

Description of supplemental material

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Note

This document presents supplemental material to the article '*Regulatory Alignment or Divergence? Food Security Provisions in the Agreement on Agriculture and in Preferential Trade Agreements*', by Francesca Coli (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa), Giorgio Comai (OBCT/CCI, Trento), Emile van Ommeren (Università di Trento), Mariagrazia Alabrese (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa), and Stefano Schiavo (Università di Trento and OFCE-SciencesPo)

Annex 1: References to food security in preferential trade agreements

The dataset “References to food security in preferential trade agreements” includes all references to food security and relevant metadata about trade agreements, along with all metadata available on the WTO RTA database.

It includes relevant segments from each agreement including references to food security.

Contents have been retrieved either from a pre-existing corpus (ToTA) or directly from the source when the original text of the agreement could be retrieved online.

The pre-existing corpus was originally distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International license:

“ToTA: Texts of Trade Agreements” - <https://github.com/mappingtreaties/tota>

In a small number of instances, it includes references found through Legal TINA <https://legal.tina.trade/> which would not have been found through other methods; in particular, in post-Brexit UK agreements that confirm previous EU agreements, TINA includes also the relevant parts of the original EU agreement.

The different sources determine availability of metadata in this dataset: references retrieved through ToTA typically include chapter and article name and number, while references retrieved from the source have not been tagged accordingly.

Formats available

This dataset is available:

- as a spreadsheet as a csv file and OpenDocument format, with full metadata:
 - `food_security_references.csv`
 - `food_security_references.ods`
- as a pdf and html file, for easier consultation:
 - `food_security_references.pdf`
 - `food_security_references.html`

Annex 2: Keywords associated with food security

A full list of food security keywords in English, French and Spanish used for the analysis is available as a spreadsheet.

- `food_security_keywords.csv`
- `food_security_keywords.ods`

Annex 3: Full list of agreements from the WTO RTA database

The universe of cases for this study consists of all agreements included in the WTO RTA database.

To retrieve an updated version of the database, take the following steps:

- Visit the WTO RTA database website: <https://rtais.wto.org/>
- From the menu “Explore the data” select “Export all RTAs”

The version used as the base for this study (last updated in April 2025) is included along with this release:

- `all_rta_original.csv`
- `all_rta_original.ods`

This version of the datasets includes also information not included in the original version. In particular, the original datasets available for download did not include direct links to the full text agreements on-line. However, those links were included in the on-line version of the WTO RTA database.

The following script in the R programming language retrieves all links to agreements available on the WTO RTA database websites. The same script could be adjusted to retrieve other metadata of interest.

- `wto_rta_get_agreements_links.R`

The resulting dataset with direct links to the full text of the agreements is made available as a spreadsheet:

- `wto_rta_download_links.csv`
- `wto_rta_download_links.ods`

Users should be aware that a significant number of links is not working.

Annex 4: Agreements not included in the analysis

A small number of agreements that are part of the WTO RTA database, but that are not part of ToTA and for which the full text could not be retrieved on-line, have been not included in the analysis. A full list of missing trade agreements with relevant metadata is available as a spreadsheet:

- `missing.csv`
- `missing.ods`

Annex 5: ToTA corpus in tabular format and script for parsing the ToTA corpus and filtering selected keywords

In order to facilitate at least partial replication of the results, a script for the R programming language is made available that:

- retrieves the ToTA corpus from its original repository
 - <https://github.com/mappingtreaties/tota/>
- parses the xml files and converts the output in tabular format
- shows how to replicate the results by filtering the resulting output with selected keywords, allowing for customisation of selected keywords

The script is available as:

- `tota_read.R`

The ToTA corpus in tabular format is also made available for references, and is shared here with credits to its original authors in line with the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International license.

- `tota.csv`
- `tota.ods`