NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON TRADE POLICY CHOICES: ACCESSION TO WTO AND APTA 8-10 DECEMBER 2014, Bhutan

### **Evidence Based Trade policy Making: Using statistical tools for policy making**

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# Outline

- Introduction to Evidence-based policy making (EBPM)
- EBPM Requirement conditions:
  - Relevant Policy questions
  - Understanding the tools
  - Data availability
- Some online data sources

### **Policymaking approaches**

Opinion-based Policy Making

- Anecdote
- Experts
- Seniors
- Gut feeling



## Evidence-based Policy (EBP) Making

- Best available research evidence
- Evidence from collected data (empirical evidence)
  - Theory
  - Data
  - Tools for data analysis
- Gains
  - Transparency
  - Accountability



# Evidence-based policy making

- Tracking, monitoring and evaluation of the results of policies that have been put in place
  - Ex-post analysis
- Making decisions in public area (including on issues recognition, policy choice and sequencing, or forecasting future developments)
  - Ex-ante analysis

## **Components of EBPM**

#### Policy questions:

Ex. What will be the potential effects of an FTA?

#### Tools:

- 1. Making inferences from descriptive statistics and trade indicators
- 2. Partial equilibrium approaches to estimate the potential effects on an individual product
- 3. General equilibrium approaches to estimate the potential effects on the whole economy
- 4. Approaches to estimate distribution effects

#### Data sources:

- Cross-country data, National data
- Secondary-data sources (online, published, unpublished), Primary-data surveys

# POLICYMAKERS ASK RELEVANT POLICY QUESTIONS

EBPM requirement no. 1

## Policy questions at different stages of policymaking

- Before negotiation of an FTA: An analysis of potential costs and benefits (ex-ante)
  - What a country can supply to its FTA partners? What it can source from the partners?
  - What are expected impacts on production and employment level and composition, welfare, fiscal balance, etc.
  - What are the costs of necessary adjustment policies for the adversely affected sectors?
- After its implementation: An impact assessment (ex-post)
  - Whether the impacts are within the expected range?
  - Whether the expected benefits are fully materialized?
  - Whether further adjustment policies are necessary?

EBPM requirement no. 2

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