



## CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD TRADE ALLIANCE

Suite 308 151 Slater Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3

Tel: (613) 560-0500 Fax: (613) 236-3590

[www.cafta.org](http://www.cafta.org) email: [office@cafta.org](mailto:office@cafta.org)

### Release of modalities text provides solid basis for WTO negotiation - some call for more ambition

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The release of Ambassador Crawford Falconer's working text on modalities provides a strong foundation for negotiating a successful conclusion to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Doha Round. While the text provides some momentum for the coming months, a strong commitment from Canada and other trading nations is essential to move this text towards an agreement that will provide meaningful gains in international trade.

"Canadian agriculture and agri-food exporters have been looking forward to the release of this text," said Alanna Koch, President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA). "The opportunity to gain improved access to international markets will provide significant benefits to Canadian agri-food producers. While there are still many details to be worked out to ensure there are gains for the wide range of Canadian agri-food products, CAFTA strongly supports continued negotiation towards an ambitious outcome.

"As the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest agriculture and food exporter, Canada has a lot at stake in this round. Over 90% of Canada's farms produce products that are dependent on international markets," said Koch. "For these farmers and the entire agri-food chain, a healthy export market is critical to their future viability."

"As an organization, we are dedicated to liberalizing international trade through meaningful reductions in trade distorting barriers," said Keith Lancastle, Executive Director of CAFTA. "This commitment is something we share with agriculture and agri-food groups in Canada and internationally – including the Cairns Group Farm Leaders".

Over the next few days, CAFTA will be examining and reviewing the text in greater detail and CAFTA representatives will travel to Geneva next week to press the need for a successful conclusion to the Doha Round.

"Our plans for next week include meetings with a number of missions and WTO officials," said Lancastle. "We want to ensure the perspective of Canada's agricultural and agri-food exporters are heard at this important phase".

"We have an opportunity to make a real difference, here in Canada and around the world, through a successful conclusion to the Doha Round," said Koch. "We believe it is time for substantive action to reduce – and ultimately eliminate – trade distorting barriers."

*The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance represents producers, processors and exporters of agriculture and agri-food products, as well as suppliers of agricultural inputs. Accounting for over 80% of Canada's agriculture and food exports, and more than 60% of farm cash receipts, CAFTA's members are united in their dependence on trade, and in their need for a liberalized international trading environment.*

For further information please contact:

Alanna Koch, CAFTA President – (306) 771-2686 or (306) 537-8313

Keith Lancastle, CAFTA Executive Director – (613) 560-0500 or (613) 794-5352