

International Symposium
Linkages between Trade, Development & Poverty Reduction
24th November 2005, Geneva, Switzerland

Theme: Stakeholder Perceptions on Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction

Objective: To facilitate cross-fertilisation of experiences and lessons learnt on linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction in developing countries for devising appropriate policy responses.

Background: International trade is perceived as a means to reduce poverty, but not an end in itself. Linkages between trade and economic growth, and economic growth and poverty reduction are well established in the economic literature. Yet, despite the existence of theoretical literature explaining the linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction, insufficient empirical evidence exists to prove the robustness of this linkage. However, in this era of globalisation, the role of international trade in poverty reduction cannot be denied and therefore more research and discussions are required to explore these issues objectively. Keeping this in mind, CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE) is implementing a project along with partner institutions in select countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Context: The linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction need exploration in detail since international trade has a major role in reducing poverty. For better comprehension of the dynamics existing within these linkages, it is essential to study the scenario of the present trade, development and poverty reduction initiatives (TDPI)s in terms of their origin, objectives and outcomes. This type of a study and exchange of information involving diverse stakeholders engaged in TDPIs is likely to generate recommendations to make such initiatives more effective, addressing the concerns of both the providers and recipients. More importantly it can make international trade work better for the poor by contributing to improving trade policy intentions by focusing their targets towards poverty reduction in a coherent manner.

The Event: The symposium is intended to involve donors, providers and recipients of TDPIs, NGO representatives, government bodies, research institutions, media persons, and other relevant stakeholders engaged in the processes of trade, development and poverty initiatives in a meaningful dialogue. This is to enable them to identify gaps, learn from each other and discuss ways to improve the process and outcomes of such initiatives. Two studies, one from Africa and another from Asia, covering stakeholder perceptions on trade, development and poverty initiatives will be discussed.

Venue: Salle C1, World Meteorological Organisation

The Programme

- The TDP Project and Links to Millennium Development Goals
- Key Messages from TDP Initiatives
- TDP Initiatives: Ways to Maximise Policy Coherence

Time: 0900 to 1700 hrs