

RECENT TITLES

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



ABC of Aid for Trade

Aid for Trade (A4T), as a win-win policy prescription, can help identify and remove the barriers faced by developing countries to achieve the

benefits of liberalisation, by improving trade-related infrastructure and capacity constraints and moderating adjustment costs. In addition, A4T can assist developing countries to participate dynamically in the international trading system and use trade as a tool against their poverty reduction strategies. A brief description of the

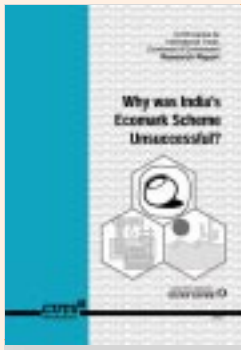
evolution of trade-related assistance towards A4T, as well as the latest trends therein, offer some important insights into a better understanding of the major difficulties faced by developing countries, amidst liberalisation and the call for complementary measures.

This monograph attempts to give concise answers to the fundamental questions concerning A4T – from identifying the needs and the potential beneficiaries to the concerns of diverse stakeholders. While depicting the implementation challenges of A4T, this monograph discusses a number of reasons why market access is insufficient, on its own, to guarantee increased growth and trade.

Monograph

Suggested Contribution: Rs 50/US\$10

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



Why was India's Ecomark Scheme Unsuccessful?

Ecolabels are believed to be an important market-based instrument to influence the behaviour of consumers and industries in favour of

environmentally-friendly products and thus contribute to environment conservation. The efficacy of ecolabelling, in inducing a market-based incentive for environment-

friendly production, was recognised when ecolabelled products were first launched in Germany in the late 1990s.

The objective of this Research Report is to highlight the reasons why the Indian Ecomark Scheme has not succeeded, as desired. Taking the various reasons into consideration, the report makes some vital recommendations as to how the Scheme could be revived, re-invigorated and implemented to benefit consumers, producers and the society at large.

Research Report

Suggested Contribution: Rs 100/US\$25



Consumer Unity & Trust Society

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



WTO, Trade, Development and Aid: Some Misconceptions and Myths

(TDP No. 3/2007)

This paper addresses three general misconceptions and myths about the World Trade Organisation (WTO), trade, development and aid. First, development is equal to special and differential treatment (S&DT) provisions in the WTO agreements and aid! Second, developing countries are reluctant participants in the negotiation on the Doha Development Agenda (DDA).

And, third, on Aid for Trade (A4T), there are three further misconceptions:

- aid does not belong to the WTO;
- developing countries want to make the WTO a development institution; and
- aid is being used as a substitute for trade solutions (to buy off developing countries).

In the conclusion, the paper argues that A4T can contribute towards a "Development Compact" in the WTO.

This briefing paper can be viewed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-DI-7.pdf>

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



South-South Economic Cooperation: Enhancing GMS-India Relationship

This Report explains the present volume and composition of trade and investment, as well as the perceptions of diverse stakeholders, especially business and civil society. It explores and analyses the future scenario, keeping in mind the historical ties and the geographical proximity between three countries of the Greater-Mekong Sub-region (GMS), namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, and recent attempts to forge closer trade and investment cooperation.

What has been presented in this report is a detailed study of the past and present

trade and investment patterns, an analysis of the policy reforms that have been undertaken by each country, the gaps and the lacunae in economic cooperation among the countries and the main reasons for these.

It also identifies areas of cooperation among the countries concerned, i.e., the sectors where trade and investment flows may be enhanced. It will help a whole range of stakeholders, including policy makers, experts, academics, trade community and scholars of Mekong countries and India, who have been looking for feasible ways to facilitate greater co-operation in trade and investment, with the goal of an ever increasing South-South trade.

*Advocacy Document
Suggested Contribution: Rs 50/US\$10*

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

'Real Markets' in Rural Bangladesh: Institutions, Market Interactions and the Reproduction of Inequality

(IPPG No. 8/2007)

In contrast to the 'ideal-type' markets used in economic literature, 'real markets' are very diverse and complicated, having widely different formal and informal institutions and economic context, particularly in developing countries like Bangladesh.

