

# CUTS LATEST PUBLICATIONS

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## The Saga of Rising Food Prices

(No 2/2008)



The 21<sup>st</sup> century is likely to witness an unprecedented escalation in food prices. This can be attributed to a sharp rise in the demand for food due to rapid economic growth in many developing countries accompanied by a decline in supply fuelled by climate change due to global warming and the diversion of farm produce to the manufacture of crude oil substituting biofuels. This rise in prices will undoubtedly wreak havoc on the poor in developing countries on either side of the threshold of subsistence.

To ward off this impending doom, developing countries need to invest in rural infrastructure and marketing institutions and international organisations need to support research in the area of agricultural science and technology.

This Briefing Paper examines such factors and the gains and losses they generate for different national economies and individual actors within these economies, including the impoverished. It also analyses the impact of change in the major determinants of food demand and supply.

*This Briefing paper can be viewed at:  
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-5.pdf>*

**CUTS**  
International

**Consumer Unity & Trust Society**

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## From UNCTAD XI to UNCTAD XII – A Stocktaking

(TDP No 3/2008)



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is at the cross roads. The impact of the juggernaut of globalisation is being felt slowly but surely in these countries and its current activities are falling woefully short in addressing related opportunities and challenges UNCTAD is meant for.

The changing economic landscape demands a more pointed delivery from UNCTAD that not only becomes a veritable economic and trade policy input at the national and regional level for developing countries but also adapts to the specificities in each developing country and produces tailor made outputs. It also has to acquire a new supporter in the civil society if its work is to attain the desired spread and levels, and if the average citizen of developing countries is to develop a confidence in its wisdom.

This paper argues that the changing economic landscape demands a more pointed delivery from UNCTAD that becomes a veritable economic and trade policy input at the national and regional level for developing countries and adapts to the specificities in each developing country and produces tailor made outputs.

*This Briefing paper can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-4.pdf>*

## Mainstreaming Development in the WTO: Developing Countries in the Doha Round

(TDP 4/2008)



The launch of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations in 2001 was marked by developing countries' criticism of the Uruguay Round and the negotiating parties promised to address the concerns of poor countries. Besides this, developing countries need to act as active agents of change in the Doha Round, the prospect of Aid for Trade (AfT) needs to be explored, and the promotion of a more democratic and transparent decision-making system are other factors that need to be considered in order to ensure a more efficient and broad based World Trade

Organisation (WTO).

This Briefing Paper argues that the main concern of the developing countries is in the area of Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT), which is the hindrance to a development-oriented WTO. It contends that a multilateral trading system should be based on the applied principles of fair trade, capacity building, balanced rules and good governance.

*This Briefing paper can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-6.pdf>*



## Aid for Trade: *The Process So Far, But What Next?*

(TDP 5/2008)

Many developing countries believe that they have little to gain from engaging in market access negotiations through the WTO, as supply-side constraints and infrastructure problems prevent them from taking advantage of the trading opportunities and competing in global markets. The AfT initiative therefore aims at increasing the support of developed countries for developing countries to foster the latter's trade capacity building and help them adjust to the impacts of trade reforms.

The definition of AfT still not determined, while measurement of AfT flows still needs work as depending on proxies, including question whether AfT can really be accurately measured or proxies will have to be used. The recipients do not really know how effectively donors are responding. This Briefing Paper addressed some major issues which needs to be considered for better implementation of AfT.

*This Briefing paper can be viewed at:  
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-DI-7.pdf>*



## Domestic Regulation and Service Trade Liberalisation: *A South Asian Perspective*

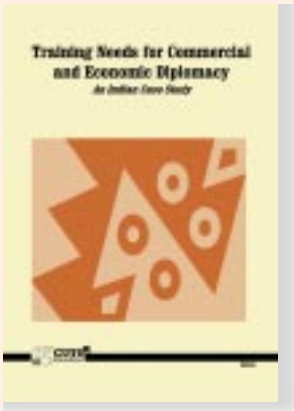
(No 3/2008)

General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) does not provide a concrete definition of the concept 'domestic regulation' in Article VI. It explains some legally binding provisions of procedural nature, mandating for the development of multilateral disciplines associated with licensing, qualifications and technical standards, and a mechanism for the provisional application of the main principles underlying the future disciplines.

Furthermore, since domestic regulation is heterogeneous in nature and takes several forms – ranging from protectionist device to attaining economic or social objective – the overall aim of the regulation remains to preserve the latter. Moreover, developing a multilateral framework to deal with different modalities of regulation is a difficult task.

This Briefing Paper examines why domestic regulation is an important issue for South Asian countries in order to benefit from further services trade liberalisation in these economies.

