



TRI-NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ACCORD  
ACUERDO AGROPECUARIO TRI-NACIONAL  
ACCORD TRINATIONAL SUR L'AGRICULTURE

## **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Tri-National Agricultural Accord Communiqué**

Delegates representing state and provincial agricultural leaders from Canada, Mexico, and the United States (U.S.) met in Saltillo, Mexico from October 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> for the 31<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord. Delegates were warmly welcomed to the State of Coahuila de Zaragoza by Secretary José Luis Flores Méndez, Coahuila, Agricultural Development Secretariat and Miguel Ángel Riquelme Solís, Governor of Coahuila.

Delegates continue their commitment to building relationships between the three nations to take advantage of new opportunities and navigate challenges faced by the North American agricultural sector. Delegates devoted attention to timely and topical issues of mutual importance including soil health and conservation, global food security, supply chain integrity, regulatory harmonization, agriculture technology, and animal disease.

Federal officials addressing delegates included: Rene Hernandez from Mexico, SENASICA, Michelle Cooper, Director General, Market Access Secretariat, International Affairs Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada from Canada, and Daniel Whitley, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service.



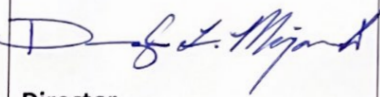
At the 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting pursuant to a proposal made by the delegation from Mexico, a Working Group on Agricultural Technology was established. This working group met twice to build a base of understanding, to identify opportunities of mutual benefit, and to discuss the important role of technology and crop protection tools in meeting sustainable development and food security goals. The Working Group also explores the role of science and risk-based regulation to support the integrated North American supply chain. Delegates confirmed their intention to continue this dialogue, which will be critical to identify solutions and maintain the positive trade relationship envisioned by the trilateral trade agreement known in the U.S. as USMCA, CUSMA in Canada, and T-MEC in Mexico.

Delegates discussed the impact of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic which revealed vulnerabilities in domestic and international access and movement of products and services. Delegates recognized the potential benefits of CUSMA/T-MEC/USMCA to enhance trade in agricultural products and affirmed their commitment to policies that promote free trade across North America. Delegates called on their federal partners to coordinate with state and provincial officials to develop and implement policies that secure the North American supply chain, facilitate cross-border trade, and protect against food insecurity, at home and abroad.

In April 2022, the Tri-National Accord Terms of Reference was signed by all three 2021 Delegation Leads to renew and reaffirm the Accord as a forum for ongoing collaboration between U.S., Mexican States, and Canadian provinces with respect to agricultural trade and rural development. The Accord is an opportunity to build strong and resilient relationships between states and provinces, and to engage with respective federal governments.

In addition, the attached joint statements were agreed to by the respective bilateral and trilateral working groups.

In recognition of the importance of the Accord for the future and to continue strengthening our relationships, Saskatchewan Minister Marit extended an invitation to Mexico and the U.S. to attend the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord in Saskatchewan, Canada.

 <b>Minister</b> <b>Derek Johnson</b> Manitoba	 <b>Secretary</b> <b>Jaime Montes Salas</b> Sinaloa	 <b>Director</b> <b>Doug Miyamoto</b> Wyoming
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## Tri-Lateral Working Group Statements

The Ministers, Secretaries, Commissioners, and Directors of the state and provincial departments of agriculture from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. acknowledge the challenges we have faced individually and collectively in response to the global pandemic, natural disasters, and war in Ukraine.

The global economy faces a significant recession, supply chain disruptions, and food insecurity has worsened. Delegates recognize the increasing importance of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord, which allows our countries to share concerns and identify solutions to problems facing our individual countries, North America as a united trading block, and global agricultural trade more broadly.

### **Supply Chain Resiliency**

Delegates heard from Miguel Oropeza Vera, Sales and Marketing Specialist, Kansas City Standard; Director Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Agriculture; Jacobo Cabrera, Mexico, Presidente of National Agri-food Councils concerning challenges to the North American agricultural supply chain brought on by transportation issues, the global pandemic, natural disasters, and the implementation of protectionist policies. Delegates will work together to identify opportunities that enhance cross-border trade and ensure economic vitality and food security among our nations.

### **Sustainability and Soil Health**

During the tri-lateral session on rural development, delegates focused on issues pertaining to soil health, conservation, economic and environmental sustainability in agriculture. Delegates invited experts including Dr. Juan Manuel Martinez Reyna, Investigator of the Antonio Narro Agrarian Autonomous University, State of Coahuila; Director Doug Miyamoto, Wyoming Department of Agriculture; and Alan Schlachter, Sustainability Partnerships Lead, Canada Grains Council to discuss aspects of soil health and agro-ecology.

