

Canadian agri-food exporters disappointed by lack of agreement on new Trans-Pacific Partnership

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Da Nang, Vietnam - The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) is disappointed that Canada did not reach an agreement in principle with the remaining 11 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) members today.

“We’re disappointed an agreement has not been reached but are optimistic that our government will enable Canadian exporters to have competitive access to the Asia-Pacific in the near future,” said CAFTA President Brian Innes. “We will continue to press our federal government to achieve an agreement at the earliest possible opportunity – we need this deal in order to remain globally competitive.”

CAFTA has been a strong supporter of the TPP, which includes Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam – all dynamic economies in the Asia-Pacific. The organization has continued to press for a renewed TPP agreement, particularly since Canada became the second largest economy involved after the U.S. dropped out. CAFTA has representatives on the ground in Da Nang, but it is not yet clear what is preventing an agreement.

CAFTA represents farmers, ranchers, producers, processors and agri-food exporters who want to grow the economy through better access to international markets. This includes the beef, pork, meat, grains, cereals, pulses, soybeans, canola as well as the sugar, malt, and processed food industries. More than 90 per cent of Canadian farmers depend on competitive access to world markets.

“It’s crucial that we get back on track with this one – and do it quickly,” Innes said. “Not doing so will be extremely costly – losing opportunity overseas and economic growth and jobs here at home.”

Japan, for example, is Canada’s third-largest agri-food market, and competitors – including the EU, Australia and Chile – have already locked down free trade deals.

Innes noted that the federal government has committed to diversifying the country’s trade and pledged in the 2017 budget to boost agri-food exports to \$75 billion in 2025.

“We remain hopeful that the federal government recognizes how a TPP11 agreement is important to grow agri-food exports.” he said.

CAFTA is the voice of Canadian agriculture and agri-food exporters. Representing the 90% of farmers who depend on trade and ranchers, producers, processors and agri-food exporters who want to grow the economy through better access to international markets. This includes the beef, pork, meat, grains, cereals, pulses, soybeans, canola as well as the sugar, malt, and processed food industries. The sectors CAFTA represents support over a million jobs in urban and rural communities across Canada.

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