*This Briefing paper can be viewed at:  
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP08-WTO-1.pdf>*



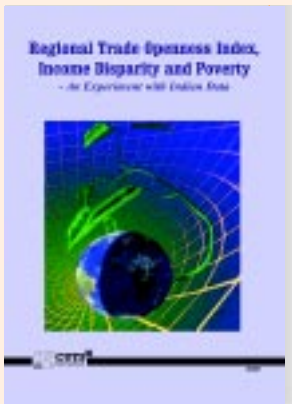
## Training Needs for Commercial and Economic Diplomacy *An Indian Case Study*

This Report is an outcome of the project entitled, “Capacity Building of Indian Government Officials on Commercial and Economic Diplomacy” supported by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. This project is designed to equip government officials, who are targeted to undergo the training with various tools and techniques of commercial and economic diplomacy.

The purpose of this Report is to carry out the need assessment for formal training to Indian government officials and business executives, who are handling issues related to commercial and economic diplomacy. It was envisaged that CUTS would be undertaking this survey before initiating a formal beginning of the project. This report presents an overview of need assessment carried out to help initiate the training programme in a formal way.

*Research Report*

*Suggested Contribution: Rs 200/US\$20*



## Regional Trade Openness Index, Income Disparity and Poverty – *An Experiment with Indian Data*

This study aims to examine how much ‘open’ Indian states are with respect to international trade and then assesses to characterise three related aspects: (1) trade openness and incidence, depth and severity of poverty at the state level (rural and urban); trade openness and income inequality at the state level (rural and urban); (2) trade openness and industrial employment across industry types (workers and employees); and (3) trade openness and regional disparity. This study focuses primarily on finding the inter-linkage between trade openness at the state level

and its implications for poverty. However, the precursor for this and other related issues is the construction of trade openness index on which a substantial portion of the study is devoted.

*Research Report*

*Suggested Contribution: Rs 200/US\$20*



## Political Economy of Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh

### *Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Bangladesh Agriculture*

**I**n the globalised world of today, trade liberalisation is often promoted for economic growth. But the link between economic growth and liberalisation of trade has been the subject of a lot of controversies in recent time.

This study tries to contribute to the process of advocating for mainstreaming trade policy in the national development strategy of Bangladesh. While there are two different but interlinked aspects of trade liberalisation – economics and political economy – this paper focuses on the political economy of trade liberalisation in Bangladesh.

Although trade liberalisation is expected to have significant impact on all sectors of the economy, the focus of this paper has been kept limited to agriculture. And given the fact that agriculture itself is a vast sector and encompasses a lot of sub-sectors, two particular cases have been picked up for zooming in the impact of trade liberalisation on the ground. The sugarcane farming and poultry farming, which are considered to be heavily impacted by the trade liberalisation policies adopted over time.

*Research Report*

*Suggested Contribution: Rs 200/US\$20*



## India and Preferential Trade Agreements: The Path Traversed and the Road Ahead

(No 1/2008)

**T**he 1990s is widely seen as the decade of globalisation, during which India, with around one-sixth of the world's population, shed off its protective cocoon to participate more vigorously in the world's economy. All along, this decade saw a spate of new generation preferential/regional/free trading agreements (PTAs/RTAs/FTAs) all over the world. Among the early new generation agreements were a single European Market (EM) by the European Union (EU) in 1992 and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994. Since the 1990s bilateral trade agreements

have been negotiated by countries as diverse in size, location and affluence as Chile, China, US, Japan, South Africa, Australia, Singapore and Switzerland.

This study provide an in-depth analysis of PTAs/RTAs/FTAs, their significance and overall impacts on Indian economy.

*This Monograph can be viewed at:*

<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/MONOGRAPH08-01.pdf>

## Services Trade and Investment Liberalisation, and Domestic Regulation *A Summary of Six Country Case Studies*

(No 2/2008)



The service sector has become an increasingly important sector in national output and employment of developing countries. For many developing economies and least developed countries (LDCs), services constitute a fast growing and often dominant sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with important forward and backward linkages to other sectors of the economy.

As countries move forward with further liberalisation of their service sectors and with regulatory and institutional reforms, it becomes important to examine the experience in this regard across a variety of developing countries.

This synthesis paper attempts to pull together cross country experience on domestic regulation of services and services trade and investment liberalisation analyses the associated outcomes and regulatory concerns.

It examines the experience of six developing countries, namely: Bangladesh, the Gambia, India, Jamaica, Kenya, and Zambia, in terms of the evolution of their service sectors, their liberalisation experience and results, their regulatory concerns and challenges, including their multilateral and regional strategies for undertaking commitments in the service sector.

*This Monograph can be viewed at:  
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/MONOGRAPH08-02.pdf>*

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