



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

FACT SHEET

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FAS' Bilateral Agreements

Several agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have bilateral agreements with other countries. This fact sheet focuses on agreements negotiated by and with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. These agreements are designed to strengthen agricultural ties. By working together on policy and technical issues, bilateral agreements foster cooperation between the United States and its trade partners. They provide a framework under which governments can openly discuss issues such as agribusiness, trade development, agricultural reform, and mutually beneficial cooperation.

- Partner Country:** Afghanistan
- Form of Agreement:** Memorandum of Understanding
- Date Signed:** November 2, 2004
- Key Areas of Cooperation:** Established a steering committee to monitor the progress of programs regarding the animal health sector, including disease surveillance, quality control of drugs and vaccines, supply and distribution of vaccines and medicines, and food hygiene and inspection.
- Partner Country:** Brazil
- Form of Agreement:** Consultative Committee on Agriculture
- Date Signed:** June 20, 2003
- Key Areas of Cooperation:** Established working groups on trade, sanitary and phytosanitary issues, and trade capacity building. A new working group addressing multilateral issues was formed in September 2005. It will convene prior to meetings of the *Codex Alimentarius*, International Plant Protection Convention, and the World Animal Health Organization, which are the three international standards-setting bodies for food, plants, and animals, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is dedicated to sustainable development.
- Partner Country:** China
- Form of Agreement:** Memorandum of Understanding
- Date Signed:** August 29, 2003
- Key Areas of Cooperation:** Focuses on science issues related to agricultural trade and regulations; implementation of regulations governing trade in agricultural goods; agricultural biotechnology; agricultural crop research; livestock, poultry, and aquaculture production; food

processing, transportation, and marketing; and natural resources and environmental protection.

Partner Country: China
Form of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding; Annex B
Date Signed: December 17, 2005
Key Areas of Cooperation: Established an animal and plant health working group.

Partner Country: China
Form of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding
Date Signed: November 21, 2003
Key Areas of Cooperation: Expands U.S.-China cooperation in water resources and supports long-term collaboration in science and technology. A joint steering committee addresses water and soil conservation issues.

Partner Country: China
Form of Agreement: Consultative Mechanism
Date Signed: December 10, 2002
Key Areas of Cooperation: Facilitates technical exchanges on food safety and animal and plant health issues.

Partner Country: China
Form of Agreement: Protocol
Date Signed: December 10, 2002
Key Areas of Cooperation: Focuses on biotechnology, natural resource management, dairy production, food safety, processing of agricultural products, and water saving agricultural technology.

Partner Country: India
Form of Agreement: Joint Declaration
Date Signed: November 12, 2005
Key Areas of Cooperation: Established a knowledge initiative board of Indian and U.S. government officials, academics, and private sector participants to cooperatively carry out activities in institutional capacity building, curriculum development, training, emerging technologies, processing and marketing of foods and biofuels, and natural resources and water management.

Partner Country: Madagascar
Form of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding
Date Signed: July 15, 2005
Key Areas of Cooperation: Focuses on rural development; sanitary and phytosanitary regulations; agricultural research, extension, and education; and agricultural investment.

Partner Country: Mexico
Form of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding
Date Signed: July 30, 2003
Key Areas of Cooperation: Addresses environmental, conservation, and sustainable natural resource practices through a bilateral working group.

Partner Country: Mexico

Form of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding
Date Signed: July 13, 2005
Key Areas of Cooperation: Improves access to USDA's rural development programs for Mexican-Americans and eligible Mexicans living in the United States by ensuring that program information is disseminated in English and Spanish.

Partner Country: Philippines
Form of Agreement: Memorandum of Agreement
Date Signed: November 19, 2001
Key Areas of Cooperation: Focuses on stabilizing the Philippines' agricultural sector through agricultural, scientific, and technical cooperation.

Partner Country: Russia
Form of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding
Date Signed: May 2, 2003
Key Areas of Cooperation: Focuses on building a favorable climate for agricultural trade, investment, and agribusiness development by collaborating on veterinary and phytosanitary issues; developing joint agricultural research, extension, and education activities; and enhancing agricultural policies and sustainable development in rural areas.

Partner Country: Spain
Form of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding
Date Signed: April 12, 2000
Key Areas of Cooperation: Addresses technical agricultural issues of benefit to both countries, including using plant virus technology to remediate soils contaminated by heavy metals, selecting and modifying the genomes of plant pathogens to change their population density, developing methods to control damage caused by citrus viruses, and improving vaccines to combat animal pathogens, citrus diseases, and strawberry leaf spot. Other areas of cooperation include training, especially for rural women and youth, and technology transfer.

Partner Country: Uruguay
Form of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding
Date Signed: October 13, 2002
Key Areas of Cooperation: Focuses on agricultural science and technology, including biotechnology; cereal and oil crops; horticulture; forestry; animal production; food quality and safety; biodiversity; germplasm conservation, enhancement, and exchange; plant health and breeding; natural resource conservation; agricultural waste management; farming systems; crop forecasting; and organizational development.

Partner Country: Vietnam
Form of Agreement: Memorandum of Agreement
Date Signed: June 21, 2005
Key Areas of Cooperation: Addresses research, extension, training, and information on agricultural production and trade policies, regulations, and legislation, including biotechnology, biodiversity, plant and animal

diseases, seed science and technology, and water treatment methods.