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**Submission on:** **International treaty examination of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA)**

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**Submission from:**

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# International treaty examination of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA)

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Agcarm welcomes the opportunity to comment on the International treaty examination of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA).
- 1.2 Agcarm is supportive of the TPPA being mandated by the Government. As an organisation we view the trade agreement as a key driver in freeing up agricultural trade and investment between the 12 countries involved in the partnership.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Agcarm recommends that the TPP is ratified and signed by the New Zealand Government as a means of enhancing our overall economy, particularly the agricultural based industries. As it reads the TPP will lead to the removal or reduction of tariffs from partner countries that we export commodities to, thus providing greater confidence to New Zealand commodity producers for future market growth.
- 2.2 On a specific point we endorse *Chapter 18 – Intellectual Property, Subsection B: Measure Relating to Agricultural Chemical Products, Article 18.47: Protection of Undisclosed Test or Other Data for Agricultural Chemical Products*. Within this Chapter, at least 10 years data protection for new agrichemical products is stipulated. The protection will ensure that all countries that are part of the TPPA will be on the same level when it comes to registering new and innovative agrichemical products.
- 2.3 From a New Zealand perspective the 10 years stipulated in the TPPA will be an increase in our current data protection of 5 years. Increased data protection will have many benefits to the agricultural sector including a wider variety of new products with ‘softer’ more environmentally friendly chemistry, better options for managing resistance, more options for minor species, and an increase in the spending on innovation and research by our member companies.

## 3. Conclusion

- 3.1 As the peak industry representative for Crop Protection and Animal Health within New Zealand, Agcarm welcomes the TPP Agreement and supports the endorsement of the Agreement by the New Zealand Government.

## 4. About Agcarm

Agcarm is the industry association for manufacturers and suppliers of crop protection and animal health products. For further information see [www.agcarm.co.nz](http://www.agcarm.co.nz).

The products that our members produce protect public health, improve animal welfare and help environmental management. They:

- Play a pivotal role in growing high yield, sustainable food and fibre products;
- Help supply healthy, nutritional and affordable food;
- Keep New Zealand’s agriculture, horticulture and forestry sectors internationally competitive.
- Our members are committed to safety, innovation and product stewardship.