

# US DOMESTIC SUPPORT NOTIFICATION PRACTICES

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## Key Points from US Experience

- A transparent and sustainable process is essential
- Principles remain the same, no matter how complex or simple the policy regime
  - Dedicated resources
  - Transparency of practices & good documentation
  - Strategies to incorporate change

## Outlines of the US Process

- Preparing US domestic support notifications is multi-agency data management and reporting process involving
  - Data collection, calculation, drafting, and verification
  - Review for careful application of WTO rules, accuracy of data & methods

# Data Sourcing

- Wide range of sources across USDA and other agencies
- In early years, dependent on personal contacts and special computer runs using internal administrative databases
- Transitioned to public web sourcing and simplified spreadsheet calculations wherever possible

# Report Management

- Unified coordination to maintain control of report within and across agencies throughout a lengthy process
- Electronic processes simplify and increase transparency in update, correction, and review
  - Linked spreadsheets in a single workbook
  - Transparent footnotes to the tables
  - Summary table with extensive notes for review process

# Policy Tracking and Classification

- New Farm Acts—classify new programs (and submit DS2s for exempt programs)
- Insufficient data detail and data lags—classify and report using best available data, submit corrigenda as needed
- Other legislation and related programs for reporting—not all US domestic programs are governed by Farm Acts or implemented by USDA

## Summary

- Core lessons that we have learned over the years are
  - Simplify data handling processes
  - Increase transparency of data sources and methods
- These principles produce both internal and external benefits
  - A clear, sustainable reporting process
  - Improved public accessibility of notifications