



Integrated Assessment of the Impact of Trade Liberalization on the Rice Sector

UNEP Country Projects Round III

A Synthesis Report





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Foreword

Integrated assessment is the evaluation of the environmental, social and economic effects of past and future policies, and their linkages in the context of sustainable development. It provides policy makers with the information necessary to make informed decisions about the design and implementation of policies that promote sustainable development. In the context of trade-related policies, integrated assessments can help policy makers better analyse and understand the key relationships between trade, the environment, economic development, poverty and social equity.

International trade can have both positive and negative environmental, social and economic effects. These effects may vary across regions, ecosystems and industrial sectors. Integrated assessment provides tools for considering the full range of these effects, both short and long-term, both direct and indirect. The information gained through integrated assessments can be used to ensure that sustainable development gains from trade liberalization are maximized while negative impacts are minimized. UNEP has by now facilitated a series of three rounds of country projects focused on integrated assessment of trade and trade-related policies, starting in 1997 with the first round. The eighteen countries taking part in the studies have been selected to represent different regions and continents, and to ensure a diversity of natural resource sectors, ecosystems, economic development and market conditions. The success of the first two rounds of country projects has led to increased interest by both developed and developing countries in the use of integrated assessment methodologies.

This document provides a synthesis of the integrated assessment studies conducted in the third, most recent, round of country projects commissioned by UNEP, which focused on the rice sector. Over the past two years, UNEP has worked closely with national institutions in China, Colombia, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Senegal and Viet Nam to identify the environmental, social and economic implications of trade liberalization in the rice sector.

This publication and the national country reports are designed to be of particular use to environment and trade analysts, as well as to policy makers and trade negotiators. This synthesis report commences with an introduction describing the value of integrated assessment to national policy makers, and the history of the UNEP-supported process of national country studies that has led to this third round focusing on the rice sector. This introduction is followed by a discussion of the rationale for integrated assessment that describes the purposes integrated assessments can serve in clarifying trade linkages, informing policy makers, supporting negotiators, and promoting inter-ministerial, regional, and international cooperation. The synthesis report then provides an overview of the specific objectives of the rice projects followed by a description of the background country conditions and context of each study, noting varying factors such as functions of the rice sector and the characteristics of rice production.

After setting out these contextual issues, the synthesis report continues with a detailed analysis of the processes and methodologies involved, including the issue of local capacity building. In the next section the report summarizes the broad, overarching results of the country studies, noting the differing environmental, economic and social implications of trade liberalization and trade rules in the different settings of each country. These outputs are then examined in terms of sectoral findings and integrated

impact analysis, followed by the policy recommendations formulated by each country team and what is needed to deliver the policy message. The synthesis report ends with a list of lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations for next steps which will be of practical value to government officials, negotiators and other stakeholders interested in using integrated assessments as a tool to ensure that trade liberalization maximizes its contribution to national well-being and development. The Executive Summaries prepared by each country team complete the publication.

This report is a synthesis of the main findings and conclusions from seven country studies and attempts to draw general conclusions and lessons learned. However, the findings should be read in light of the fact that the countries varied significantly with respect to environmental conditions, economic development, the stage of application of trade liberalization rules and their status as a net rice importer or exporter. The value of integrated assessment is that these important contextual factors *are* taken into account when developing an understanding of key linkages and formulating policy responses.

Acknowledgements

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At the country level, each of the seven national teams and their leaders worked intensively to organize national workshops, gather field data, analyse economic, social and environmental trends and develop policy recommendations. The work of the multidisciplinary national teams, supplemented by inputs from a wide group of national as well as local stakeholders that participated in workshops and consultations, was essential in ensuring that diverse cultural, environmental, economic and social perspectives and felt priorities were integrated into the country analyses and conclusions. National Steering Committees were established to ensure projects remained relevant and on-track. They helped to identify emerging environmental, social and economic problems, to identify causes and interrelations, and to elaborate policy responses. In some cases, national governments, particularly environment, agriculture and trade ministries were important and active participants.

At UNEP, the project was initiated and led by Hussein Abaza. Sophie Forster Carbonnier and Mariko Hara coordinated and provided technical and logistical support to the project. The country teams prepared the full studies as well as the summaries included in this synthesis report. Thanks are due to Jan Joost Kessler, Konrad von Moltke and Fulai Sheng for having provided critical reviews of draft reports. This appreciation is also extended to the members of the international working group on rice set up by UNEP to guide and implement the projects and provide comments. The members of this group, who attended the two international expert meetings on 19-20 February and 17-18 November 2003 in Geneva, and provided useful contributions and comments on these occasions, are: Tunji Akande, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research; Claude Auroi, IUED; Luisa Bernal, South Centre; Concepción Calpe, FAO; Céline Charveriat, Oxfam International; Martha Chouchena-Rojas, IUCN; Aliou Diagne, West Africa Rice Development Association; Salah El Serafy, Consultant, USA; Aimée Gonzales, WWF International; Dongmei Guo, State Environmental Protection Administration, China; Nestór Gutiérrez, Federación Nacional de Arroceros, Colombia; Mark Halle, IISD; Dimitris Diakosavvas, OECD; Panos Konandreas, FAO; Doug Koplow, Earth Track, Inc.; Hans-Jörg Lehmann, Federal Office for Agriculture, Bern; Eric Peters, European Commission; Majda Petschen, WTO; Shishir Priyadarshi, South Centre; Sarah Richardson, Maeander Enterprises Ltd., Canada; Abdoulaye Sene, Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement, Dakar; Shefali Sharma, IATP; Miho Shirotori, UNCTAD; Matius Suparmoko, Jenderal Soedirman University, Indonesia; Robert Teh, WTO; Gerard van Dijk, UNEP Regional Office for Europe; Truong van Tuyen, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Viet Nam; Scott Vaughan, (ex-Carnegie Endowment) OAS; Rene Vossenaar, UNCTAD; Alex Werth, ICTSD.

Sophie Forster, Susan Broomfield and Benjamin Simmons prepared the introduction to this Synthesis Report. Kevin Lyonette of Sustainable Development Services provided the sections dealing with country contexts, process, outcomes and conclusions. Susan Broomfield edited the final report and Executive Summaries; however full responsibility for the content of the latter remains with the authors. Logistical support was provided by Desiree Leon and Rahila Mughal from UNEP.

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United Nations Environment Programme

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the overall coordinating environmental organization of the United Nations system. Its mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. In accordance with its mandate, UNEP works to observe, monitor and assess the state of the global environment, improve the scientific understanding of how environmental change occurs, and in turn, how such change can be managed by action-oriented national policies and international agreements. UNEP's capacity building work thus centres on helping countries strengthen environmental management in diverse areas that include freshwater and land resource management, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, marine and coastal ecosystem management, and cleaner industrial production and eco-efficiency, among many others.

UNEP, which is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, marked its first 30 years of service in 2002. During this time, in partnership with a global array of collaborating organizations, UNEP has achieved major advances in the development of international environmental policy and law, environmental monitoring and assessment, and the understanding of the science of global change. This work also supports the successful development and implementation of the world's major environmental conventions. In parallel, UNEP administers several multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) including the Vienna Convention's Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (SBC), the Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention, PIC) and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

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