



Cairns Group & the Cairns Group Farm Leaders: Fact Sheet

What is the Cairns Group?

The Cairns Group is a coalition of 18 agricultural exporting countries that account for one-third of the world's agricultural exports. The Cairns Group celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2011.

Since it formed in 1986, the Cairns Group has succeeded in putting agriculture on the multilateral trade agenda and keeping it there. It was largely as a result of the Group's efforts that a framework for reform in agricultural trade was established in the Uruguay Round and agriculture was for the first time subject to trade liberalising rules.

Following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, the Group has continued to push for fair trade in agricultural exports, a cause that unites the Group across language, cultural and geographic boundaries.

The Cairns Group is an excellent example of successful coalition building in the trade area. By acting collectively it has had more influence and impact on the agriculture negotiations than any individual members could have had independently.

The 18 member nations of the Cairns Group, in alphabetical order, are:

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|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Argentina | 7. Colombia | 13. Pakistan |
| 2. Australia | 8. Costa Rica | 14. Paraguay |
| 3. Bolivia | 9. Guatemala | 15. The Philippines |
| 4. Brazil | 10. Indonesia | 16. South Africa |
| 5. Canada | 11. Malaysia | 17. Thailand |
| 6. Chile | 12. New Zealand | 18. Uruguay |

Further information about the Cairns Group, including a copy of its vision statement, can be found on the Cairns Group website: www.cairnsgroup.org

Who are the Cairns Group Farm Leaders?

The Cairns Group Farm Leaders is a global coalition of farm organisations from Cairns Group countries which was established in 1998 by the National Farmers' Federation (NFF). The Cairns Group Farm Leaders, chaired by NFF, hold meetings in conjunction with the Cairns Group Ministers' meetings.

Representing millions of farmers in Cairns Group countries, these farm organisations in the individual countries are closely consulted by their governments to frame Cairns Group policies and positions.

The Cairns Group Farm Leaders' vision is a world where an equitable and enforceable rules-based trading system in agriculture creates the opportunities for developed, developing

countries and farmers to benefit from a sustainable agriculture sector and at the same time enjoy the benefits on their economies, contributing to the socio-economic development and political stability.

The Cairns Group Farm Leaders are calling on all World Trade Organisation members to deliver on the Doha mandate (from the round of WTO talks established in Doha in 2001):

- immediate elimination all forms of export subsidies
- substantial improvements in market access to result in more open, effective, equitable access for all products
- substantial reduction of all trade and production distorting domestic support within a mandated timeframe
- meaningful special and differential treatment for developing countries, allowing them to unlock the potential of their agricultural industries and participate effectively in the global marketplace.

Statement to Cairns Group Ministers, San Jose, Costa Rica, 23-25 February 2004.

Further information about the Cairns Group Farm Leaders, including a series of communiqués, can be found on the www.cairnsgroupfarmers.org website.