

## **Meeting of the Rural Development Tri-lateral Working Group**

**Summary of Outcomes**  
**Edmonton, Alberta, Canada**  
**October 10 – 12, 2007**

The Rural Development Tri-lateral Working Group of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord met in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada to exchange information and discuss progress on the strategic plan.

The Working Group was jointly chaired by the Hon. George Groeneveld, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Food, Dr. Miley Gonzalez, New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture and the Hon. Carlos Naranjo, Michoacan Secretary of Agriculture.

Delegates toured a world-class innovative research and technology transfer centre that focuses on food safety and value-added processing of food and industrial products. Delegates also toured a food processing development centre (Leduc) that assists Alberta food processors with the application of new technology and the development of new or improved products.

Presentations were also made on the development of renewable energy products from agriculture and food residues, a mobile slaughtering unit project in New Mexico, financial assistance services and programs for Alberta producers and agri-food businesses. Mexico presented a program established by the State of Michoacan to ensure access to food by low-income families by training them in the production of vegetables, fruits and medicinal herbs and providing them with the necessary inputs. Additionally, Mexico presented a new program, also developed by the State of Michoacan, to improve access to credit by a larger number of rural producers.

Each country reported on progress and accomplishments achieved since the annual meeting in Monterrey, Mexico under the four strategic directions: address sustainable agriculture research and extension service programs; participate in advancing conservation programs; promote agriculture and industry programs; and create financing and marketing programs.

