

Agricultural Interest Group's Opinions about Recent U.S. Free Trade Agreements

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Summary

In this article we verify how the problems of the agricultural commodities were settled in the recent U.S. Free Trade Agreements which had been ratified and come into effect since the Trade Act 2002. We examine the U.S. agricultural interest groups opinions on these FTAs and approach the U.S. agricultural problems in FTA. The U.S. basic stance for the negotiation of agricultural trade is to claim more open agricultural market access and reduction or removal of tariff barriers on agricultural commodities, realizing freer international agricultural trade in more equal and fair competing conditions. However, it does not necessarily intend totally opening U.S. agricultural market in its FTA. Roughly saying, U.S. holds three types agricultural commodities; cereal crops and oilseeds which eager to more opportunity for export, sugar which is not necessarily competitive in the world market, asks for maintaining its tariff barriers and domestic market management programs, and dairy, beef, and horticulture whose policy and stance against the FTA depends on the each FTA partner countries. Such very complicated interests of the U.S. agriculture made it more difficult to draw up the consistent policy for the agricultural negotiation.