

CHAPTER 19

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

ARTICLE 19.1

Objectives

The Parties recognise that promoting trade in agricultural products¹ and foods between them is in their mutual interest, and aim at promoting cooperation on sustainable agriculture, including rural development and the exchange of technical information and best practices for providing safe and high quality foods for consumers in the Parties.

ARTICLE 19.2

Scope

1. The Parties shall cooperate in the areas referred to in Article 19.1 in accordance with their respective laws and regulations. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate cooperation among relevant groups, entities, competent authorities and other organisations of the Parties.
2. The scope of cooperation referred to in paragraph 1 shall cover:
 - (a) the promotion of trade in agricultural products and foods, including a dialogue on the relevant laws and regulations;
 - (b) cooperation with a view to improving farm management, productivity and competitiveness, including the exchange of best practices regarding sustainable agriculture, as well as the use of technology and innovation;

¹ For the purposes of this Chapter, "agricultural products" does not include forestry or fishery products.

- (c) cooperation on production and technology in agriculture and foods;
- (d) cooperation on agricultural product quality policy including on geographical indications¹, provided that such cooperation does not overlap with the tasks related to geographical indications of the Committee on Intellectual Property established pursuant to Article 23.3;
- (e) cooperation and the exchange of best practices to promote rural development, such as policies aiming at keeping producers and young farmers in rural areas; and
- (f) consultation on other matters covered by Article 19.1 as the Parties may agree.

ARTICLE 19.3

Cooperation for the improvement of the business environment

1. Each Party shall, in accordance with its laws and regulations, take appropriate measures to further improve the business environment in the area of agriculture and foods for persons of the other Party conducting their business activities in the former Party.
2. To further improve the business environment, the Parties shall, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations, promote cooperation between the public authorities and representatives of the respective agriculture and food sectors of the Parties.

¹ For the purposes of this Chapter, "agricultural product quality policy" on geographical indications refers to agricultural product quality policy on geographical indications for the products covered by Article 14.26.

ARTICLE 19.4

Request for information

Each Party may submit to the other Party a request for information and clarifications regarding measures related to agriculture or foods. The requested Party shall, as soon as possible but no later than 60 days after the receipt of the request, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, provide written information as regards the request made by the requesting Party.

ARTICLE 19.5

Working Group on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture

1. The Working Group on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture established pursuant to Article 23.4 (hereinafter referred to in this Chapter as "the Working Group") shall be responsible for the effective implementation and operation of this Chapter.
2. The Working Group shall have the following functions:
 - (a) ensuring and reviewing the implementation and operation of this Chapter;
 - (b) discussing any issues related to this Chapter;
 - (c) reporting the activities of the Working Group to the Joint Committee if there are any activities to be reported;
 - (d) facilitating cooperation among private sectors of the Parties that contributes to the objectives of this Chapter; and
 - (e) carrying out other functions as may be delegated by the Joint Committee pursuant to subparagraph 5(b) of Article 23.1.

3. The Working Group shall adopt its own rules of procedure and the details of the cooperation referred to in this Chapter.

4. The Working Group may, by consensus, invite representatives of relevant entities other than the Governments of the Parties with the necessary expertise relevant to the issues to be discussed.

ARTICLE 19.6

Contact points and communications

1. Each Party shall, upon the entry into force of this Agreement, designate at least one contact point to facilitate communications between the Parties on any matter relating to this Chapter and notify the other Party of the contact details including information regarding the relevant officials. The Parties shall promptly notify each other of any change of those contact details.

2. The requests relating to this Chapter raised by relevant entities in a Party other than the Governments of the Parties shall be notified by that Party's contact point to the other Party's contact point referred to in this Article within a reasonable period of time.

3. Communications referred to in this Chapter shall be made in English.

ARTICLE 19.7

Relation to other Chapters

1. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, this Chapter does not apply to matters covered by Chapter 2, 6, 7 or 14.

2. Nothing in this Chapter shall affect the rights and obligations of either Party under Chapters 2, 6, 7 and 14.

ARTICLE 19.8

Dispute settlement

The provisions of this Chapter shall not be subject to dispute settlement under Chapter 22.