



Joint Statement on "Trade in Food and Agricultural Products" welcomed by the international commodity trade

Geneva, 13/12/2017 – Gafta welcomes the news from the WTO Ministerial Conference that 17 governments have signed the *Joint Statement on Trade in Food and Agricultural Products*.

We praise the decision of these 17 governments to support the ongoing work in the SPS committee examining pesticide related issues. Representing the international grain and feed trade, we promote free trade of agricultural trade and the use of international standards which must be based on sound science which is the foundation for effective policy making.

Gafta members experience the negative impact that pesticide related issues have on international trade in food and agricultural products in developed and developing countries. For these reasons "we strongly support the need for more transparency and predictability on MRLs which will facilitate international trade and access to food" said Jaine Chisholm Caunt, Gafta's Director General. Furthermore efforts

We also strongly support the suggestions to strengthen the implementation of the WTO SPS by reinforcing work of international organisations and to increase the capacity and efficiency of Codex in setting international standards on MRLs **ensuring that food is safe and can be traded**. Efforts to achieve greater harmonisation across national and regional MRLs, and for greater access to alternative pesticides for farmers across the globe is welcomed by the trade.

Gafta calls on the WTO SPS Members to continue to build on this momentum and engage with the trade and industry in finding practicable solutions. We believe in the need to advance this dialogue and to raise awareness on significant impact that pesticide issues have on trade and food security and minimise unwarranted trade barriers related to pesticide regulatory requirements.

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Gafta is an international trade association with over 1700 members in 90 countries. Our aim is to promote international trade in agricultural commodities, spices and general produce, and to protect our members' interests worldwide. See www.gafta.com