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A wide range of commodities are often grouped together under horticulture. Some of the specific commodity items in horticulture will benefit, some will be generally unaffected and some will face adjustment as a result of the Agreement (e.g., grapes). It is also evident that the impact of the Agreement will not be uniform in all regions of Canada. Tariff and non-tariff barrier removal over a period of time will bring about a number of positive changes for some horticulture commodities by virtue of reduced input costs and less costly access to the U.S. market. Both fresh and processed potato products are likely to find a larger market in the United States, which will benefit the Maritimes. Cole crops, including broccoli, brussels sprouts and cauliflower, will be in a stronger position as U.S. tariffs are significant and are considered to be a deterrent to increased sales. Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes will benefit from increased cole crop production.

Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes will also benefit from expanded sales of such fresh vegetables as cabbage, carrots, onions, onion sets and sweet corn. Cucumber (English type) sales from greenhouse production will increase in Ontario.

The floriculture industry expects some growth in sales to the United States. Potted plant sales to the eastern parts of the United States and cut flower sales for local border trade are both expected to increase. Poinsettias, chrysanthemums, begonias, African violets and green foliage plants are specific items that should experience some market growth.

Primary producer returns for chicken, turkey and eggs will not be affected by tariff reductions because import controls have been maintained. The change in global quotas for these commodities will not affect producer returns. Further processors and food manufacturing processors who use egg products will benefit from lower-priced inputs (formula price is U.S.-based) for domestic sales, greater access to U.S. eggs for processing and re-export and lower-priced processed eggs for global import permit holders. Some export opportunities are anticipated for hatching eggs.

In the special crops sector, some increased exports of tobacco could occur under the Agreement.

Canadian agricultural exports will also benefit from the dispute settlement procedure, which will provide a greater degree of certainty about trade actions, and from the requirement for semi-annual consultations, which should increase the potential for resolving trade irritants.

In the context of current international agricultural market disarray, the opening up of the U.S. market will provide an opportunity for the Canadian agri-food sector to grow and prosper. The Agreement will require some adjustments for certain agricultural commodities and the food industry more generally. However, the overall long-term benefits to the agri-food sector and the economy through improved efficiencies in resource allocation, opportunities for continued sectoral growth and secure access to the large North American market will outweigh the short-term costs.