

**U.S.-INDIA ENHANCED TRADE POLICY FORUM
FOCUS GROUP ON AGRICULTURE**

**Joint Record on Agricultural Accomplishments as of
February 17, 2006 Meeting in Washington, D.C.**

The Focus Group on Agriculture has made notable progress on addressing issues affecting bilateral trade between the United States and India. Specifically, the following issues can be highlighted:

Mangoes: A Framework Agreement has been accepted by both governments which outlines the fundamental requirements for the bilateral trade of commodities treated by irradiation as a phytosanitary measure. This provides the road map for completing the regulatory process that would allow Indian exports of mangoes to the United States.

Recognition of Indian Organic Products: As of February 16, 2006, the United States recognizes India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) as the authority to certify shipments of Indian products to the United States to meet the USDA organic standards.

Timeline to Address Pending Issues

Edible Waxes: The United States has requested India allow for the use of CODEX approved edible waxes on fresh fruits. The Indian authorities have initiated the regulatory process for approval of two waxes. The United States has requested approval of a third wax (i.e., shellac) and provided additional information; the Indian Government is examining this request. Both sides expect to review progress on this issue through a DVC in the next quarter.

Fumigation treatments: The Indian Government has provided extensions for established fumigation treatments of almonds and pulses. Our expectation is that the United States will provide efficacy test results to India on almonds in May. Given the need to not disrupt commercial trade, it may be useful to grant a further extension for established fumigation treatments till the efficacy study results on phosphine can be examined by India. For pulses, the United States will provide a proposal for a long-term solution to the Indian Government in the next quarter.

Poultry and Dairy: The United States remains interested in exporting fresh poultry and certain dairy products to India. The United States will provide sanitary information with regard to trade in fresh poultry and poultry products to the Indian Government in the next quarter and will be prepared to discuss this matter by DVC. For dairy, it was agreed that a DVC should be held by the end of February 2006 to discuss the subject of estrogen.

Wheat: The United States is pleased that India has tendered for wheat imports. There has been substantial discussion of technical and phytosanitary issues and both sides have agreed to exchange information that would facilitate submission of bids.

Biotechnology: The United States and India agreed to review the text of a possible joint statement on our common objectives in the area of biotechnology.