

USDA Accomplishments Under the Bush Administration 2001-2008

Enhanced International Competitiveness of American Agriculture

The most effective means of expanding foreign market opportunities is through new trade agreements that increase market access and reduce trade impediments. Expanding global markets for agricultural products is critical for the long-term economic health and prosperity of the domestic food and agricultural sector.

Increased Export Opportunities for U.S. Agriculture

- ☑ The Bush Administration has negotiated 17 free trade agreements since 2001. Australia, Bahrain, Chile, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Morocco, Nicaragua, and Singapore have been implemented and the collective value of U.S. agricultural exports to these 11 countries has increased 76 percent. Ratified free trade agreements with Costa Rica, Oman, and Peru are awaiting implementation, while the agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea are pending Congressional approval.
- ☑ USDA has worked closely with Peru on implementation of the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement and technical assistance was provided to the Mexican Government to ensure full implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement commitments on sensitive agricultural products, including corn, dried beans, and sweeteners.
- ☑ USDA negotiated acceleration of tariff elimination for U.S. rice under the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement.
- ☑ USDA worked with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate framework for agricultural products under the Doha Round of World Trade Organization.

Supported International Economic Development and Capacity Building

- ☑ USDA has conducted two biotechnology technical assistance workshops to assist in the acceptance and market access for biotechnology crops. The two activities involved over 50 leaders from 10 countries, including Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, China, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Mali.
- ☑ USDA provided agricultural expertise to Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Iraq and Afghanistan. The work of USDA's advisors has resulted in the installation of windmills in southern Afghanistan to pump water for irrigation and livestock; the training of Afghan veterinarians in detection and treatment of diseases; rehabilitation of a university laboratory for agricultural teaching; development of post-harvest storage facilities; and the mentoring of provincial directors of agriculture and agricultural extension to help improve services to farmers.
- ☑ In Iraq, PRT advisors have helped establish farmer organizations, invigorate agricultural extension, rebuild institutional capacity to clean and maintain irrigation canals, and recreate veterinary infrastructure to foster animal health.

Enhanced Food Aid Programs

- Through the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, USDA has fed more than 22 million children in 44 developing countries.
- USDA's Food for Progress program has provided over 3 million metric tons of U.S. agricultural commodities to 60 developing countries, with a total value of \$1.27 billion.
- USDA entered into an agreement with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to promote local purchases for school feeding programs. The programs will focus on increasing incomes and opportunities for farmers that earn less than \$2 per day.

Improved Sanitary and Phytosanitary System to Facilitate Agricultural Trade

- Through the work of USDA, 95 nations are now open to U.S. beef under BSE guidelines by the World Organization for Animal Health, known as the OIE.
- U.S. beef exports have rebounded close to \$2.6 billion in 2007, equal to 67% of trade in 2003, before BSE was identified in the United States. In April 2008, the U.S. reached agreement with Korea, a key market, for a full reopening of the beef market consistent with OIE guidelines.