



INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY

Emerging issues on food and the Trans Atlantic Free Trade Agreement

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On the horizon or in our food

- Nanotechnology in food and food packaging
- Controversial food additives
- Local foods on the table?



Food safety standards in trade

- Sanitary & Phytosanitary Standards at WTO
 - Codex Alimentarius
- “Beyond” WTO
 - TPP Rapid Response Mechanism
 - Merging US and EU standards
- Side letters in existing trade agreements
 - US Peru on meat safety standards



Nanotechnology in our food?

- US: titanium dioxide in donuts (As You Sow)
- Germany: nanosilver cutting board
- China: ultrasonic fruit and vegetable cleaner
 - The inventory now includes 1,317 products, and has grown 521% since March 2006. Europe has overtaken East Asia as the second greatest contributor of manufacturer-identified nanotechnology-enabled consumer products, though the USA still contributes the most.

Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies



Precautionary Principle

- When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.
- No health and safety data, no market.



Finding a new path on standards

- Slow movement at FDA
 - not Generally Recognized As Safe
 - Bias toward economic benefits
- European Food Safety Authority guidance
- EU Public Consultation on nanomaterials
 - **Imperative use of precautionary principle**



Controversial food additives

- Dubious additives
 - Bovine Growth Hormone
 - Chlorine rinses for poultry
 - Ractopamine
 - Controversy at Codex
 - Danish pork industry changes
 - Banned in China



Local foods on the table?

- EU goals to include procurement at all levels, for all goods, for all sectors
 - Beyond GPA, coverage of states and cities
 - Farm to school programs?
 - Buy local programs?



End run around global rules

