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Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance | Alliance canadienne du commerce agroalimentaire

Agri-Food exporters encouraged by refreshed free trade negotiations with India

Lowering tariffs, non-tariff barriers and subsidies must be key outcomes in any successful talks

Ottawa, ON - March, 12, 2022 – Dan Darling, President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) today issued the statement below on the occasion of Minister Ng’s visit to India.

“We are pleased that Minister Ng is pursuing an ambitious trade diversification agenda and we support greater engagement throughout the Indo-Pacific. Our members support efforts to secure an interim agreement as a transitional step toward an ambitious trade agreement that will provide stable and commercially viable growth opportunities for exporters through the Indo-Pacific.

“Many sectors of Canadian agriculture, including pulses, canola and cereals recognize the potential of preferred market access to a large market like India. To realize that potential, it is imperative that any agreement secure substantial reduction and elimination of both tariff and non-tariff barriers.

“As major outcomes of any renewed talks, CAFTA members need to see progress made on Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) as well as increased collaboration and greater transparency for agriculture biotechnology.

“Members have also noted that any agreement must also deal with issues related to subsidies, restrictive rules of origin and other technical aspects that have the possibility to outweigh potential export gains.

“While the Canada – India trading relationship is complex and must be handled with a constructive yet cautious approach, CAFTA supports the Government of Canada’s resolve in reaching a commercially meaningful deal with India.”

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CAFTA is the voice of Canadian agriculture and agri-food exporters, representing the 90% of farmers who depend on trade and the 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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