

Agricultural Trade Facilitation : An Overview and Regional Experience

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OUTLINE

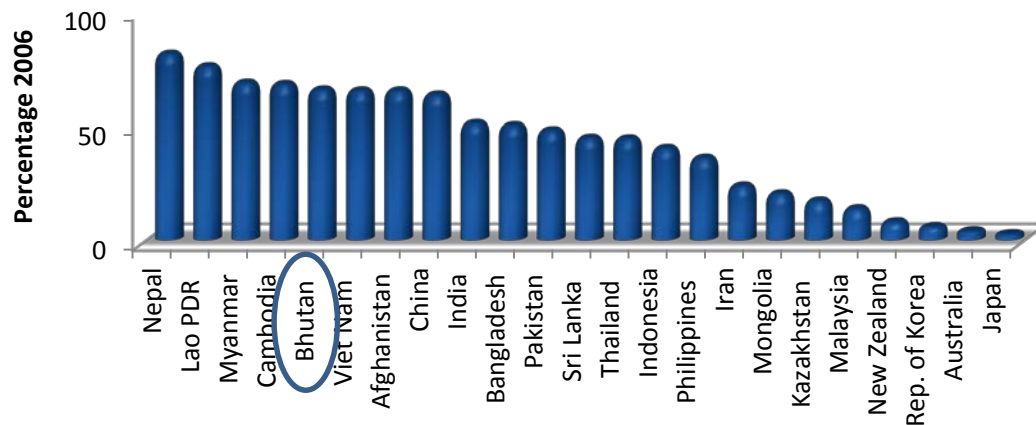
- ✓ Agriculture trade in Asia-Pacific
- ✓ What is Trade Facilitation for Agriculture and Food Products?
- ✓ Main challenges for facilitating trade in agro-food products
- ✓ Findings from Business Process Analysis (BPA) studies in South and Southeast Asia

Agriculture trade in Asia Pacific

- Agriculture accounts for a quarter of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Asia-Pacific's developing countries and employs about 60% of the region's working population (ESCAP 2008).
- Improving agricultural productivity could pull 218 million people out of poverty in this region (ESCAP 2008).
- It can bring investment opportunities for the private sector, and be a driver for boosting agriculture related industries.
- The World Bank estimates that GDP growth originating in agriculture is at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as GDP growth originating outside agriculture.

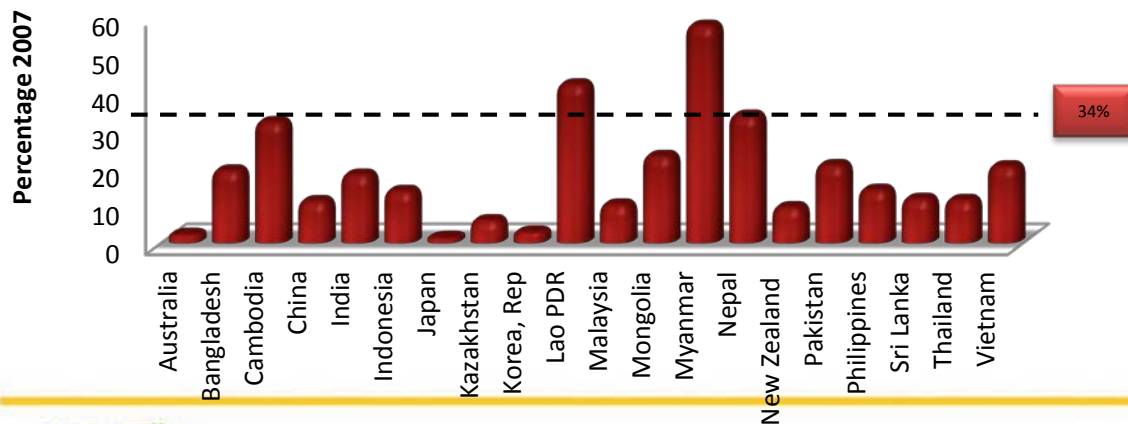
Agricultural Trade in Asia-Pacific

Agricultural Population as Share of Total Population in Selected Asia-Pacific Countries



