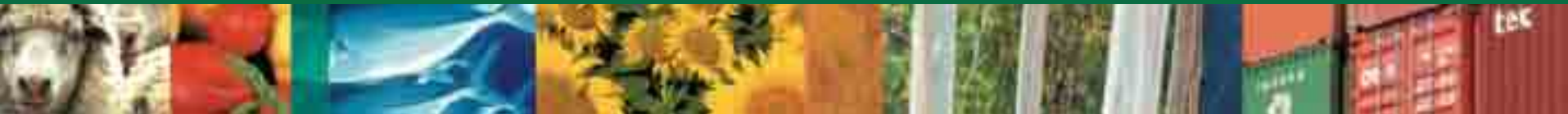


The Australia-China Cooperation on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Activities



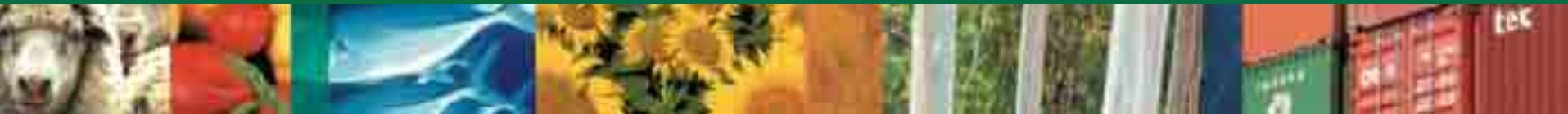
Xi'an Agriculture Conference, 27 September 2006

Craig Burns, Executive Manager
International Division



Overview

- **Australia and China have benefited from a close relationship with China on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) matters**
- **Australia and China have signed a number of agreements on SPS and technical cooperation**
- **Australia has provided China with SPS related technical assistance to China since joined the WTO in 2001**
- **The FTA will strengthen cooperation and information exchange on SPS matters**



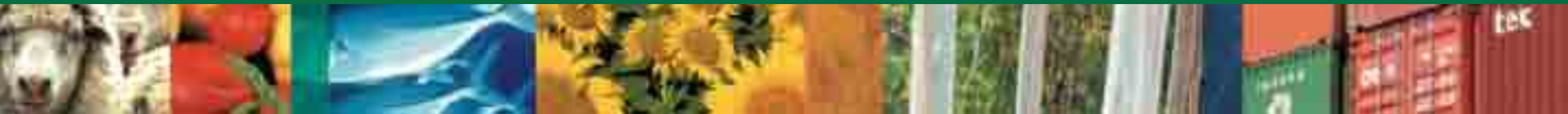
Intergovernmental Agreements on SPS and Technical Cooperation

Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Sanitary and Phytosanitary matters signed October 2003



Intergovernmental Agreements on SPS and Technical Cooperation

Agricultural Technical Cooperation Programme signed April 2006



Intergovernmental Agreements on SPS and Technical Cooperation

Other agreements:-

Australia-China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement (ACACA) signed 1984

Memorandum of Understanding on Olympic Cooperation signed October 2002



Technical assistance case studies

Australia has delivered a number of key projects to help China's SPS capacity building

- Biosecurity and quarantine training program for senior AQSIQ officers
- One day SPS workshop held in Beijing
- Master class in agricultural trade policy and biosecurity
- Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) training
- AQIS electronic certification assistance



Technical assistance case studies

Biosecurity and quarantine training program for senior AQSIQ officers

- Three months in DAFF from October to December 2004

One day SPS workshop held in Beijing

- Seminar on Australia's approach to biosecurity held in Beijing 28 October 2005



Technical assistance case studies

Master class in agricultural trade policy and biosecurity

- Three week program held for 19 AQSIS officials in DAFF during May 2006





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Technical assistance case studies

Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) training

- 80 Chinese officials have been trained in fumigation best practice
- A further 80 will be trained this year





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Technical assistance case studies

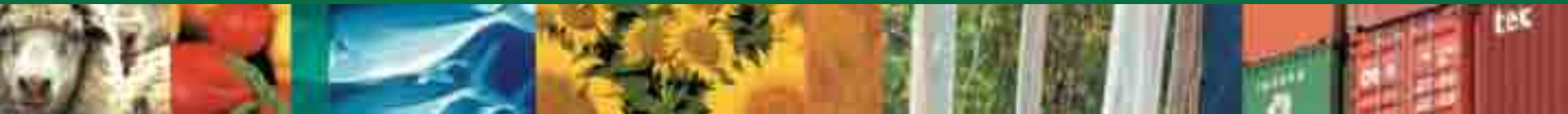
AQIS Electronic Certification

- Australia and China have agreed to cooperate on electronic SPS certification



SPS chapter under the Australia-China FTA

The Australia-China FTA will build on this close relationship by strengthening cooperation and information exchange on SPS matters



SPS chapter under the Australia-China FTA

Australian objectives for an SPS chapter under the FTA are:

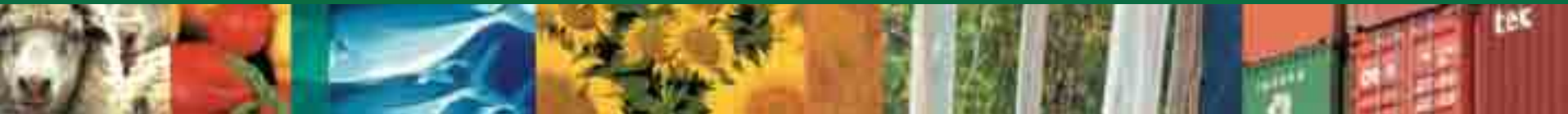
- facilitate bilateral trade in food, plants & animals & their products while protecting human, animal & plant health
- deepen the mutual understanding of each party's regulations & procedures relating to SPS measures
- strengthen cooperation between government agencies responsible for SPS
- enhance the implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement



SPS chapter under the Australia-China FTA

The World Trade Organisation SPS Agreement contains the legal obligations relating to the application of SPS measures

- The provisions of an SPS chapter in the FTA would affirm the rights and obligations of parties under the WTO SPS Agreement



SPS chapter under the Australia-China FTA

The core principles of the WTO SPS Agreement **do not** change after a FTA is entered into

- Each party continues to determine and apply their own Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP)
- The FTA cannot require that either party accept product that cannot meet their ALOP
- All quarantine measures applied must be based on international standards or a scientific assessment of risk

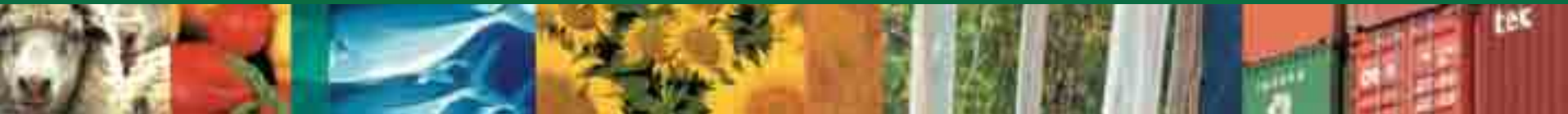


SPS chapter under the Australia-China FTA

When agriculture products are traded between countries that have *different* pest and disease risks and status, the principle of ALOP explains why:-

- Some products that China exports to other countries are not permitted in Australia
- China accepts certain products from Australia that Australia does not accept from China

...and vice versa



In conclusion Australia and China share a special bilateral and regional relationship on Sanitary and Phytosanitary matters



Thank you



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