



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**SHARING EXPERIENCES OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT POLICIES
IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
SEMINAR**

12-14 March 2008, Sydney, Australia

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

The main focus of the Seminar will be on sharing the experiences of APEC economies in implementing policies in the agricultural sector to manage structural adjustment resulting from reforms to domestic policy arrangements, trade reform or changing market conditions. The Seminar will bring together the lessons learnt and key elements for success and also consider experiences with risk management in agriculture.

STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT IN APEC: ECONOMY CASE STUDIES

A key feature of the Seminar will be presentations by APEC Economies on their domestic experiences with structural adjustment. Participant economies that have implemented specific programs and policy measures in response to adjustment pressures, will be invited to prepare case studies addressing:

- What was learnt about the design and outcomes of those efforts
- How structural adjustment has impacted on the agricultural sector / industry examples

Participants will be provided with guidelines to assist them in the preparation of their case studies. Economies will be encouraged to distill and discuss the challenges and results of sector-wide reform and/or specific industry adjustment measures.

Australia and project co-sponsors, Chile and New Zealand, will provide comprehensive overviews of structural adjustment in the agricultural sectors of their economies.

KEY ISSUES IN STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT

The case studies will be complemented with expert presentations that provide background information on the impact of structural adjustment policies on the sector and an overview of the key issues facing economies in responding to the challenges of domestic adjustment. Key discussion issues will include:

- What is Structural Adjustment?
- Political Economy of Managing Adjustment
- International Experience with Structural Adjustment

RISK MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE

The Seminar will also explore the role of risk management approaches in domestic agricultural adjustment and implementing effective domestic responses. Issues to be addressed include:

- Risk Management – effective policy responses rely on a comprehensive understanding of the risks posed to the sector of change and the identification of appropriate risk reducing measures
- International Experience with Risk Management Policies for the Agricultural Sector
- Risk Management in Australian Agricultural Policy Responses

SEMINAR OUTCOMES

The Seminar will bring together the experiences of the APEC economies, focussing on:

- Options and Strategies for Effective Sectoral Adjustment
- Best Practice Principles for Undertaking Structural Adjustment
- Reflections on Lessons Learnt from Economies' Experience and Next Steps