



CANADIAN OILSEED PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

TPP is a Significant Achievement for COPA Members

October 8, 2015 – The conclusion of negotiations on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a significant achievement for members of the Canadian Oilseed Processors Association (COPA). Eventual implementation of this agreement will allow oilseed processors in Canada to access important markets in the Asia Pacific region and compete on a level playing field with other TPP countries.

Through the TPP, it is estimated that when tariffs are fully eliminated in Japan and Vietnam over five years, exports of canola oil and meal could increase by up to \$780 million per year. Removal of Japan's vegetable oil tariffs in particular has long been a priority for COPA members. "An agreement to eliminate these tariffs has been more than three decades in the making," says Mark Roe, Chairman of COPA. "Access to this lucrative market will help ensure the viability and growth of our processing sector".

In addition to eliminating tariffs, the agreement also addresses non-tariff barriers associated with the trade of products derived from genetically modified crops. "Increased transparency and cooperation on issues pertaining to biotechnology ensures a more predictable environment for our exports," says Chris Vervaet, Executive Director of COPA.

Implementing the agreement quickly is important for COPA members as Australia currently has preferential access to ship canola oil to Japan through their bilateral free trade agreement implemented earlier this year. Once the TPP is fully implemented, Canadian canola oil will be on a level playing field with other oils into Japan.

"We appreciate all of the hard work and effort put forth by the Government of Canada in reaching the TPP agreement," says Vervaet. "COPA hopes all TPP members ratify and implement this landmark agreement as quickly as possible, so benefits can be realized and more value can be added to our industry and the Canadian economy."

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The Canadian Oilseed Processors Association (COPA) is a federally incorporated non-profit industry association that represents the major oilseed processors in Canada. COPA's members are members of the Canola Council of Canada that advocates for improved market access by eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers for canola. The TPP is a necessary step to achieve the industry's goal of processing 14 million tonnes of canola by 2025.

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