

Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Hungary. Together, these countries account for 25 per cent of world agricultural exports and represent 500 million people.

The Cairns Group, which was formed just before the Uruguay Round was launched in September 1986, has proved to be an effective bargaining coalition. In July, the Group tabled a proposal in the GATT, recommending both short-term and longer-term measures to reduce restrictions to trade.

Success in dealing with these issues is critical to the Uruguay Round. Canada has brought international attention to the need for agricultural trade reform at meetings of the Cairns Group; at the Economic Summits in Tokyo, Venice and Toronto; at meetings of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); and at every other international trade forum in which Canadian ministers and officials have participated.

Canada will only accept commitments which take into account the specific needs of the Canadian agricultural sector and which are fair and equivalent to those accepted by other major participants. These commitments would not prevent participants from supporting their agricultural sectors so long as such support does not distort trade.

The livelihood of Canadian farmers depends on multilateral solutions to the pressing problems of international trade in agricultural products. Canada is working hard to achieve these solutions in the Uruguay Round.