

open their high-cost market to imports of agricultural products from other countries. Canada and many other producing countries have found themselves forced to participate in the costly and unpredictable competition for markets.

Over the past few years, there has been growing agreement by the world trading community on the urgent need for collective reform in the agricultural area through the MTN. Canada has been influential in shaping this consensus by seeking:

- the inclusion of agriculture on the agenda of the Economic Summits of 1986, 1987 and 1988;
- consultations among the major wheat exporting countries;
- agreed proposals for action through the Cairns Group of developed and developing agricultural exporting countries;
- the inclusion in the Uruguay Round, for the first time in GATT negotiations, of all agricultural policies affecting trade, including trade-distorting subsidies; and
- the publication of a major OECD study on agricultural policies and trade, and the adoption by OECD Ministers of a set of principles for international agricultural trade reform.

The Toronto Economic Summit in June 1988 gave strong political impetus to the Uruguay Round negotiations and supported efforts to adopt a framework approach to promote agricultural reform.

In the Uruguay Round, Canada is working hard to improve the prospects of Canadian farmers by supporting proposals for a more equitable and stable trading environment, particularly through the reduction of trade-distorting subsidies and improved and more secure market access.