

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, AND THE SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE,
LIVESTOCK, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FISHERIES AND FOOD AND THE
SECRETARIAT OF ECONOMY OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES REGARDING
AREAS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE**

The United States Department of Agriculture, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of the United Mexican States, and the Secretariat of Economy of the United Mexican States (hereinafter “the Participants”):

DESIRING to strengthen the long-standing bilateral relationship on trade in agriculture between the United Mexican States (hereinafter “Mexico”) and the United States of America (hereinafter “the United States”) and to increase the level of bilateral communication, cooperation, and efforts to resolve issues of importance in the agricultural sectors;

AFFIRMING their commitment to market-oriented agricultural policies and permanent and ongoing efforts to promote an open and fair bilateral trading relationship in food and agricultural products;

NOTING the rights and obligations of Mexico and the United States under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO Agreement);

FURTHER NOTING the commitment of Mexico and the United States to apply sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and standards-related measures in conformity with the NAFTA and the WTO Agreement and the consultative and cooperative mechanisms established in the NAFTA and the WTO Agreement on agriculture, the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, in particular the fora provided for in the committees regarding agriculture, SPS measures and standards-related measures established in the aforementioned agreements;

RESTATING their goodwill to address and resolve matters concerning bilateral trade in agricultural goods, SPS and standards-related measures that fall within the Participants’ statutory and regulatory authorities as expeditiously as possible;

RECOGNIZING the utility of and desiring to continue the work of the Consultative Committee on Agriculture established pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of Agriculture and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food and the Secretariat of Economy of the United Mexican States regarding areas of food and agricultural trade that entered into force on April 2, 2002 and expired by its terms on April 3, 2006; and

DESIRING to improve the management of bilateral agricultural trade relations by establishing a comprehensive, early-warning and consultative mechanism to address and resolve issues at an initial stage as expeditiously as possible in order to avoid potential distortions or disruptions to trade.

Hereby agree:

ARTICLE 1

The Participants should re-establish the “Consultative Committee on Agriculture” (“CCA”), comprising senior officials from each Participant.

ARTICLE 2

The Participants should develop, in accordance with their statutory and regulatory authorities, terms of reference to guide the operation of the CCA. They should meet at a mutually agreeable time as soon as practicable following the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop the above mentioned terms of reference.

ARTICLE 3

To support and encourage the ongoing work of the CCA and a greater exchange of views between the Participants on issues of common interest in other international fora, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of the United Mexican States and the Secretary of Economy of the United Mexican States should meet at least once a year, unless the Participants agree otherwise. Sub-Cabinet level officials of each Participant should meet for the same purpose at least once a year, unless the Participants agree otherwise.

ARTICLE 4

The Participants should continue increasing the broad dissemination of information on bilateral agricultural trade and the impact of such trade on the food and agricultural industries of Mexico and the United States, and seek to enhance communication between their appropriate officials to promote this objective.

ARTICLE 5

The Participants intend the actions under this MOU to complement and not substitute for any other mutually agreed upon activities.

ARTICLE 6

This MOU may be modified by mutual consent of the Participants, by means of a written communication which specifies the modifications.

ARTICLE 7

The participants of either country may withdraw from this MOU by notifying the Participants of the other country in writing.

Signed in Washington, D.C. and Mexico City, in eight originals, in the English and Spanish languages.

On behalf of the United States Department
of Agriculture

On behalf of the Secretariat of Agriculture,
Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries
and Food of the United Mexican States

Mike Johanns
Secretary

Alberto Cárdenas Jimenez
Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____

On behalf of the Office of the
United States Trade Representative

On behalf of the Secretariat of Economy of
the United Mexican States

Susan C. Schwab
United States Trade Representative

Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape
Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____