The Role of Policy in Global Food Trade

Economic Research Service Conference
April 28, 2005

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Food Products Association

Scientific and technical trade association for the food industry -- food safety and security, processing, health and nutrition

- 1907 - The National Canners Association
- 1978 - National Food Processors Association
- Three Food Safety Laboratories
  - Washington, Dublin CA, Seattle, Bangkok
- 400 Member Companies
Processed Food Trade

• Global Trade in Processed Food $3.2 trillion

• U.S. exports processed food - $23 billion 2003

• Opportunities Excellent – Growth stagnant
  – Tariffs and Non Tariff Barriers to Trade
  – National Policies Protect Domestic Industry
Overview – Industry Perspective

- Fair and Equitable Playing Field
- Access to Accurate Information
- Consistency in Rules and Standards
  - Harmonization
- Prompt Redress of Grievances
Government Role in Food Policy Trade

- Domestic Policy that Facilitates Exports
- Trade Policy that Assures a Level Playing Field
- Commitment to International Rules
- Leadership in International Standards Organizations
- A Coordinated U.S. Message
- Build Alliances
Domestic Policy to Facilitate Exports

- Subsidy Programs Disadvantage U.S. Processed Foods
- Domestic Regulatory Schemes
  - Export Certification
- Technical Assistance to Exporters
  - FAS
  - Commerce
Trade Policy to Level the Playing Field

• Tariffs
  – High Tariffs
  – Tariff escalation
  – Quotas

• Technical Barriers
  – Documentation/ Certification
  – Food Ingredients
  – Labeling/ Packaging

Make better use of FTA’s to address NTBs
  – 1 time leverage
Underscore International Commitments

• WTO Dispute Resolution
  – Lengthy and Expensive

• Alternative forums
  – SPS & TBT Commitments
  – Technical Working Groups (TWGs)
  – Accession Discussions

• Make Better Use of Existing Forums to Resolve Differences
International Standards Organization

- Promote Science Based Regulations
- Promote U.S. Regulatory Approach
- Provide leadership to ensure relevance (Codex, OIE, IPPC)
- Provide oversight to ensure consistency (ISO/Codex)
- Encourage the cooperation of developing countries
Coordinate the U.S. Message

- Involve All Stakeholders
- Coordinate and Communicate Interagency Policy
- Link Technical Assistance To Policy and Regulatory Infrastructure
Build Alliances

– Coordinate Regional Positions
– Build Cooperation Among the Americas
– Bridge the EU/US Divide
– Encourage alliances with developing nations
  • Technical Assistance in Regulation
  • Educated Policy Development
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