



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada



# WTO Agriculture Negotiations Presentation to CATPRN

Toronto, Ontario  
February 9, 2008

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

## Market Access (cont'd)

- 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



Canada 