

Agri-Food Exporters Welcome Launch of Trade Negotiations with Indonesia

June 21, 2021

Dan Darling, President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) today issued the following statement regarding the launch of trade talks between Canada and Indonesia.

“We welcome the launch of talks with Indonesia which gives a major boost to Canada’s trade diversification efforts.

“Indonesia is Canada’s largest agriculture and agri-food export market in Southeast Asia. It represents about 35% of the region’s GDP and is also one of the most dynamic and fastest growing economies in Asia.

“Trade can play a leading role in driving global economic recovery, so Canada’s agri-good exporters are pleased to see the federal government working to continue to open new markets.

“Our members have long supported strengthening and deepening Canada’s presence in dynamic and fast-growing Asia-Pacific markets. Trade negotiations with Indonesia can serve as a positive steppingstone toward a Canada-ASEAN agreement which we believe should be Canada’s top trade priority in Southeast Asia.

“We are hopeful that Indonesia can play a key role in working with other ASEAN countries to finally launch comprehensive Canada-ASEAN trade talks.

“The post-pandemic global economy is going to be more competitive than ever before. Therefore, it is vital that Canada work to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to opening new markets for our export-reliant industries including agriculture and agri-food.

“Canada’s agri-food sector looks forward to working closely with the federal government to ensure Canada’s export interests are secured in these negotiations.”

– 30 –

CAFTA is the voice of Canadian agriculture and agri-food exporters, representing the 90% of farmers who depend on trade and the ranchers, producers, processors and agri-food exporters who want to grow the economy through better access to international markets. This includes the beef, pork, meat, grains, cereals, pulses, soybeans, canola as well as the sugar, malt, and processed food industries. The sectors CAFTA represents support over a million jobs in urban and rural communities across Canada.

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