



## AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

**ACCI Chief Executive Peter Hendy on ABC Radio News - 19 December 2005 - World Trade Organisation**

### **World trade deal a boon for farmers: NFF**

National Farmers Federation president Peter Corrish says the agreement is a win for Australian farmers. ABC TV

An agreement among world trade ministers to end export subsidies by 2013 could lead to higher farm incomes in Australia.

The commitment has come at the end of week-long World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks in Hong Kong.

Most trade analysts expected the talks to achieve very little and depending on who you speak to, that is still the case.

After the week of talks, including last-minute night-long negotiations, the 149 member economies have agreed to develop a schedule for ending export tariffs and subsidies by April 30 next year.

They have also decided that rich countries will allow free access for at least 97 per cent of exports produced by the world's poorest nations within a few years.

National Farmers Federation (NFF) president Peter Corrish says the agreement is a win for Australian farmers.

"Export subsidies have always been seen as the worst form of trade distortion, so an agreement to get rid of these by 2013 is certainly a positive step forward," he said.

No reforms have been set in the area of market access, a key objective for Australian farmers coming into the talks, with pressure continuing on monopolies like national wheat exporter AWB.

### **ACCI**

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) says the deal does not go far enough.

Spokesman Peter Hendy says there are some positives in the agreement for Australia but he would have liked the deal to go further.



"There will be some benefits - if the agricultural subsidy date of 2013 sticks, that will be good for Australian beef producers, dairy producers and sugar producers," he said.

"Unfortunately, there is no progress in manufacturing, there's no progress on the services industry that you could write home about."