauritius to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva, including the WTO. He is the Chief Negotiator of Mauritius for the WTO Doha Development Agenda Negotiations. He has served as Chair of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) for two terms in 2005 and 2006. He is also since 2007 the Chair of the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD). In this capacity, he also chairs the Dedicated Session of the CTD on Aid for Trade and the Work Programme on Small Economies. Ambassador Servansing is also the Coordinator of the ACP Group in Geneva.

Brian SIU

Brian Siu is an energy policy analyst with Natural Resources Defense Council’s air and energy program. His work focuses on clean fuels and climate policy. Prior to joining NRDC in 2007, he was a senior policy analyst at the Apollo Alliance, which promotes clean energy and energy efficiency as drivers of economic development. Brian received his JD from the University Of Florida Levin College Of Law.

Dale SKORIC

Dale Skoric is the Division Chief, Policy and Technical Division, at the USAID Office of Food for Peace.
Vincent H. Smith is a Visiting AEI Scholar and co-director of AEI’s agricultural policy initiative and a Professor of Economics in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University and co-director of MSU’s Agricultural Marketing Policy Center. He received his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in 1987 and his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Manchester in 1970 and 1971. Dr. Smith’s current research program examines agricultural trade and domestic policy issues, with a particular focus on agricultural insurance, agricultural science policy, domestic and world commodity markets, risk management, and agricultural trade policy. He has authored nine books and monographs and published over 100 articles on agricultural and other policy and economic issues. His work has been recognized nationally through multiple national awards for outstanding research programs. In 2008, he became a Distinguished Scholar of the Western Agricultural Economics Association.

Robert L. Thompson is a senior fellow of global agricultural development and food security at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research interests include: agricultural policy, trade and commodities, developing nations, food security, foreign aid and global poverty, globalization and rural development.

Dr. Thompson has served as director of rural development at the World Bank, president and CEO of the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, assistant secretary for economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and senior staff economist for food and agriculture at the Council of Economic Advisers. He received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Purdue University.

Darci Vetter is Deputy Under-Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at USDA. Before joining USDA, she served as an International Trade Advisor on the Democratic Staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance. Prior to her work on the Finance Committee, Darci spent six years at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), most recently as Director for Agricultural Affairs. Darci also served as the Director for Sustainable Development in USTR’s environment office. Darci received her Master of Public Affairs degree and a Certificate in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton, and her undergraduate degree from Drake University in Des Moines. She grew up in Nebraska on a family farm.

Eric J. Wailes has been a faculty member in the Department since 1980. He conducts research on agricultural policy, trade, and marketing, with an emphasis on the rice sector. Current research activities include analysis of U.S. and global agricultural policies on Arkansas agriculture; U.S. farm bill (price and income support policies, environmental policy, trade policy, energy policy, biotechnology policy); social acceptability of biotechnology, adoption of biotechnology by farmers; marketing and policy issues of organic foods; economic-engineering analysis of grain drying and storage and rice milling; economics of groundwater depletion and water quality issues in Arkansas; analysis of Arkansas, U.S. and global rice economy, long-term projections, market and policy analysis. He teaches courses in marketing and policy. Dr. Wailes is a native of Colorado where he was raised on a cash crop and dairy farm.
Bob YOUNG

Bob joined American Farm Bureau Federation in 2003 as the Chief Economist, coordinating the activities of the Economic Analysis Team. Specializing in the analysis of global agricultural policy, Dr Young came to Farm Bureau from the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute or FAPRI where he was Co-Director from 1991 through 2003. Bob also served as an associate professor in Agricultural Economics at the University of Missouri. Bob has a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri, with a B.S. and M.S. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Missouri as well.

Carl ZULAUF

Carl Zulauf is a professor of agricultural economics at Ohio State University. His areas of expertise are agricultural policy and commodity futures and options markets. Currently, he is involved in research on farm policy that revolves around the analysis of the impact of changing farm programs from a price support basis to a gross revenue basis; and the interrelationship between farm income support programs and crop insurance. His present research on futures and options markets is focused on the supply of storage. Dr. Zulauf received his B.A. and M.S. degrees from Ohio State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University.