This paper analyses real markets in Bangladesh and argues that, in an underdeveloped and unequal society, market interactions reproduce and deepen the already existing inequalities, through the interactions of various formal and informal institutions.

Using the example of paddy-markets in rural Bangladesh, this paper explains how

the existence of vertical integration, 'patron-client' types of relationship between market players, and the interlocking of different markets results in greater benefits for those relatively powerful and rich among the market players, through the use of greater bargaining advantage. Also, identifying a few institutional gaps, this paper emphasises a number of policy measures that can contribute towards correcting the real markets in favour of the poor.

*This briefing paper can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/IPPGBP07-DI-3.pdf>*

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Interaction of International and National Institutions: Implications for Agriculture in West Bengal

(IPPG No. 09/2007)

Globalisation is an uneven process, in as much as people living in different parts of the world are affected very differently by this gigantic transformation of social structures and cultural zones. However, it is not just a process, but an institutional form, embodying a host of international institutional arrangements governing trade, investment, etc. It is possible for a state to respond to these global currents and trends with necessary policy changes and legislations.

The 1980s thus witnessed, in India, a spate of institutional reforms, seeking to liberalise the economy, by weeding out outmoded institutions of protectionism, like the licensing system and closures on

international trade. In the realms of agriculture as well, India opened its hitherto protected seed industry to private companies. While a change in the rules did register an improvement in economic growth, development and growth did not percolate to the poor and the marginalised farmers. That would be possible only by putting in place the necessary institutions to include the poor or protect them from exclusion from the benefits of growth institutions that will function as a buckle, linking overall growth and poverty reduction.

*This briefing paper can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/IPPGBP07-DI-4.pdf>*

Institutions for Facilitating FDI: Issues for BEPZA, Bangladesh

(IPPG No. 10/2007)

The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), which is responsible for the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in Bangladesh, is a key institution in attracting and managing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Bangladesh. Though termed as efficient, BEPZA activities became the centre of criticism after a shattering labour outburst of 2006.

This briefing paper aims to provide an explanation for this massive failure and also to discuss some of BEPZA's successful cases, through in-depth investigation of its institutional practices, trends and arrangements. BEPZA was developed as a distinct authority directly under the Prime

Minister's Office (PMO). It was granted considerable power over related ministries, divisions and corporations and also immunity from 16 laws relating to industry, labour and customs questions.

BEPZA also included, at a later stage, the PMO's Principal Secretary in its governing body, in order to further streamline the co-operation of the central bureaucratic structure, but with the practice of providing speedy solutions, rather than following the conventional argument and counter-argument decision-making process, having become the norm.

This briefing paper can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/IPPGBP07-DI-5.pdf>

The Importance of Institutionalising? Structured Consultations in Evaluating Trade Proposals: Lessons from India's Experience and Their Wider Relevance

(IPPG No. 11/2007)

The Government of India relies for external advice on an informal and largely unstructured consultative process, with key business associations and other civil society groups, but these associations are not really institutionalised or set up to provide informed advice, based on credible or usable information that relate to specific issues under negotiation in the WTO. Nor does the Government of India generate this information internally.

With the Uruguay Round introducing a wide range of fundamental policy reforms, with just such an anticipated impact, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) began to engage with the policy process in ways that brought implementation concerns

relating to social, environmental and economic issues to the fore, often feeding an intense political debate about development models and other broad issues. As a result, the policy process is often overly political and insufficiently detailed in its assessments, with very uncertain consequences for poverty reduction strategies.

This paper suggests that a fairly simple series of institutional reforms, centred on a mandatory and structured consultative process, could significantly enhance the quality of policy and negotiating inputs, by providing business associations with the incentives they need to invest in participating effectively in the policy process.

This briefing paper can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/IPPGBP07-DI-6.pdf>

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