

CAFTA APPLAUDES CONCLUSION OF FIRST MULTILATERAL TRADE DEAL SINCE CREATION OF WTO

Singapore, December 7, 2013 — The Canadian Agri-food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) welcomes the conclusion of the WTO Bali Package including agreements in the areas of trade facilitation, select agriculture issues, cotton, and development and Least Developed Country (LDC) issues.

CAFTA, in Indonesia for the 9th WTO Ministerial from December 3 to 6, is a strong advocate for an open and transparent multilateral trading system. Around the world, agriculture is subject to both domestic and trade policies that can distort international prices and the flow of goods. Only a multilateral trade deal will fully resolve these issues.

CAFTA welcomes the conclusion of the WTO Bali Package. The agreement on trade facilitation will be particularly important for Canada's agriculture and food sectors, that together export over \$44 billion a year. Greater transparency and common disciplines in key areas such as customs rules and test procedures and new obligations around the treatment of perishable goods will help facilitate trade and reduce the costs incurred by Canadian exporters.

CAFTA also welcomes the Bali package as a stepping stone towards achieving the goals set out in the WTO Doha negotiations. CAFTA encourages WTO members to use the progress made in Bali as inspiration to immediately resume work on the broader Doha objectives. The Bali ministerial has proven that with the necessary resolve countries can work through seemingly impossible issues and find a path forward. While in Indonesia, CAFTA Executive Director Kathleen Sullivan and CAFTA Member John Masswohl, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, met with Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food, and Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade, to discuss the continued importance of the WTO and to encourage the ministers in their unwavering work on behalf of Canada's agri-food exporters.

CAFTA was also in Indonesia to participate in the Cairns Group Farm Leaders meetings which were held in conjunction with the Cairns Ministerial on December 2. CAFTA encourages Cairns members to continue advocating for open and transparent rules based trade.

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About CAFTA

CAFTA is a coalition of national and regional organizations which support a more open and fair international trading environment for agriculture and agri-food. CAFTA's members include producer organizations, processors, marketers and exporters from the major trade dependent sectors in Canada. Together, these sectors produce almost 80% of Canada's agriculture and agri-food exports, conduct about \$40 billion in business annually and directly employ close to 500,000 Canadians.

For more information, contact: Kathleen Sullivan, 613-560-0500 or sullivank@cafta.org.