

FAS Tackles Sustainable Packaging

Andrew Stephens
Senior Trade Advisor
Foreign Agricultural Service
Andrew.Stephens@usda.gov

What is FAS Doing?

- UN Plastic Agreement Negotiations
 - Department of State leads an interagency negotiating team
- WTO engagement
 - With Commerce and USTR:
 - Notify and Comment in TBT Committee
 - Plastic Packaging in TBT Thematic Session 2023
- Virtual Stakeholder Learning Agenda
 Briefing the U.S. Government Interagency
- USDA GAIN Reports: Single Topic, and New FAIRS sub-section for packaging sustainability measures

FAS-Funded Partnerships:

Nearly \$1 Million in Funding for:

 Farm Foundation: US-EU Dialogue on Practical Solutions to Circularity

 MSU/SOP: Technical Assessment of US Export Packaging

 USDA/ARS: Bioplastics Research for Home-Compostable PLU Stickers







Bioproducts Research: Albany, CA

What's Next?

Finish FY22 TASC \$200,000 to develop compostable PLU stickers to meet French packaging regulations

FY23 TASC \$900,000 for "Food safe antimicrobial coating for reusable packaging to alleviate specialty crop export barriers to the EU"

Forward looking engagement: Farm Foundation Dialogue, FAO Committee on Agriculture, UNEA Negotiations to reduce plastic waste, EU REACH legislation