

Training Workshop Trade Related Survey for LDCs

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Geneva Switzerland

Outline

- Approach
- Ministries and Agencies involved
- Sources of information used
- Information collected
- Main findings
- Recommendations

Ministries and Agencies

- Consultations depended on a particular agreement. However the following Ministries and agencies were consulted:
 - Agriculture: Ministry of Agriculture,
 - SPS: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda Export Promotion Board, Exporters Associations
 - TBT: Uganda National Bureau of Standards; Exporters Associations
 - TRIMS: Uganda Investment Authority

- Implementation of Art VII of GATT 1994
Customs: Uganda Revenue Authority
- Trade in Services: Uganda Services Exporters Association
- TRIPS: Uganda Registration Services Bureau
- Special support Measures related to preferences: Exporters, Ministry of Trade

Sources of information

- Interviews
- WTO documents
- WTO report
- ITC statistics
- Reports
- Official records

Findings

- Limited awareness of the availability of special and differential provisions in the different agreements which can be used by LDCs
- Weaknesses in the notification process
- Little coordination between different departments and agencies leading to failure to integrate flexibilities into the domestic policies
- Limited understanding and utilization of preferences offered by developed and

Difficult questions

- Assessment of technical and financial assistance in agric sector , TRIPS
- Assessment of whether suppliers in developed countries have transferred technology, training and other activities in telecommunication sector
- Special support measures related to preferential market access including LDC specific preference schemes
- Assessing whether specific LDC preferences schemes provide significant duty free access
- Low preference margins (ITC website)

Cont

- Aid for Trade: requires the analysis of all projects which fall under the category of Aid for Trade
- Assessment of whether Aid for Trade projects has lead to increased exports
- Free trade area and other preferential agreement (2.3) requires deep analysis of tariff lines benefiting from preferences in different markets and applicable duty rates for the FTAs and other preferences

Challenges

- The major challenge is following up on implementation of specific WTO Agreements which would have enabled policy makers to integrate flexibilities into the national policies
- Inadequate coordination by different agencies and ministries particularly during policy formulation
- Inter Institutional Trade Committee (IITC) not able to monitor the implementation of different agreements due to its set up.

Conclusion

- National consultative process should be strengthened using existing working groups where they exist
- Several SDT provisions are not fully utilised by LDCs, WTO and other multilateral agencies should assist LDCs especially at the national level to understand how to use these flexibilities and integrate them into their policies.
- There is a need to develop the capacity of LDCs to assist the private sector understand the rules of origin of different preference giving countries to enable them take advantage of market access provided by these countries.

Conclusion

- In addition, preference giving countries need to simplify their rules of origin.
- A monitoring mechanism for the use of SDT by LDCs, should be developed to enable developed countries and multilateral agencies provide support where LDCs are facing problems.
- LDCs should also be assisted to improve their capacity in making notifications to WTO.

Conclusion

- There has not been any analysis to see if the Aid for Trade programs have lead to increase in exports, it will therefore require analysing the growth of particular export products which have also been supported by different Aid for Trade programs.

Thank You