

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Agricultural Policies

Addendum

COLOMBIA

I. General aspects

Agriculture has traditionally been a sector of prime importance for Colombia's economic growth, not only in the first stage of development based on an upsurge of agricultural exports, the "outward growth stage", but also in the more recent period of growth based on import substitution.

The rôle of the agricultural sector in the country's growth has been reflected both in its participation in generating gross domestic product and employment and in its capacity as a source of foreign exchange and raw materials for industrial development. Furthermore, as the process of division of labour has progressed, the development of agriculture has been a basic element in the development of other economic sectors such as trade, finance, transport, etc. For these reasons the objectives of Colombia's agricultural policy are adapted to the general objectives set for the economy as a whole, given that this sector is an integral part of the country's production structure, in other words that harmony and consistency exist between the various targets proposed for each individual sector.

The basic principle underlying agricultural policy is that the country must not depend entirely or largely on imports to meet its requirements of staple foodstuffs, nor must it export such products in such proportions as to leave domestic consumption requirements unsatisfied.

II. Objectives

The policy is designed to yield the following results:

- (a) An increase in agricultural and live-stock production and productivity in respect of products intended both for domestic consumption and for export;

- (b) An increase in work opportunities and earnings;
- (c) More equitable distribution of agricultural earnings and productive resources;
- (d) An improvement in marketing conditions for agricultural products;
- (e) Correction of imbalance as between agricultural and industrial development and of any imbalance within the agricultural sector;
- (f) Better utilization and conservation of natural resources and other production factors;
- (g) Improved economic, social and cultural well-being for the rural population through minimum agricultural services and other basic services furnished by the State;
- (h) Substitution of imports of goods that can be produced domestically, and promotion and diversification of agricultural exports.

III. Machinery

Adequate machinery has been set up for the attainment of this agricultural policy including measures in the following fields: credit, prices, marketing, technical assistance and agrarian reform.