

Biography note for Mr. David Harris

David Harris is an economic consultant with considerable expertise in providing strategic advice to government agencies, industry associations and private sector clients. He has established his own consulting business, *D. N. Harris & Associates*. His professional background includes commercial experience combined with extensive experience in quantitative assessments of agricultural trade issues and policy analysis.

Recent consulting work includes strategic advice for the WTO trade negotiations, policy advice and capacity building in policy development for developing countries, reviews of government programs, project evaluations and published research on issues such as industry adjustment to trade reforms, WTO reforms on the rules governing food aid and the role of special safeguards in agricultural trade.

Mr. Harris has a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics degree and a Master of Economics. Prior to establishing his consulting business he spent five years as Manager of Corporate Intelligence at Bonlac Foods Ltd, a large Australian dairy co-operative. His role was to advise the CEO on industry and government relations, regulatory affairs, business restructuring and trade issues. He was heavily involved in policy development for deregulating the Australian dairy market at a political, industry and grass roots level.

His prior work experience includes ten years at ABARE where he was involved in developing global trade models and quantitative analysis of industry policy issues. Subsequently Mr. Harris joined the Canberra based Centre for International Economics as a consultant in the early 1990's. He was involved in preparing economic advice for industry associations and other clients on a range of trade policy and industry development issues.

In the mid 1990's Mr. Harris joined the Agriculture Directorate of the OECD Secretariat in Paris. During this time he gained an appreciation of the perspectives of other countries on agricultural policy issues and was involved in modelling work on commodity markets and preparing global projections. He managed projects on contentious issues in PSE measurement, the impact of EU CAP reforms and industry specific evaluations of the Uruguay Round trade agreement.

His recent consulting work has covered several areas. He has prepared quantitative studies for Dairy Australia to provide strategic advice on dairy trade issues in the Doha WTO trade talks. He has completed AUSAid projects on trade reforms in Vietnam's pig meat and sugar industries and undertaken ACIAR project evaluations and policy studies in China, Vietnam and Pakistan. Other work includes developing and delivering training courses on policy reform and structural change for officials in ASEAN countries. He is currently directing a training program to enhance the policy development skills of government officials in Cambodia.

Mr Harris has published research reports for RIRDC on industry adjustment to policy reform, technical issues affecting agricultural trade, the trade implications of food aid and the role of special safeguards in trade liberalisation. These studies were prepared to assist Australia's international advocacy for reductions in agricultural support. He has also undertaken DAFF reviews of the *AAA – International Agricultural Cooperation (IAC)* program and the *Live Animal Trade Program (LATP)*. The reviews were required to assess the effectiveness of the programs as a contribution to the DoFA review process.

Updated: 3 March 2008