

ensure that market access and subsidy commitments negotiated during the Uruguay Round are fully implemented through our participation in the monitoring process of the WTO's Committee on Agriculture. This process will continue throughout 2001. Canada's objective is to strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system for agriculture and to secure binding commitments to reduce support and protection, in order to realize a fair and market oriented agricultural trading system. Common rules that apply to all countries are important to enhance Canada's access to world markets, not only for bulk agricultural commodities, which accounts for 27 percent of our agri-food exports, but also for the consumer-oriented and intermediate products that now contribute, respectively, 50 percent and 23 percent of our agri-food exports. Commitments to reduce support and protection will ensure a more level playing field so that Canadian producers can compete on their comparative advantage, not against foreign treasuries.

The Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture provided a mandate for WTO Members to start new agricultural negotiations in 2000. The negotiations are taking place in special sessions of the WTO Committee on Agriculture, whose Members have agreed on a work program for the first phase of the negotiations from March 2000 to March 2001. To date, some 32 negotiating proposals or submissions have been discussed during meetings in June, September and November 2000 and February 2001, prior to a stock-taking to conclude the first phase of the negotiations in March 2001.

In the negotiations, Canada is pursuing the objectives set out in the initial negotiating position announced on August 19, 1999 by Minister Pettigrew and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief. Canada has submitted proposals on market access and domestic support, and has joined the Cairns Group in submitting proposals consistent with its initial negotiating position on domestic support, export competition and export restrictions and taxes. In the agriculture negotiations, Canada will be pursuing:

- the elimination of all export subsidies as quickly as possible, and the development of rules to ensure that export credits, certain types of food

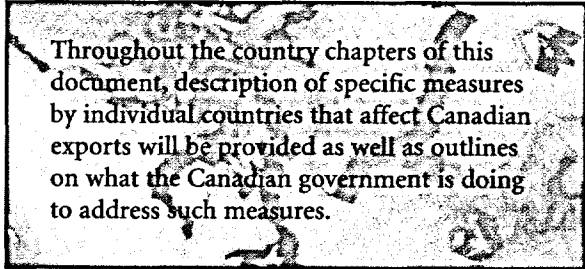
aid or other forms of export assistance do not circumvent export subsidy commitments;

- the maximum possible reduction, or elimination, of trade-distorting domestic support, and an overall cap on all forms of domestic support;
- real and substantial improvements in market access for all agriculture and food products through a variety of approaches; and
- new disciplines on export restrictions and taxes.

The key themes underlying Canada's initial negotiating position are: to level the international playing field; to maintain Canada's ability to continue orderly marketing systems such as supply management and the Canadian Wheat Board; to secure greater market access for value-added products, and to develop clear, enforceable trade rules applying equally to all countries. The negotiating position was developed through an extensive consultation process with the provinces, the agri-food industry and civil society. As the negotiations proceed, the government continues this dialogue with Canadians.

### Technical Barriers to Trade

Canada's objective is to ensure that standards and regulatory measures which exist in other WTO Member economies relating to goods are put in place to meet legitimate objectives and do not unjustifiably discriminate against Canadian products<sup>5</sup>. Such measures include mandatory technical regulations, voluntary standards, and conformity-assessment procedures that determine whether a product meets the requirements of a particular regulation or standard.



Throughout the country chapters of this document, description of specific measures by individual countries that affect Canadian exports will be provided as well as outlines on what the Canadian government is doing to address such measures.

<sup>5</sup> Legitimate objectives include human, plant, and animal life and health, human safety, prevention of deceptive practices, national security requirements, and the environment.