

## **Statement of the World Farmers' Organisation before the 13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization**

The World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), representing farmers' organisations and cooperatives across the globe, is committed to working with governments, the WTO and relevant stakeholders to achieve multilateral improvements to the global trading system.

Trade delivers an opportunity to increase food security worldwide in a fair and sustainable manner. It delivers economic prosperity and ensures a stable food supply. At the same time, trade must not undermine national food security objectives.

To ensure that the major concerns of citizens are met, including the provision of safe and secure supplies of food for their people, the well-being of rural communities and environmental concerns; trade rules should permit policy measures which promote stability of supplies, such as safety nets, orderly marketing and supply management. Governments should ensure that policies are fully transparent, coherent, and comply with international obligations.

At the foundation of the [WFO Policy on International Trade](#) is a commitment to several policy objectives aimed at ensuring agriculture can meet its full potential, including:

- A rules-based trade system that supports sustainable and fair global agri-food supply chains;
  - The inclusion of youth and women in the agri-food production system;
  - Recognising the role of agricultural production in conjunction with climate and environmental outcomes;
  - A fair price system which reflects the true cost of production and supports innovation at the farm level;
  - Improved resilience of the global food systems and farmers' livelihoods to market shocks;
  - The elimination of export subsidies and disciplines on export measures with equivalent effect;
  - Improved market access, taking regard of local conditions;
  - Continued efforts to regulate trade-distorting domestic support that negatively affects other markets;
  - Strengthened rules applied to export prohibition/restriction and export taxes;
  - Special and differential treatment for developing countries and least developed countries;
  - The maintenance of food safety requirements and the prevention of 'dumping' of lesser-quality food in developing and least-developed countries; and
  - Proper enforcement of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
-



As a result, discussions and subsequent outcomes at the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference could have significant implications for farmers around the world. As such, the WFO and its Members are actively engaging with governments and the international community to reiterate its support for the advancement of a detailed workplan or path forward on the WTO agriculture negotiations.

This workplan should take a holistic approach encompassing all issues, including:

- The establishment of fair and equitable WTO rules that would allow all farmers to compete on a level playing field;
- The repurposing of trade-distorting and environmentally harmful agricultural subsidies that negatively affect other markets;
- The repurposing agricultural subsidies that crowd out smaller-scale agricultural producers from international markets and impeding the achievement of climate goals;
- The tight control of food export restrictions in the WTO so that food importing countries do not find their food supply diminished in times of global crisis;
- A resolution of the issue of the public stockholding for food security purposes;
- A fully functioning dispute settlement system in place by 2024 that is efficient, effective, transparent, and accessible.

Looking beyond the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference, the WFO calls for action to reinforce the global agricultural trading system in a way that includes strengthening international standards, eliminating unlawful protectionist measures, capacity building for under-represented and vulnerable groups, an investment in trade infrastructure, improved transparency, and a trading system where farmers benefit fairly and where governments prevent the abuse of market power. More details on each of these policy recommendations are outlined in the [WFO Policy on International Trade](#).

The WFO appeals to the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference to ensure the agricultural negotiations are responsive to the global challenges facing the food and agriculture systems and the needs and experiences of farmers at the local level, reinforcing the position of farmers in the food chain and ensuring the food security of the global population.

World Farmers' Organisation

[www.wfo-oma.org](http://www.wfo-oma.org)

[info@wfo-oma.org](mailto:info@wfo-oma.org)

---