

# U.S. Trade Policy

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# U.S. Trade Policy

- Introduction
- WTO and SPS
- MRLs are a high priority
- CODEX
- More countries establishing their own MRLs
- Challenges ahead

# WTO SPS Agreement

- Basic trade rules for food safety and animal and plant health standards.
- Objective: Preserve WTO Members' rights to provide a level of health protection they deem appropriate.

Obligations to ensure rights are not misused and result in disguised barriers to trade.

# U.S. Trade Policy Mechanism

## Interagency Process with 3 Tiers

- National Security Council and National Economic Council (NSC/NEC)
  - Chaired by the President
- Trade Policy Review Group (TPRG)
  - Chaired by Deputy USTR
- Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC)
  - Chaired by Assistant USTRs

# Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)

- Provides trade policy leadership for the United States in bilateral, regional and WTO trade and investment issues.
- Develops and coordinates U.S. international trade, commodity and direct investment policy.
- Oversees negotiations with other countries.
- Executive Office of the President.
- U.S. Trade Representative: Member of the Presidential cabinet, and principal trade advisor, negotiator and spokesman.

# U.S. Trade Policy Mechanism

TPSC→TPRG→NSC/NEC.

- USTR chairs TPRG and the TPSC
  - Consultation mechanism for 19 other Federal agencies/offices.
  - Sub-cabinet level.
  - **SPS: USDA/FDA/EPA/Commerce and State**
  - **USDA is a key Partner**
- TPSC is primary operating group
  - Supported by >90 subcommittees responsible for specialized areas.
- If Agreement not reached in TPSC subcommittee/TPSC→TPRG→NSC/NEC.

# U.S. Trade Policy Mechanism

- Private Sector Advisory Committees
- Regular Congressional Committee briefings
- Informal conversations with Congress
- Informal conversations with representatives of agricultural groups

# U.S. Trade Policy Mechanism

Trade Policy Mechanism designed to:

- Clarify Federal agency roles in trade policy development and implementation;
- Draw on agency/private sector expertise;
- Ensure transparency;
- Mandate consensus building; and
- Advocate for U.S. interests.

# MRLs

- CODEX
- More positive lists are being established
- Enforcement policies are changing
- More cooperation and better understanding needed

# Current Areas of Focus

- Japan
- Taiwan
- China
- Australia
- Russia
- European Union
- South America
- Southeast Asia

# Japan

- MRL MOU
- Default Policy
- Post Harvest Fungicides
- Areas for Possible Collaboration

# Taiwan

- 1999 MOU
- MRL Establishment / Enforcement
- U.S. – Taiwan Bilateral Discussions
- Technical Assistance
- Collaboration

# Trans Pacific Partnership

- Seven TPP Partners - more on the way
- Affirm the WTO
- Bilateral Issues
- FTA for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Multilateral Initiatives

# USTR

New Annual Report

Communication

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