WTO Agriculture Negotiations
Presentation to CATPRN

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Canada
WTO Agriculture Negotiations

• Recent Progress
  – draft modalities paper (July 2007)
  – intensive negotiations over the fall of 2007
  – working papers (late December/early January 2008)
  – WTO Members focused on closing gaps
  – Chair’s revised modalities text (February 8, 2008)
Canada’s Trade Policy Objectives

• Canada continues to press for an ambitious outcome, beneficial to all of Canadian agriculture
  – elimination of all forms of export subsidies
  – substantial reduction of, and disciplines on trade-distorting domestic support
  – real and significant improvements in market access

• Canada is very active in Geneva
  – working closely with others (e.g. Cairns Group)
  – key role in advancing technical discussions, particularly on market access
Export Competition

• Negotiations focused on:
  – Export Subsidies
    • elimination by end of 2013 – Hong Kong Declaration
  – Export credit
    • eliminate repayment periods beyond 180 days
    • self financing – reflecting market conditions
  – Food Aid
    • “safe box” for emergency situations
    • disciplines to be negotiated on in-kind food aid, monetization, etc…
  – State Trading Enterprises (STEs)
    • Canadian Wheat Board (CWB)
Domestic Support

• Negotiations focused on:
  – Substantial reductions:
    • a harmonizing approach
    • biggest subsidizers make the largest cuts
  – Strengthened disciplines
    • Blue Box (cap on spending)
    • Green Box (technical changes)
    • product-specific caps
  – Monitoring and surveillance
Market Access

• Negotiations focused on:
  – tariff reduction formula
  – sensitive products
  – other issues:
    ▪ Special Products
    ▪ Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) and Special Safeguard (SSG)
    ▪ in-quota tariff reductions
    ▪ tariff escalation
    ▪ tariff simplification
    ▪ TRQ administration
• Sensitive Products
  
  – Selection
  
  • consensus developing around 4-6% of lines (Canada needs over 7%)

  – Treatment
  
  • broad support for some degree of over quota tariff cuts and TRQ expansion (Canada remains opposed)
  • TRQ expansion based on domestic consumption
  • partial designation approach to determine domestic consumption on a tariff line basis
Next Steps

• Concluding the Round
  – efforts to advance negotiations, close gaps
    • discussions in Geneva on Chair’s text
    • horizontal process (Agriculture, NAMA, Services, Rules)
  – agreement on modalities?
    • possible Ministerial (late March/April 2008)
  – resolution of remaining Doha agenda issues
    • NAMA, Rules, Services, others
  – post-modalities
    • negotiation of schedules, legal drafting
    • finalization of agreement