

Call for Papers

2nd Annual Trade Research Forum
30th—31st July, 2009
Arusha

www.trapca.org



Topical Trade Research Issues

The first **trapca** Forum was held from 29th to 30th September 2008, in Arusha, Tanzania and was inspired by **trapca**'s objective of providing important input into the analysis of trade policy issues. The forum brings together trade experts whose discussions and debates illuminate on the academic discussions critical for understanding the current trade policy issues. The forum papers have an inclination to academic research. Authors are thus encouraged to provide an exposition in their papers that is reminiscent of the typical research papers for publication in an internationally reputable journal. The papers discussed during the forum may be selected as articles in the **trapca** trade policy review publication. Target participants are drawn from regional and international trade related organizations and academia including WTO, COMESA, SADC, ILEAP, EARC and various universities.

Last year, the presentations covered insights ranging from new thinking on trade and development to multilateral negotiations. This year's debates encapsulate current issues of concern by both trade enthusiasts and practitioners: the dilemma arising from the failed Doha talks, energy crisis, climate change implications on LDCs agricultural exports to aspects of services rules of origin. The focus areas include;

- The global energy crisis
- Climate change
- Preference erosion
- Implications of the collapse of the Doha talks
- Special Safeguard Mechanism and food security
- Commodity booms and busts
- Trade remedies and LDCs
- Service rules of origin

trapca invites researchers, trade experts and trade practitioners to submit their abstract and draft papers on any of the topical issues listed on this call for papers.

Draft Schedule

Day One: Thursday, 30th July

1) *The Global Energy Crisis: Implications for Least Developed Countries*

How has the scarcity of oil in the world markets and the erratic prices affected trade benefits in African and LDCs? How will the shift from fossil fuels to alternative sources of energy notably bio-fuels affect trade in agriculture? Will African and LDCs benefit from increased bio-trade? What measures should African and LDCs adopt to mitigate the effects of the global energy crisis on their economies?

2) *Climate Change and LDCs agricultural exports*

Much as climate change has increasingly become a major global concern, the LDCs and low income countries are expected to face increasing levels of climate-related threats such as droughts, floods and hurricanes. Given the dominance of agriculture, a major taker under climate change, in these countries livelihoods, their vulnerability is heightened. In this context, research on the implications of the current response to the challenges of climate change such as levies on fuels or emission trading schemes under discussion at the International Maritime Organization and carbon-labeling and food miles warrant a critical analysis..

3) *Tariff escalation and preference erosion: the dilemma of value addition*

Much as developing countries have frequently stressed the need to move to value -addition production, tariff escalation appears to be one of the stumbling blocks and thus significantly counters the perceived preferences targeted at the LDCs. Among the issues of concern are the implications of the proposed tiered tariff reduction formula on LDCs, quantitative assessment of tariff escalation on the main value added export products, the implications on investment and agro-processing competitiveness.

4) *Collapse of the Doha talks: Implications for developing countries*

For a large number of developing countries, agriculture is the backbone of their economies and therefore defines the status of employment and livelihoods. On the other hand, a number of the LDCs and low income countries are also agricultural importing countries. Liberalization of farm trade may have significant implications of these countries. The contentious issues such as coverage, size, benchmarks for Special Safeguard Mechanisms and associated trigger levels needs further exploration in the context of LDCs and low income countries.

Day Two: 31st July, 2009

5) *Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) and food security*

Without Special Preferences (SPs) and SSM for developing countries combined with low bound tariffs and no operational effective special safeguard, these countries would be in a situation where their inability to produce food would be locked in permanently. It is evident that increasing food prices implies less reliance on food imports for the poorer countries since this would escalate the balance of payments deficit. These countries would thus be forced to rely more on domestic food production. To enable food production, developing countries would need an effective and operational SPs and SSM and generally new strategic focus on agricultural trade.

6) *Commodity booms and busts*

LDCs and low income countries tradable products are concentrated in primary commodities and the overwhelming evidence that these commodities face volatile world prices with wide and unpredictable fluctuations. Issues of management of the positive and adverse effects arising from these fluctuations have direct implications on the budget constraint, product competitiveness and food security status of these countries.

7) *Trade remedies: implementation, effectiveness and implementation challenges in LDCs and low income countries.*

It is unclear whether LDCs and low income countries have engagements in dispute settlement cases and whether there are any operational trade remedy instruments in force.

8) *Services rules of origin and the benefit of regional trade agreements*

The potential benefit of the negotiated arrangements within regional trade agreements on services is dictated to a large extent by the restrictiveness of rules of origin which determines the degree of preferences entailed in market opening commitments that shape the bargaining incentives of RTAs and their eventual economic effects. Given the proliferation of RTAs in LDCs and low income countries, what are the feasible economic trade-offs and options for rules of origin in services?

Fee

No registration fee

Eligibility

Trade researchers, members of the academia and trade professionals.

Submission

Email an abstract of your paper and your CV to forum@trapca.org

Submission dateline

Abstracts: 5th April, 2009

Draft Papers: 29th May, 2009

Notification of acceptance

Selected participants will be informed no later than 15th April, 2009

Accommodation and subsistence

Accommodation and subsistence is organized and directly paid by trapca

Travel costs

Travel costs will be covered by trapca. Only economy class tickets will be reimbursed. No travel arrangements must be taken before prior contact with the trapca.