



Tri-Nacional Agricultural Accord Desarrollo Rural

Framework for Cooperation

Draft Agreement August 22, 2005

The Rural Development Working Group of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord amongst Canada, USA and Mexico put forward the following preliminary proposal for a Framework of Cooperation with respect to Rural Development. Five areas of cooperation are:

1. Identification of Market Opportunities

This includes the identification and market analysis of long-term opportunities in cooperative trade and investment. Examples could include marketing cooperatives, organic commodities, beef products, fruit, aquaculture, greenhouse production and eco/agri-tourism.

2. Scientific Research

This includes identifying and exploring research projects that would have relevance to all parties involved, including but not limited to, the sharing of information about research techniques, projects and programs and could involve the exchange of specialized personnel for periods of up to three months.

3. Financial Models for Rural Development

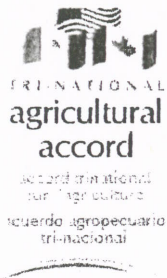
There is an opportunity to exchange information on viable financial structures/models that will support producers, agri-businesses and other rural businesses in support of rural development. Examples could include crop insurance, food processing enterprises, and retail and service businesses in rural areas. This could also involve the exchange of specialized personnel and farmer-to-farmer exchanges.

4. Education and Training

This includes education and training of producers, rural communities, rural youth and future agricultural entrepreneurs amongst our three countries in respect to farm safety, agricultural practices, and economic opportunities. Examples could be telecommunications and nutrition.

5. Conservation Practices of Soil, Water and Environment

This includes the opportunity to exchange information and set forth models of best practices in soil, water and environmental management. This information will be used to enhance and sustain the natural resources that are important to rural development.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION TRI-LATERAL WORKING GROUP ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Identification of Market Opportunities
 - Conduct a market analysis on agricultural products which would examine opportunities, roadblocks and trade inhibitors on the development of markets within and among the three countries.
 - Explore the opportunity to host a trade show highlighting organic products in conjunction with the 16th Tri-National Agricultural Accord in Banff, Alberta, Canada.
 - Analyze the opportunity to establish two centers of distribution for agricultural products
 - Consider development of product proposals for export and import that states and provinces could use within the next two months.
2. Scientific Research
 - Coordinate exchange of technical personnel as required for specific proposals and projects that are undertaken, such as in food product development and crop development.
3. Financial Models for Rural Development
 - Coordinate exchange of information on model for financing and farm risk management.
4. Education and Training
 - Coordinate assistance on identifying and implementing best practices in food safety, from farm to table.
5. Conservation Practices of Soil, Water and Environment
 - Continue dialogue to implement a model of soil and water conservation practices based on the soil and water conservation district model.



Dr. Carlos Torres Aviles
Secretary of Rural Development
The State of Oaxaca, Mexico
Commissioner of international Affairs
AMSDA

Hon. Doug Horner
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural
Development Province of Alberta, Canada

Dr. Miley González
Secretary of Agriculture
The State of New Mexico, USA

Ing. Fermín Montes Cavazos
Director of the Corporation
The State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Lic. Ignacio López Sánchez
Secretary of Agriculture
The State of Tlaxcala, Mexico

Jennifer Yezak
NASDA Representative

Note: This Agreement is Subject to Ratification by each organization in their respective countries.