The Trans-Pacific Partnership: Implications for Canadian Agriculture

Mike Gifford Comments at the CAES Policy Conference, January 24, 2013



TPP: small or big deal for Canadian agriculture?

- TPP-11: modest opportunities, modest challenges
- Add Japan and Korea: TPP expansion provides major opportunities, more significant but manageable (?) challenges

US still dominates Canada's agricultural exports

Canada's Agricultural Exports 2011 (billion)

Total \$44.4 Japan -\$3.9 US \$22.1 \$1.1 Korea -\$1.7 Mexico -Australia -\$0.4 China - \$3.1 \$0.14 Malaysia -Vietnam - \$0.13 EU-27 \$3.1 \$0.06 Singapore -Chile \$0.13 \$0.06 New Zealand -\$0.2 Peru



- Canada cannot afford to be at competitive disadvantage, especially in growing Asian markets
- Preferential FTA's can provide more ambitious market access than WTO but do not deal with domestic support and export subsides



- Canada already has FTA's with US, Mexico, Chile, and Peru
- Limited access gains to be had in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia
- Relatively small gains for US agriculture means limited pressure on US dairy and sugar lobbies



- TPP would provide better market opening opportunities than bilateral FTA's
- Japan and Korea highly protected agriculture
- US agricultural export gains in Japan (already have FTA with Korea) would help to moderate sugar and dairy lobby influence



- How far Canada liberalises dairy in TPP will depend on how far US willing to go vis a vis NZ and Australia
- Continued use of TRQ's to handle sensitive products would allow SM to continue
- Size of TRQ expansion likely modest in TPP-11, larger with addition of Japan



- No political appetite for internal SM reform,
 TPP results would be catalyst for incremental SM reform
- Main interest of trade partners is Canada's import barriers, not production and marketing systems
- Politicians (federal, provincial and farm) need pragmatic advice (not ideological strictures) on how TPP results can be integrated to allow SM system to coexist with more open trading system