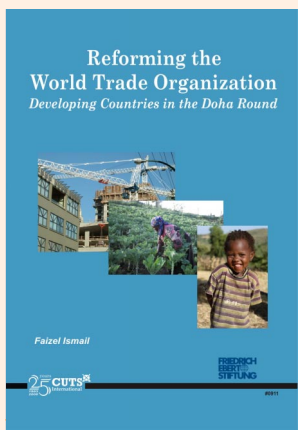


CUTS LATEST PUBLICATIONS

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



Reforming the World Trade Organization: *Developing Countries in the Doha Round*

This book is ambitious in its attempt to not only tell a story, but also draw on the existing academic literature to conceptualise some of the key issues that developing countries have been engaging with in the Doha round. It attempts to review some of the conventional wisdom in the academic literature about the role of developing countries in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) until the launch of the Uruguay Round, provides evidence to rebut the arguments presented by these mainstream writers.

This book also begins to build an analysis of the role of developing country alliances in the WTO and provides a conceptual framework to assess the contribution of the stronger developing country groups in the WTO. It also begins to engage with the academic literature on developing country alliances in the WTO to assess their role in particular episodes of the Doha Round negotiations. This book is also concerned about the reform of the WTO and its institutions and addressed the need to introduce fundamental changes to the practices and institutions of the WTO in order to address the existing asymmetries inherited from the old GATT, created in 1947 and largely incorporated into the WTO in 1995.

Book

Suggested Contribution: Rs 200/US\$20

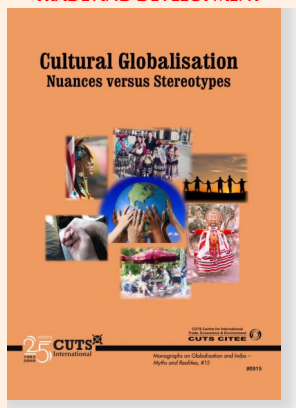
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Consumer Unity & Trust Society

October 2009

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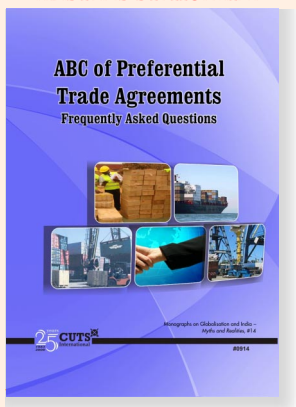
Cultural Globalisation: Nuances versus Stereotypes

This monograph tries to breathe fresh air into the discourse/debate on cultural globalisation which has suffered from stereotypical characterisation as Americanisation and more broadly as Westernisation. The obvious advantages of globalisation providing a medium for cultural exchange which enables cultures to build on their strengths and discard obsolete/unsuitable elements have been missed in this debate. Underlying this glaring omission is the underestimation of the resilience and adaptability of cultures and the tendency to characterise cultures as fixed sets of mores/norms rather than evolving entities.

This monograph tries to incorporate this hitherto unmentioned element using a down-to-earth conversational style that is easy to follow and an approach relying on illustrations from real life. This method enhances the practical utility of this monograph.

This monograph can be viewed at:

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/monograph09-Cultural_Globalisation-Nuances_versus_Stereotypes.pdf



ABC of Preferential Trade Agreements

Multilateralism is the best option for promoting a more equitable and fair trading system. However, Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) have been increasing exponentially, as countries seek to gain market access and seize opportunities offered by preferential deals due to the slow progress at the multilateral level.

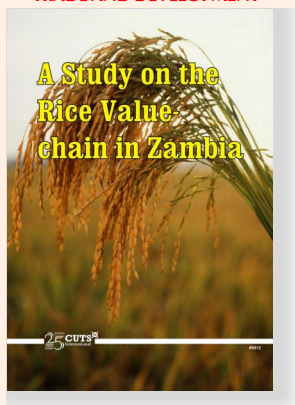
This booklet starts with a brief on the different types of PTAs and why countries enter into such an agreement. It goes on to outline the evolution process and point out why PTAs may be inconsistent with GATT rules.

The broad effects of PTAs and their specific consequences on production, efficiency, competition and welfare are discussed. Lastly, the debates and discussions

surrounding the age-old question of whether PTAs are building blocks or barriers to the MTS are summarised, by drawing from views of both the proponents and the opponents of PTAs. This monograph serves to inform and guide the reader on the basics of a PTA, as well as various concerns and issues enveloping such preferential agreements.

This monograph can be viewed at:

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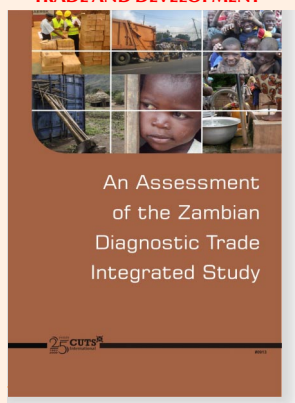
A Study on the Rice Value-chain in Zambia

Globally, rice is a major food staple and a mainstay for many rural populations. As such, it is an important food crop for the food security of significant numbers of rural dwellers in the world. Rice is also a ‘wage’ commodity for workers in areas of production and in the processing plants. This duality, quite often, gives rise to conflicting policy objectives, with policy makers intervening to save farmers when prices drop, or to defend consumer purchasing power when there are sudden price increases.