### **Animal Disease**

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has been a growing challenge to animal health throughout North America. Delegates from Coahuila, Manitoba, and Kansas shared their lessons learned within each of their jurisdictions and affirmed their commitment to working together to enhance communication and cooperation across our borders regarding animal disease threats. The continuing threat of introduction of African Swine Fever into the North American swine herd and the ongoing battle against Avian Influenza have highlighted the need for improved coordination at all levels of government. Delegates call on federal partners to facilitate domestic and international coordination among local, state, provincial, and federal animal health officials to improve capabilities to surveil, detect, control, and eradicate animal disease threats.



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## **Canada-United States Bi-Lateral Work Group Joint Statements**

Canada and the United States continue to enjoy a robust trading relationship which supports the economic vitality of each of our agricultural sectors. Delegates continue to work together to tackle issues unique to our bi-lateral relationship, as well as to cooperate on issues impacting shared markets beyond our borders.

The North American sustainability story is important to share internationally, given progress made in production practices over recent decades. Delegates promote science-driven agricultural practices that support conserving and sustaining our resources for the economic and environmental benefits of future generations.

Delegates affirmed their support for CUSMA/USMCA and are interested to learn more about agriculture-related committees under this trilateral agreement. Delegates are concerned about policies being implemented in Mexico that have the potential to restrict trade of Canadian and U.S. agricultural products. Delegates affirm their commitment to science and risk-based systems, transparency, and regulations that align with international standards and the trilateral CUSMA/USMCA. Biotechnology products and crop protection tools play an important role in the sustainability of the North American agriculture sector. Delegates will continue to identify and advocate for solutions that maintain and enhance agricultural trade throughout North America.

Delegates from Canada are pleased that the U.S. has finalized the Importation of Small Ruminant Animals rule. Delegates recognize the science-based approach to decision making and will seek opportunities to grow our integrated livestock supply chains with this change. Delegates support collaboration in animal disease response and prevention to share information and best practices. In December 2021, the 2021 U.S. and Canadian Tri-National Accord delegation leads submitted a letter to both federal Chief Veterinary Officer networks to encourage increased communication and coordination to prevent and respond to animal disease outbreaks at the state and provincial level.

While there are concerns surrounding dairy and livestock, delegates recognize the strong and mutually beneficial Canada-U.S. agricultural trade relationship that both countries rely on.



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## **Mexico-Canada Bi-Lateral Work Group Joint Statements**

### **United States Rule on Importation of Small Ruminants**

Delegates from Canada and Mexico are pleased that the United States (U.S.) has finalized the Importation of Small Ruminant rule, recognizing the opportunities to grow our integrated supply chains because of this change.

### **Growing Trade Between Mexican States and Canadian Provinces**

Delegates from Mexico and Canada recognize the value of agricultural trade to their respective economies and the opportunities for enhanced investment between the two countries in agricultural goods and services. This is supported by the trilateral trade agreement, known as CUSMA in Canada and T-MEC in Mexico.

Participants acknowledge the role that states and provinces in supporting trade growth through the continued participation in trade shows and outreach missions, while developing and strengthening the relationships between buyers and industry stakeholders, as well as each other through participation at the Accord. Delegates encourage additional meetings throughout the year to discuss issues, opportunities, and challenges facing the agriculture sector in their respective countries that may affect trade.

### **Innovation in Agriculture**

Delegates from Canada and Mexico discussed the importance of technology and innovation in agriculture and its role in feeding a growing population, addressing food insecurity, and meeting sustainable development goals. Continued dialogue between Canada and Mexico will support the development of regulation and policy that complement innovative work across North America. Science-based regulations and policies are essential for the development of a resilient North American supply chain that can withstand shocks caused by disruptive forces such as climate change and disease.

Delegates support ongoing discussions outside of the annual Tri-National Accord meeting through venues, such as the Accord Working Group on Agriculture Technology, to share and engage on common interests and varying concerns related to emerging technology and innovation in agriculture.

### **Working Group on Environment and Agriculture**

Recognizing the interaction between agriculture and the environment, delegates welcomed a proposal to establish a Working Group that will focus on the adoption of agroecological and other innovative practices. Practices such as no-till farming can enhance soil health and help farmers meet the future needs of a growing global population. Science and innovation are essential for improving productivity, ensuring global food security, and fighting against climate change. This may include trilateral dialogue between Mexico, the U.S. and Canada to discuss practices and infrastructure that can support environmentally sustainable agriculture and food sectors.



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### **Mexico-United States Bi-Lateral Work Group Joint Statement**

Throughout the previous year, delegates have been meeting in a Working Group on Agricultural Technology established at the 30th annual meeting of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord pursuant to a proposal made by the delegation from Mexico. This working group has met twice to build a base of understanding, identify opportunities of mutual benefit, and discuss concerns from the United States regarding the impact on agricultural trade resulting from policies being implemented by Mexico limiting the use of bioengineered foods as well as the use of certain plant protection products. Delegates affirm their intention to continue this dialogue which will be critical to identifying solutions and maintaining the positive trade relationship envisioned by the tri-lateral trade agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada known in the United States as USMCA and T-MEC in Mexico.