

PRINCIPLES FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE RULES AND JOINT DEMANDS FOR THE DOHA AGENDA

We, the representatives of farmers, farm groups and civil society organizations from Canada, Brazil, India, and countries throughout Africa, met in Ottawa on May 16, 2005 to establish common ground for advocacy on international agricultural trade. In the spirit of the Dakar Declaration, we share a strong interest in preserving and promoting producer-led orderly marketing mechanisms such as supply management, collective marketing, farmer cooperatives and single desk selling, which are currently under threat for all countries in the Doha negotiations.

We believe that:

1. Trade rules must allow governments to protect the livelihoods of family farmers and small scale producers.
 - Trade rules must allow for national policy flexibility, including border measures, to support and protect domestic agricultural development.
 - Countries must be allowed to defend themselves from below average cost of production imports.
 - Trade rules must not undermine the ability of governments to implement their human rights obligations including the right at an adequate standard of living and the right to food.
2. Trade rules must permit policies that guarantee a fair return for family farmers and small scale producers including the costs of production, labour and investment.
 - Trade rules must allow for national policy measures that boost farmers' power in the market place, including supply management, single desk selling, and other forms of producer-led collective marketing and distribution.
 - Farmers must be given the necessary legislation, infrastructure and recognition to counteract the concentration of corporate power that dominates international agricultural markets.
 - Trade rules must allow for the development of international supply management agreements to stabilize prices for export commodities.
3. Trade rules must respect and allow policies supporting the diversity of local agricultural systems provided they don't result in dumping on international markets.
 - Trade rules must allow for government measures to address consumers concerns including health and environmental preferences (e.g. labeling).
 - Governments must be allowed to provide farmers with tools that help them organize collectively.
 - The pursuit of local production for local consumption must be recognized as a legitimate policy option for national agricultural plans.

- Trade related intellectual property rights must not undermine farmers' rights to save, exchange and re-use seeds.
4. Trade rules must ensure fairness and equity in international markets.
 - Direct and indirect export subsidies must be urgently eliminated.
 - Trade rules must reflect the different levels of development of member countries.
 - Trade rules must end dumping of agricultural goods on world markets and provide flexibility for states to use tools to protect themselves from such dumping.
 - Governments must agree to means to enforce greater transparency on transnational corporate actors with respect to their internal pricing, as well as rules to address corporate concentration.
 5. International trade negotiations must be transparent and allow for meaningful participation of all countries.
 - Governments must reject a process driven by a small number of countries, including Green Rooms and mini-ministerials, and insist on a process and timeframe that permits the participation of all members.
 - There must be no trade-offs between agriculture and other sectors.
 - Governments must undertake effective consultations with all sectors of their societies to ensure democratic process.

Canadian Council for International Cooperation - Canadian Foodgrains Bank - Canadian Broiler Hatching Egg Marketing Agency - Canadian Egg Marketing Agency - Chicken Farmers of Canada - Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency - Dairy Farmers of Canada - Inter Pares - Federacao dos trabalhadores na Agricultura Familiar da Regiao Sul/CUT (Fetraf-Sul/CUT) - National Farmers Union - Oxfam Canada - Rights & Democracy - Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) - Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs agricoles de l'Afrique de l'ouest (ROPPA) - L'Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) - UPA Développement international

Joint Declaration from Sustainable Farm Livelihoods, North and South - Policy Options under Threat at the WTO, a Roundtable and Learning Exchange. May 12-18, 2005