**Trade Impact of sanitary phytosanitary (SPS) Measures on agricultural trade between Bangladesh and India**

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Non-tariff measures are closely connected to the current pandemic, COVID 19. NTMs are instrumental in protecting human, animal and plant lives and facilitate preventing pandemic outbreaks. We have seen NTMS were applied during the pandemic to achieve trade and non-trade objectives. Apart from these, NTMs effects in economic recovery from the distressing economic and social effects omanyf the pandemic.

During the pandemic, COVID 19, the application of NTMs were given focus, with most applied NTMs being focused towards legitimate policy objectives. Of them, many of the NTMs dent positive effect for trade, reflect a well trend in the application of NTMs.

This research paper attempted to examine the NTMs imposed by SAARC member countries during the outbreak of COVID-19 and tried to show the impact.

As per record, countries had imposed 384 trade policy measures as a response measure to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been observed that the countries depends on NTMs than tariff measures by recording 283 and 101 measures. Comprehensive, systematic and reliable information about NTMs is scarce and difficult to obtain. Given the unprecedented crisis of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and changes witnessed worldwide – including new import and export measures implemented by various Governments – the issue of NTMs, and their relevance during the crisis, is more important than ever, Many measures such as exemptions from duties and taxes (L41); relaxation of SPS requirements (A83, B7, B14 and B83) and easing of non-automatic licensing requirements (E125) on imported medical supplies helped expedite trade of such goods, thus ensuring adequate supplies for the source country. On the other hand, use of export prohibitions (P31); export quotas (P32); licensing, permit or registration requirements to export (P33) on medical supplies negatively affected trade and hence the availability of essential goods in import-dependent countries, particularly the most vulnerable ones. These measures, often imposed without coordination with trading partners disrupted global value chains, further impeding smooth flow of trade in critical goods.

ensure adequate and affordable domestic supplies of essentials and medical goods for combatting the virus, eliminate entry of potential disease carriers into the national borders, ensure product quality and safety, Protect domestic industries, COVID financial relief for businesses/ otherwise, Manage domestic demand and supply

During the pandemic, there were several encouraging trends on this front. Many countries used trade policy cautiously, intelligently, and collaboratively. For instance, the use of export restrictions on food, even though evident, was much lower than during the food crisis of 2007-08, which had taught countries that these measures could be detrimental. Regulatory cooperation, at least at bilateral and regional levels was also promising. Moreover, many NTMs were also relaxed rather quickly.

Over 140 countries resorted to the use of such trade policy measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, both to facilitate and to restrict international trade. While many of these measures were put in place for legitimate policy objectives, such as ensuring access to or safety of essential goods, they had the potential to impact sustainable development, both directly or indirectly,through their impact on trade. Such implications, which can be both positive or negative, are often overlooked when any NTM is put in place. Taking the NTMs applied during the pandemic as a backdrop, this paper attempts to disentangle the linkages between NTMs and the SDGs. We explore the types of NTMs adopted, decode their four types of objectives, and assess the wide-ranging implications they can have for SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17. The goal is to encourage policymakers to carefully consider the implications such measures can have both for their economies and for others. To conclude, the paper proposes some policy considerations that should be taken in account before resorting to any potentially harmful trade policy response to difficult situations.

NTMs imposed during COVID-19 had many positive effects, yet, they also did, or have the potential to be damaging - be it in terms of the threat they posed to public health, food security or livelihoods. This is not surprising given the degree of global interconnectedness. It also highlights how challenging.

The paper proposes some policy recommendations based on the key lessons from the use of NTMs during the pandemic. The goal of these recommendations is to help deliberate the use of NTMs in an effective and transparent manner, during and post-pandemic as well as in the long run,

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development recognizes international trade as a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As such, a group of trade policy measures, commonly referred to as non-tariff measures (NTMs), i.e. measures other than ordinary customs tariffs that can have economic impact on international trade, may be both a boon and a bane for sustainable development. Over 140 countries resorted to the use of such trade policy measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, both to facilitate and to restrict international trade. While many of these measures were put in place for legitimate policy objectives, such as ensuring access to or safety of essential goods, they had the potential to impact sustainable development, both directly or indirectly,through their impact on trade. Such implications, which can be both positive or negative, are often overlooked when any NTM is put in place. Taking the NTMs applied during the pandemic as a backdrop, this paper attempts to disentangle the linkages between NTMs and the SDGs. We explore the types of NTMs adopted, decode their four types of objectives, and assess the wide-ranging implications they can have for SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17. The goal is to encourage policymakers to carefully consider the implications such measures can have both for their economies and for others. To conclude, the paper proposes some policy considerations that should be taken in account before resorting to any potentially harmful trade policy response to difficult situations.

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Background: In the light of decreasing tariffs, quotas and prohibitions due to multilateral and bilateral agreements over the last decades, non‐tariff measures (NTMs), such as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are on the rise (WTO, 2012). SPS measures pose methods partly regulated under the SPS Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO), but their design and use are less restricted and rather flexible (compared to other NTMs such as quotas or prohibitions). In principle, SPS measures are meant to provide countries with a possibility to protect the health of animals, humans and plants. Due to their design, SPS measures may also be used as instruments to achieve certain policy objectives, such as protecting domestic producers.

Purpose: The research attempts to see the impact of non-tariff measures (NTMs) in bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India, especially on SPS measures to the SPS principles, namely the principles of non-discrimination, scientific justification, transparency, harmonisation, regionalisation, equivalence, and special and differential treatment and technical assistance in regards to agricultural goods.

Methodology: Gravity model are wildly applied to study agricultural trade and measure the impact of food safety regulations and standards on trade. A gravity model posits that the trade between two countries depends on their GDPs and bilateral transaction costs. Authors uses the gravity model to determine the impact of SPS on agricultural trade between the two countries.

Results: The result of the paper shows that Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs), impose a conformity requirement - i.e. testing, certification, and inspection requirements - significantly reduce the number of countries exporting to a market. Conformity requirements imposed for sanitary or phytosanitary reasons have the largest effect in these two countries reducing the number of exporting countries compared to the situation where no compliance requirement is imposed.

**Key Words**: Non‐tariff measures, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, agricultural trade, World Trade Organization , Bangladesh, India

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