

# COP10 News

PANAMA 5 - 10 February 2024

## ITGA Daily Activities

With WHO FCTC COP10 coming to an end on Saturday, 10 February, this will be our last daily bulletin covering the event. More updates will be shared during the week starting 12 February, highlighting important conclusions.

The presence of ITGA President José Javier Aranda during COP10 in Panama has been crucial in addressing major issues. These include the potential danger to millions of farmers of targeting tobacco production as a means of reducing consumption.

More information about ITGA President's final impressions will follow. ITGA will be also releasing a report on COP10 conclusions including some key first hand insights.

In 2024, ITGA has scheduled meetings in Brazil, Zambia and USA. Follow us to get the latest updates about tobacco growers from around the world:

<https://www.tobaccoleaf.org/sustainability/cop10/>

<https://twitter.com/TobaccoGrowers>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/itga-tobaccoleaf>

## Fifth Day Impressions

- The Saturday Journal of FCTC shed more light on the issue of Articles 9 and 10 (Regulation of contents and disclosure of tobacco products): "Following a lengthy discussion concerning the recommendations made by the Bureau in document FCTC/COP/10/5 with respect to the future work of the Working Group on Articles 9 and 10 of the WHO FCTC and the proposed establishment of an expert group, no consensus was reached. The Chair called on the Convention Secretariat to propose a way forward. In keeping with Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, and past practice of the Conference of the Parties, it was suggested that the agenda item could be included in the provisional agenda of the next regular session of the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties agreed to the proposal and the agenda item was closed."
- Still many additional points of interest are likely to receive an update in the final day of COP10, which will occur after the release of this bulletin. In ITGA's post COP10 releases will highlight all relevant points to tobacco growers.

## Event Highlights

On 9 February, two side events took place:

- *Innovative Financing Mechanisms to Strengthen WHO FCTC Implementation*, organized by Thailand and Panama
- *Addressing big tobacco influence: advertising, marketing and promotional tactics used by tobacco industry to target youth*, organized by European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP)

## ITGA in USA

### Burley Stabilization Corporation (BSC):

In 1953, Tennessee burley growers organized BSC to serve growers in Tennessee. BSC played an important role in the administration of the Federal Tobacco Program for more than 50 years. That program provided for stable prices by adjusting supplies each year.

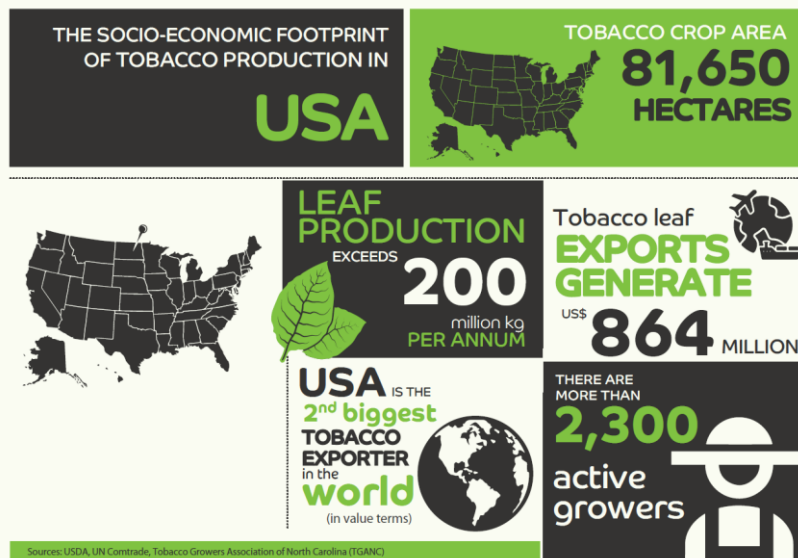
Nowadays, BSC is committed to grower sustainability through transparent business operations and the support of educational and research programs, and the implementation of good agricultural practices (GAP).

This commitment focuses on economic viability, safe labour practices, and respect for the environment.

### Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina (TGANC):

Founded in 1982, the TGANC is a non-profit agricultural organization based in Raleigh and is governed by a member elected board of directors.

Its mission is to advocate for success in farming tobacco through the promotion of sound policies, scientific research, strong advocacy, education and marketing for its farm members.



## Socio-economic impact of tobacco growing in USA

Tobacco cultivation in USA began in 1600. It is mostly grown in the Southern regions of the country. North Carolina is the biggest tobacco producing state, followed by Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina and Pennsylvania. Tobacco remains the top cash crop in North Carolina to this day.

Notably, USA is the second biggest tobacco exporter in the world. Local growers are proud of producing the highest quality crop in the world.

## Key Takeaways: Toolkit for Article 17 of WHO FCTC

“But the key consideration is that the industry-backed front groups that include tobacco growers’ associations must be excluded from policy-making, and legitimate groups included.”

*Toolkit for Article 17 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, p. 62*

<https://fctc.who.int/publications/m/item/toolkit-for-article-17-of-the-who-framework-convention-on-tobacco-control>

ITGA comment: How exactly is the WHO the organization to decide which growers’ representatives are legitimate and which ones are not?

Some of ITGA member associations are older than the WHO itself and bring unparalleled expertise and knowledge. These organizations have proven themselves in the span of many decades. They are democratically elected and have been crucial in the development of rural communities across the entire world.



## COP10 in the News

### Past WHO Officials Highlight Harm Reduction Strategy

Harm reduction should be a central strategy of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in addition to the measures for demand and supply reduction, according to Robert Beaglehole and Ruth Bonita.

Writing in *The Lancet*, the two former World Health Organization directors argue that while the FCTC has been influential in encouraging a global response to tobacco control, it has been challenging to show a strong and consistent association between the implementation of FCTC measures and smoking prevalence and cigarette consumption outcomes.

The authors acknowledge that there is understandable skepticism about the motives of the tobacco industry in selling smoke-free products while continuing to expand tobacco markets in low-income and middle-income countries. To remain profitable, they say, the tobacco industry will eventually need to migrate its global business to less harmful alternatives since cigarettes will no longer monopolize the delivery of nicotine.

The focus, they insist, must remain on the central public health problem—the damaging health effects of tobacco consumption. “Reducing cigarette smoking is the most effective way to prevent tobacco-related deaths and tobacco harm reduction is the fastest and fairest way to lower smoking prevalence”.

<https://tobaccoreporter.com/2024/02/09/former-who-officials-highlight-harm-reduction-as-key-strategy/>

## COP10 Coverage

### The Brazilian proposal at COP10 that seeks to reduce environmental impacts of the tobacco industry goes to the final plenary this Saturday

The Brazilian delegation, together with Ecuador and Panama, presented a draft decision to update Article 18 of the FCTC treaty. The agenda was debated and already approved in preparatory meetings for COP10 taking place in Panama City.

The text will be put to a final vote in the plenary session on Saturday, the closing day of the World Health Organization (WHO) event. The proposal addresses environmental protection actions. Among the measures included in the draft are actions for discussion and reporting, including the possible liability of the tobacco industry for damages caused to the environment, and for adverse effects on the health of workers involved in cultivation and manufacturing.

Another point that should appear in Brazil's proposal is to promote legal actions that can deal with plastic waste from tobacco products and electronic devices. The proposal also suggests regulatory analysis to be submitted to COP11, proposing prevention and management of waste generated by the industry and its products, including the ban on plastic filters for cigarettes.

<https://olajornal.com.br/projeto-do-brasil-na-cop10-que-busca-reduzir-impactos-ambientais-da-industria-do-tabaco-vai-para-a-plenaria-final-neste-sabado/>

