



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
(601) 359-1163 / cell: (662) 312-5897
Paige@mdac.ms.gov

Hannah East, Marketing Specialist
(601) 359-1179
HannahE@mdac.ms.gov

Ag Commissioner Gipson Elected President of the Southern U.S. Trade Association

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson was elected to serve as President of the Southern U.S. Trade Association. SUSTA works cooperatively with the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service to facilitate trade between local U.S. food companies and international buyers.

"I am honored that my colleagues have invested their trust in me to serve in this leadership role to promote and expand international marketing opportunities for southern food and agricultural companies. SUSTA provides small- and medium-sized food and agriculture businesses unique opportunities, including financial assistance, to explore new markets and meet foreign buyers," said Commissioner Gipson.

SUSTA, headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana, is one of four non-profit State Regional Trade Groups that promote U.S. food and agricultural exports. SUSTA is comprised of 14 southern State Departments of Agriculture, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Spanning over four decades, SUSTA offers programs and services to assist small to medium-sized companies in the region with exporting high value food and agricultural products.

Companies interested in learning more about SUSTA's global events program and cost-share program can find additional information by visiting SUSTA.org or contacting Susan Lawrence at susan@mdac.ms.gov.