

INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO GROWERS' ASSOCIATION (ITGA)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the ITGA? Who does the ITGA represent?¹

- Despite its name, ITGA really represents the interests of transnational tobacco companies rather than those of tobacco farmers.
- ITGA's main supporters are international cigarette and tobacco leaf companies, including Alliance One International, British American Tobacco, Imperial Tobacco International, Japan Tobacco International, Philip Morris International and Universal Leaf.² ITGA acts as a 'front group' for the tobacco industry: it is funded and directed by the tobacco companies to influence policy makers and block lifesaving tobacco control measures.^{3,4}
- ITGA seeks to advance the global interests of transnational tobacco companies by arguing that the World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) puts the livelihoods of millions of growers at risk; however, ITGA does nothing to help tobacco farmers and farm workers trapped in cycles of poverty and debt bondage because of the industry's exploitative tobacco buying practices and unfair contracts.
- ITGA maintains branches in Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Croatia, Dominican Republic, USA, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Korea, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.⁵

Why is the ITGA excluded from deliberations of the WHO FCTC?

- The FCTC is an international treaty that obligates the 178 Parties to protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke. Parties have agreed that the interests of the tobacco industry are in direct conflict with tobacco control objectives and that Parties are obligated to protect tobacco control policy from tobacco industry interference arising from this conflict. As a result, the tobacco industry and tobacco affiliated organizations like the ITGA should not be allowed to participate in FCTC negotiations.

For additional information and to share local news and achievements relevant to tobacco farming, contact: editor@fctc.org

1. For more information see Tobacco Industry Front Group: The International Tobacco Growers' Association: http://www.fctc.org/images/stories/ITGA_fact_sheet_CTFK_1111.pdf. 2. International Tobacco Growers' Association. Supporter members. 2014. Available from: <http://www.tobaccoleaf.org/conteudos/default.asp?ID=13&IDP=3&P=3>. 3. Bloxidge JA. International Tobacco Growers' Association (ITGA) (internal industry document.) INFOTAB. 1988. Bates No. 502555416-7. <http://legacy.library.ucsf.edu/tid/sik47a99>. McDaniel PA, Intinarelli G, Malone RE. Tobacco industry issues management organizations: Creating a global corporate network to undermine public health. Global Health. 2008;4:2. Must E. International Tobacco Growers' Association (ITGA). ITGA uncovered: Unraveling the spin- the truth behind the claims. 2001. Available from: <http://www.healthbridge.ca/assets/images/pdf/Tobacco/Publications/itgabr.pdf>. African farmers fear tobacco curb "catastrophe". Reuters; 2010 November 4 [cited 2011 September 20]; Available from: <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E6A30CT20101104?sp=true>. 4. Assunta M. Tobacco industry's ITGA fights FCTC implementation in the Uruguay negotiations; Tob Control 2012;21:6 563-568 Published Online First: 26 May 2012 doi:10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2011-050222. 5. International Tobacco Growers' Association. Member countries. 2014. Available from: http://www.tobaccoleaf.org/members_countries/default.asp?ID=3&IDP=3&P=3

