

RECENT TITLES

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Market Access for Least Developed Countries: The Hong Kong Effect

(SAFIT No. 1/2006)



Half a decade has passed since trade ministers agreed upon the Doha Declaration that acknowledged the need to manage international trade for economic development and poverty alleviation. This mandate set out a special focus on least developed countries (LDCs), which included how to integrate them into the multilateral trading system (MTS).

At the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial in Hong Kong, progress was made in the matter when it was confirmed in the final Declaration, 'developed country Members shall provide duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) market access for all products originating from LDCs by 2008'. However, a loophole was provided for developed country Members to protect their markets from LDCs imports that may effectively compete with their domestic industries.

This Briefing Paper discusses the potential economic impact on LDCs' trade in the light of the outcome of the Hong Kong Ministerial on DFQF market access for LDCs' products.

Briefing Paper

The same can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/SAFIT-1-2006.pdf>

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Suspension of Doha Round Talks: Reasons and the Possible After effects

(SAFIT No. 2/2006)



Among all the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)/WTO trade rounds, Doha Round has been the most eventful. The July 2004 deal created some hope but none of the WTO Members were too sure about the successful completion of the Round by the end of 2005, the new deadline as per the "July Package". The serious differences among the WTO Members on farm trade liberalisation soon erupted into bumps on the way to finding a multilateral solution to the highly distorted international agriculture trade market. In the run up to the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005, the WTO

Director General Pascal Lamy struggled hard in releasing a draft text, which formed the basis for negotiation. However, consensus eluded the WTO Members till the very end of the Ministerial, finally settling down for a very modest outcome.

This Briefing Paper analyses the meaning, reasons and consequences of the suspension of the Doha Round. It discusses the G-6 meetings, the major differences and the blame game that led to the suspension *sine die*.

Briefing Paper

The same can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/SuspensionDohaRoundTalks.pdf>



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Moving from Preferences to Aid for Trade

(TDP No. 3/2006)



The side effect of Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs reduction is leading to preference erosion thereby posing a difficult problem in the trade-development field for the developing world. For many years, developing countries (DCs) have been receiving tariff preferences from the developed countries for exporting their products. As global trade talks are directed towards dissolving the trade barriers, LDC's in particular, are facing the problem of losing their preferential access to the EU and US markets.

A general tariff reduction as agreed in the multilateral trade negotiations involves cost in the form of loss of preference margin and benefits in the form of increased access to the world market. In this situation, a policy prescription in the form of Aid for Trade (AfT) is gaining acceptance among the trade negotiators to negate the damages incurred from preference erosion. AfT intends to support the developing countries, so that they could develop their supply-side components, which will, in turn, strengthen their industrial-distribution-production system, to make them internationally competitive.

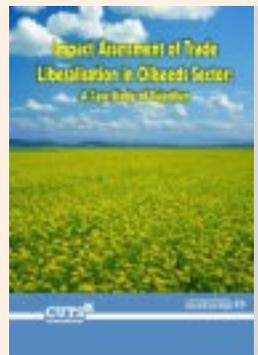
This Briefing Paper attempts to understand whether a compensatory measure in the form of 'AfT' could address the losses brought about after erosion of the trade preferences.

Briefing Paper

The same can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/PDF/tdp-3-2006.pdf>

Impact Assessment of Trade Liberalisation in Oilseeds Sector:

A Case Study of Rajasthan



The removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) is a part of trade policy reforms, which, in turn, is related to the rapid change that the Indian economy is undergoing due to economic reforms. It will not be feasible, at the same time, to conduct in-depth studies for every item, on which QRs have been lifted. The imperative is to select an item, which is important for a wide cross-section of the society. One group of such items is oilseeds and edible oils.

With this background and context, the present study on oilseeds, particularly rapeseed-mustard and groundnut, the two principal oilseeds crops raised in the state of Rajasthan, was undertaken to identify strengths/weaknesses of this sub-sector of agriculture and to offer policy prescriptions to facilitate the process of integrating Indian economy and in particular, the state economy of Rajasthan in the post-QRs phase, with the emerging MTS. Though the scope of the present study is limited to oilseeds and edible oil in the state of Rajasthan, the same could be replicated for the other sectors or group of items as well as other states of India.

Study

The same can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/documents/oilseed-study-final.doc>



Why India Adopted A New Competition Law?

The relevance and role of competition policy and law in countries' national development strategies remains a very frequently visited topic. There is a growing trend of countries adopting competition policy and law as groundwork for their market-based reform, liberalisation and deregulation process. This monograph is yet another research work that aims to study 20 countries, which have enacted a new competition law, after scrapping the old one. It will certainly add value to the debate as to 'Why countries adopt a competition law'.

The countries have been selected randomly from the developed, transition, developing, and large emerging economies. India is among 20-odd countries selected for this purpose. The India paper has been contributed by Dr S Chakravarthy, former Member of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission and Fellow at CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (C-CIER).

The India paper is presented in the form of this stand-alone booklet, which throws light on the developments of competition regime in the country, since its inception. It dwells on the economic scenario that existed before and after the 1991 reforms in India, including: the extant competition law i.e. MRTP Act; the motivations that led to evolution of the new competition law i.e. the Competition Act, 2002; comparison between the old and the new law and the improvements that have taken place and the problems that persist; and performance of competition agencies within their jurisdictions and the future course of action.

Monograph

The same can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/wiancl.pdf>



National Agricultural Policy – A Critical Evaluation

(GRANITE No. 2/2006)

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian economy. Indian agriculture has made rapid strides, from food shortages and imports to self-sufficiency and exports. It has moved from subsistence farming to intensive and technology-led cultivation. There has been lot of progress made in this sector and, yet, the plight of the farmers is more or less the same. The National Agricultural Policy (NAP) was announced in the year 2000, with the aim of sustainable development in agriculture.

However, there are some serious lacunae in the NAP that continue to hinder the process of development in this sector. Various stakeholders have not been able to align themselves with the intent of the national policy.

This Briefing Paper critically examines the NAP *vis-à-vis* current state of the Indian Agriculture, including a review of the NAP, while explaining the growth rate, investment and employment in the agriculture sector along with the export performance, credit availability and the risk involved etc.

Briefing Paper

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