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## North American Agricultural Trade Policy: Are Super-Regionalism and Deeper Regional Integration the “Next Big Thing” after NAFTA?

### Abstract

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There is an ongoing trend in North American agricultural trade policy towards super-regional free trade agreements (FTAs) with economies in other parts of the world and deeper integration within the regional free trade area formed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). We explore the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP), the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union, and the Alianza del Pacífico as examples of super-regional initiatives in which one or more NAFTA countries participate. We also suggest that the “spaghetti bowl” or “noodle bowl” – the evolving network of bilateral, regional, and super-regional FTAs involving countries throughout the world – may be considered as an implicit, super-regional agreement. We then describe ongoing efforts by the NAFTA governments to foster deeper regional integration through regulatory cooperation, information sharing, unilateral policy reforms, and modifications to NAFTA’s rules of origin; last, we explore why a North American customs union and the modification of the processes by which antidumping duties (ADs) and countervailing duties (CVDs) are applied have not been pursued.

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