This study seeks to present an analysis of the rice-value chain situation in Zambia and how the sector can be promoted further through support from the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) initiative. Additionally, the intention is for the report to serve as point for public sector, donor, NGO and private sector discussion with particular focus on opportunities in the value-chain for securing and improving income among rural populations in the rice growing areas.

Research Report

Suggested Contribution: US\$20



An Assessment of the Zambian Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study

The overall objective of the study is to make an assessment of the Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study (DTIS) in Zambia under the EIF and its relevance to building trade capacity and eventually lead to poverty reduction.

The study observes that the DTIS provides enormous potential for Zambia to diversify its export base and accelerate national development. The assessment has shown that the proportion of non-traditional exports in total exports has reduced over the years, despite increasing in absolute terms. The performance of non-traditional exports has remained below the potential and has grown at the same rate as the traditional exports. Moreover, most of the identified prerequisites to effective implementation of the DTIS recommendations have remained unresolved.

Research Report

Suggested Contribution: US\$20

COMPETITION & INVESTMENT

Viewpoint

Linkages between Informality, Competition and Economic Growth

The large informal economy that continues to exist in many developing countries despite economic development has made it a stimulating subject for research and analysis. Conventional views and existing empirical work show that formalisation is always a positive contributor to economic growth. It formalisation of large informal economies is a positive effect of competition or economic growth. A problem may exist with inclusiveness of capturing different channels of growth. The large informal economy may not be captured by or sustained by economic growth. Though evidence of a direct positive relationship between informality and growth may be largely absent in the literature, the informal sector may have growth implications through indirect channels and so the level of competition in the economy. This viewpoint paper presents an argument as to how the informal sector may impact economic growth by altering the degree of competition.

Competition and Economic Growth

Generally, a higher level of competition in an economy contributes to economic growth and to firms undertaking innovation to enhance competitiveness, as a result of the so-called 'competition factor'. Competition compels firms to innovate and spend up with new production techniques or produce existing ones more cheaply than their rivals in order to survive and stay ahead of the game.

The 'ability factor', on the other hand, indicates a firm's capability to invest and innovate. Firms which have surplus profits in a market may reasonably expect an ability to make investments required for innovation. However, in competitive markets some such profits, which if there were competition or ability decrease, are often re-allocated.

Keynote

Depends on sector specific characteristics. However, recent empirical evidence points towards the presence of a positive effect of competition on economic growth, indicating that competition does stimulate innovation and hence economic growth.

Informality, Competition and Economic Growth

Positive Impact

The informal economy may affect competition through several channels both enhancing and reducing competition. Because in the level of competition there has been a large number of producers, in the informal sector selling almost identical products like instance, 'shoes', 'bags' and 't-shirts' (CUTS, 'Innovation and Investment: The Role of Informal Sector', 2010).

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Linkages between Informality, Competition and Economic Growth

The large informal economy that continues to exist in many developing countries despite economic development has made it a stimulating subject for research and analysis. Conventional views and existing empirical work show that formalisation is always a positive contributor to economic growth. A problem may exist with inadequacy of capturing different channels of growth stemming from this sector. Though evidence of a direct positive relationship between informality and growth may be largely absent in the literature, the informal sector may have growth implications through indirect channels such

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COMPETITION & INVESTMENT

Viewpoint

The Relationship between Competition and Investment

One area that has generated debate is whether a market in which firms are subjected to conditions of competition would result in more investment compared to a market under a monopoly. The debate has also been in view over the results of competition law reforms, which are generally intended to instil competition into the markets. Arguments against such reforms also include those put forward in supporting monopoly positions as creating better incentives for investment. This viewpoint paper summarises the two main arguments that are put forward in supporting either competition or monopoly characteristics as tools for attracting investment.

1. Introduction

Competition policy and competition law are generally considered to be single, albeit distinct, concepts. However, there is growing recognition in the regulatory circles, globally, of a growing number of policy options. These options would need to be taken into account to provide for the best interests of the consumer. Therefore, one of the implications of competition law is to impact on investment in a competitive market. This is because competition law is generally characterised by its prohibitory and deterrent nature. It is generally intended to ensure that the market is free of anti-competitive practices and that the interests of consumers are protected. It is also intended to ensure that the market is free of anti-competitive practices and that the interests of consumers are protected. It is also intended to ensure that the market is free of anti-competitive practices and that the interests of consumers are protected.

2. Competition and Investment

The competition and investment linkages are a topic that has been widely debated in the literature. The debate has also been in view over the results of competition law reforms, which are generally intended to instil competition into the markets. Arguments against such reforms also include those put forward in supporting monopoly positions as creating better incentives for investment. This viewpoint paper summarises the two main arguments that are put forward in supporting either competition or monopoly characteristics as tools for attracting investment.

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The Relationship between Competition and Investment

One area that has generated debate is whether a market in which firms are subjected to conditions of competition would result in more investment compared to a market under a monopoly. The debate has also found its way into the realm of competition law reforms, which are generally intended to instil competition into the markets. Arguments against such reforms also include those put forward in supporting monopoly positions as creating better incentives for investment.

This viewpoint paper summarises the two main arguments that are put forward in supporting either competition or monopoly characteristics as tools for attracting investment. It also makes an attempt at reconciling these arguments.

This viewpoint paper can be viewed at:
http://www.cuts-ccier.org/pdf/Viewpoint-The_Relationship_between_Competition_and_Investment.pdf

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