

Trade disputes and trade agreements have an important characteristic in common — they raise the question of whether and how domestic policies between trading nations can be made more compatible, more consistent, and if they can be harmonized. Serious consideration of these issues raises more basic questions — what do these terms mean, in a practical sense, in bilateral and multilateral trade relations?

This publication is the third in a series of annual workshop proceedings designed to produce timely, relevant, economic analysis related to agricultural, food and trade policy between Canada and the United States. To reflect the continental nature of agricultural and food policy in a NAFTA environment, subject matter was expanded to consider policy relations with Mexico.

This publication contains papers, research results and discussion comments by academic economists, industry representatives and government officials from Canada, the United States and Mexico. The purpose of the workshop and this publication is to enhance understanding of economic forces and policies in each country as a means to limiting or avoiding wasteful policy and trade disputes. The organizers of the workshop believe accurate economic information can influence positively the course of trade relations and economic welfare.

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