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

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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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