

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

**Joint Record on Agricultural Accomplishments as of
May 30, 2006 Meeting in New Delhi**

1. The third meeting of the Focus Group on Agriculture furthered the process of dialogue on issues affecting agriculture trade between our two countries. The Group discussed all the issues on the agenda in a spirit of meaningful and constructive engagement.
2. Some issues are close to resolution while on the others the process of discussion and engagement continues. Some new issues have also appeared on the agenda after the last meeting of the Focus Group.
3. Among the first set of issues, the positive developments on the health protocol on bovine semen; the risk mitigation document for mangoes, use of edible waxes as coating on fruits, and USDA certification of Indian facilities to certify products to US organic standards were noted with satisfaction. It was agreed that the remaining work in operationalizing these developments would be completed as early as possible.
4. The Focus Group discussed in detail the SPS conditions on import of dairy products and pet food, trade in biotech (GM) products with specific reference to the notifications issued by the Ministries of Commerce and Health, specifications for import of wheat into India, and the impact of the imposition of a four percent additional duty. The SPS issue pertaining to almonds is in an advanced stage of consideration and nearing resolution. With respect to pulses there is notable progress. The US raised the issue of the new regulation on nutritional supplements in India. It was decided to continue the dialogue for the expeditious resolution of these issues.
5. Among the issues of trade interest to India the Focus Group agreed to look at the expansion of the quota for Indian tobacco; granting of equivalence to Indian organic product standards for better market access, and reviewing the ban on Indian poultry imports. India identified new products of interest, which include grapes, pomegranates, custard apple, and other horticulture products. A fast-tracking of the mango issue was re-emphasized.
6. Overall, it was felt, that the process of dialogue through the Focus Group has facilitated resolution of some outstanding trade issues between the two countries in an expeditious manner. Within a short period of time, we have been able to achieve positive progress in a number of areas. We hope to continue this process with more positive outcomes for both sides as we strive to increase two-way agricultural trade between the two countries.