Agricultural Sustainability and Trade

Opportunities and challenges

Special Representative for Australian Agriculture

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Overview

Role
• Shaping global debates, perceptions and engagement

Reflections on global conversations
• Sustainability
• Food security and safety
• Approaches to market access and trade

Opportunities and challenges
Special Representative for Australian Agriculture

- Appointed in November 2021
- Unique role – only Australia and New Zealand have this role
- Amplification of industry voice in trade and market access both in Australia and overseas

Tasked to:
- Demonstrate Australia’s ongoing commitment to the multilateral system and its principles
- Build our agricultural sector’s capabilities and engagement with the multilateral system and promote its interests
- Build alliances with like-minded country officials
Global Agriculture Leadership

Australia is stepping up its influence and engagement in agricultural multilateral institutions and policy forums to strengthen their effectiveness and capacity.
Domestic engagement
Europe
US and NZ
South America
Challenges to the global trading environment

COVID-19 - Conflict - Climate

Food prices - Fertiliser - Fuel

- Climate change
- Supply chain disruption
- Energy shortages
- Climate targets
- Process vs outcomes focused
- Ideology vs science
- Protectionism vs open free markets
- Prescriptive, regulatory heavy
Sustainability & Food Security

• Agricultural practices need to be sustainable for long term food production and food security

• To feed a growing population ag sector must lift production and productivity BUT at the same time reduce inputs and impacts

• More challenging for the tropics – forecast to have over half worlds population by 2050 BUT also at frontline of climate change
Sustainability & Trade

• Domestic policies should not impact and restrict trade

• Need to maintain open, transparent, and predictable agricultural trade

• No one size fits all
Sustainability & Agriculture

- Food systems - supply chain and the circular economy
- Repurpose support:
  - sustainable outcomes
  - food safety
  - animal welfare
  - Health
- Underpinned by science and evidence
Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs)

Strategic investments in research, development and technology transfer or adoption

**Government**
- Matching funding
- Govt collects and administers levies

**Industry**
- Funding agreement with government
Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

Communicating the Australian agricultural industry’s sustainability status and goals to markets and to the community.

P1. Net anthropogenic GHG emissions are limited to minimise climate change.

P2. Adverse impacts to air quality are avoided or minimised.

P3. Soil health and functionality are protected and enhanced.

P4. Landscape degradation is avoided or minimised.

P5. Biodiverse ecological communities are protected and enhanced.

P6. Water resources are used responsibly and equitably.

P7. Finite resources are safeguarded in circular economic systems.

P8. Safe agricultural outputs are produced for public consumption.

P9. Safe working environments are provided for employees.

P10. Fair access to a decent livelihood is provided within the industry.

P11. Discrimination is not tolerated in an inclusive industry.

P12. Farmed animals are given the best care for whole of life.

P13. Society benefits from the agricultural industry’s positive contribution.

P14. Biosecurity threats are assessed, mitigated and managed in systems of continuous improvement.

P15. Industry participants behave ethically and lawfully.

P16. Resilience is enhanced by assessment, mitigation and management of risks.

P17. Unconscionable conduct is eliminated from supply chains via transparency and accountability.
Opportunities & Leadership

• We can continue to push for the liberalisation of global trade in agricultural exports

• Collectively, we can work together with a shared voice for greater influence in agricultural negotiations more than any individual members could

• The Cairns Group remains committed to achieving free and fair trade in agriculture
Opportunities and Women in Agriculture
Opportunities & R&D

- Agricultural research is an international enterprise
- No single nation has all the expertise
- Collaborate and share R&D
- Tailor RD&E to environmental cultural and economic conditions – flexibility – no one size fits all
Opportunities & Innovation

Shaping the science of tomorrow

• Value chain and bioeconomy
• Predictive agriculture
• AI and machine learning
• Agrifood systems
• Networks
THANK YOU
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