

Chinese Taipei has begun implementing market access terms negotiated with Canada and other WTO members in both goods and services. These include tariff elimination or reductions for so called zero-for-zero, or tariff harmonization, goods such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, paper and medical devices. Chinese Taipei had already signed on to the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), agreeing to full tariff elimination on IT products. Canadian suppliers have gained more secure and open access for these and other industrial priorities, including plywood and aerospace products. Canadian suppliers' access to the Chinese Taipei market for automobiles remains favourable, as Chinese Taipei proceeds with the liberalization of its import regime in this sector.

Access has also improved for a range of agricultural, agri-food and fish and seafood products, including meat products, grains, oilseeds and processed foods. Accession means equitable and more open access for suppliers of canola oil and beef. The dismantling of earlier import prohibitions on products such as meat offal and several fish products, including mackerel, sardines and herring, was begun before accession and has now been fully implemented.

In services, Chinese Taipei has included commitments in areas of prime interest to Canada, including financial services, basic and advanced telecommunications services and professional services.

Chinese Taipei has also applied to join the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement, and has agreed to market access concessions in the agreement for some key sectors of interest to Canada. It has also given assurances that public tendering procedures will be fair and transparent and that a mechanism will exist for suppliers to challenge the consistency of procurement actions with the agreement.

Market Access Results in 2002

- Access was achieved for greenhouse peppers from B.C. after Chinese Taipei declared the province to be pest-free (or equivalent thereof) for tobacco blue mould.

Canada's Market Access Priorities for 2003

- Monitor Chinese Taipei's compliance with its WTO accession commitments, as they affect access for products of interest to Canadian firms.

- Encourage the accession of Chinese Taipei to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement.
- Continue technical discussions with Chinese Taipei on greenhouse tomatoes.
- Continue to press for a prescriptive building code for softwood lumber.
- Continue to press for recognition by Chinese Taipei of the equivalency of Canadian and U.S. quality control regimes for medical devices.
- Continue to press for advance notification of any changes in Chinese Taipei's regulations affecting trade in agricultural products.

IMPROVING ACCESS FOR TRADE IN GOODS

Greenhouse Tomatoes

In its efforts to develop export markets, the Canadian greenhouse vegetable industry has indicated that Chinese Taipei is a priority market. Canada is seeking access to the Chinese Taipei market for greenhouse-grown tomatoes from British Columbia. Chinese Taipei insists on restricting imports of tomatoes, unless they can be certified as originating from an area free from potato late blight type A-2, a disease to which tomatoes are susceptible and which is found around the world. Canada maintains that simply certifying that the fruit is free from A-2 late blight should be sufficient. However, following an October 2002 visit to B.C. by a Taiwanese plant health specialist, plant health specialists from both countries agreed that a greenhouse could be considered an "area" of production and declared free from A-2 late blight. Canada is requesting that Chinese Taipei accept this recommendation.

Consultations on Regulatory Changes in Agriculture

Canada has expressed concerns to the Board of Foreign Trade about the lack of prior consultation on changes to regulations affecting the import of food products. For example, in 2002, a change in the application of import regulations on live seafood (e.g. lobster) was implemented without prior notification to foreign trade offices or importers. This change disrupted the import of highly perishable live lobsters from Canada.