

ANNEX 1 - INVENTORY OF CANADA-MEXICO RELATIONS

AGRICULTURE

Major Agreements

MOU on Agricultural Cooperation

Arrangement on Agriculture and Livestock Cooperation (amendment to MOU)

North American Plant Protection Agreement (incl. USA)

MOU in Animal Health Field

Seed Potato Agreement (under re-negotiation)

Major Interlocutors

Canada:

Agriculture Canada

Department of Human Resources

Industry Canada

DFAIT

Mexico:

Ministry of Agriculture (SAGDR)

Ministry of International Trade (SECOFI)

Council on Science and Technology (CONACYT)

Ministry of External Affairs (SRE)

Extent and Mechanisms of Cooperation

Agricultural cooperation has been largely influenced by NAFTA. The variety of working groups and committees which are the offspring of NAFTA form an important part of DFAIT's Canada-Mexico contact. DFAIT, through the Agriculture and Resource Trade Policy division (EAA) meets regularly with representatives from the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (SAGDR) through the NAFTA Agriculture Committees and Working Groups. The significant committees with an agricultural focus include:

NAFTA Committee on Agricultural Trade

NAFTA Working Group on Agricultural Subsidies

NAFTA Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Disputes

NAFTA Working Group on Grade and Marketing Standards

The Canadian Government deals with Mexico through the trade and policy offices of SAGDR; through the Agricultural Trade Offices within SECOFI and through the Mexican Embassy in Ottawa; these contacts are generally managed jointly by DFAIT and Agriculture Canada.

Marketing of agricultural products and questions of market access are conducted through DFAIT trade divisions and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (Food Production and Inspection Branch). Contact with Mexico consists principally of technical-level discussions at the NAFTA Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee and at the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). Recently, contacts have centred on the issue of access to the Mexican market by Canadian seed-potato growers.