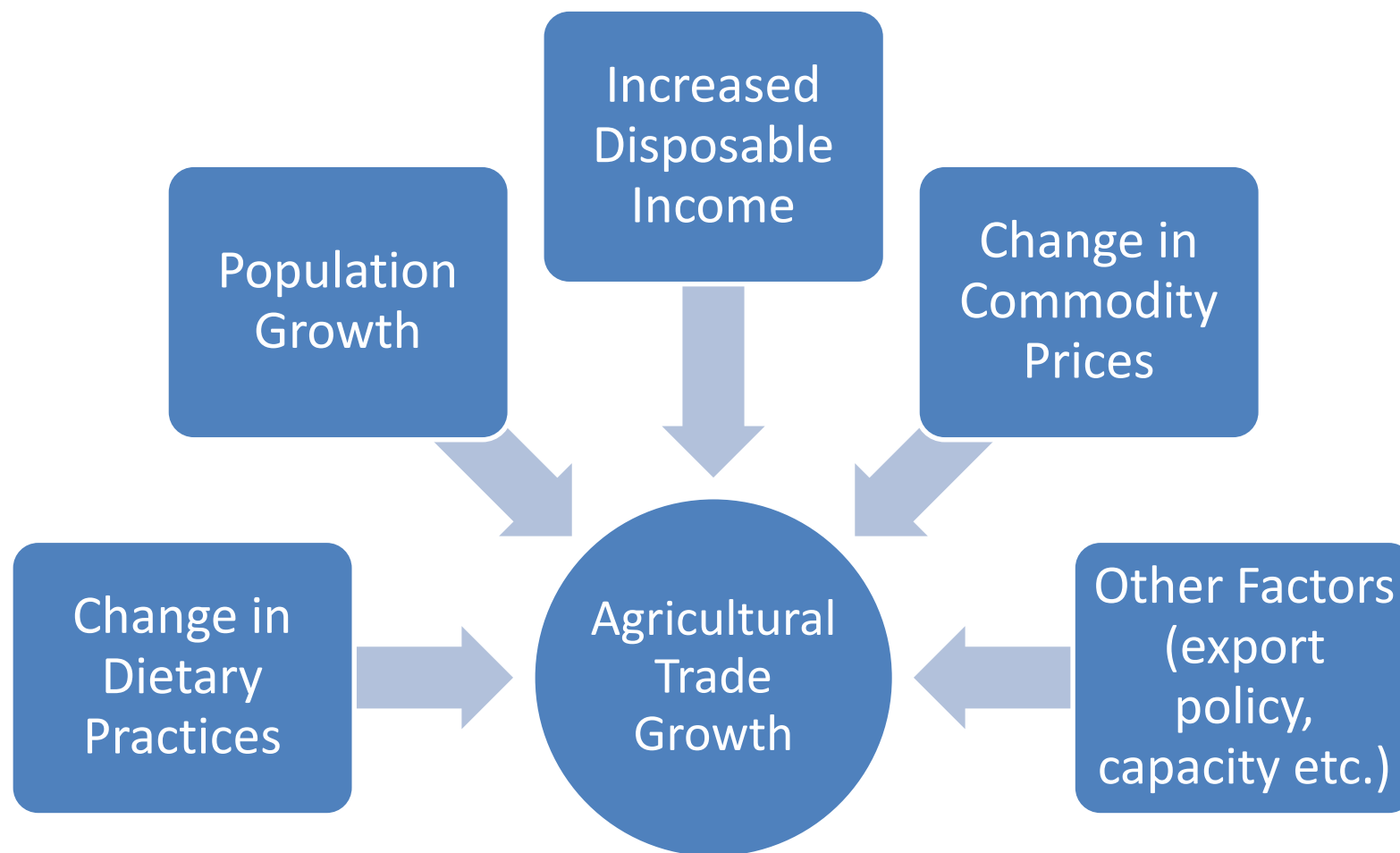
Contribution of Agriculture to GDP in Selected Asia-Pacific Countries

Source: FAO 2009



Bhutan's agriculture share of GDP is around 20 percent

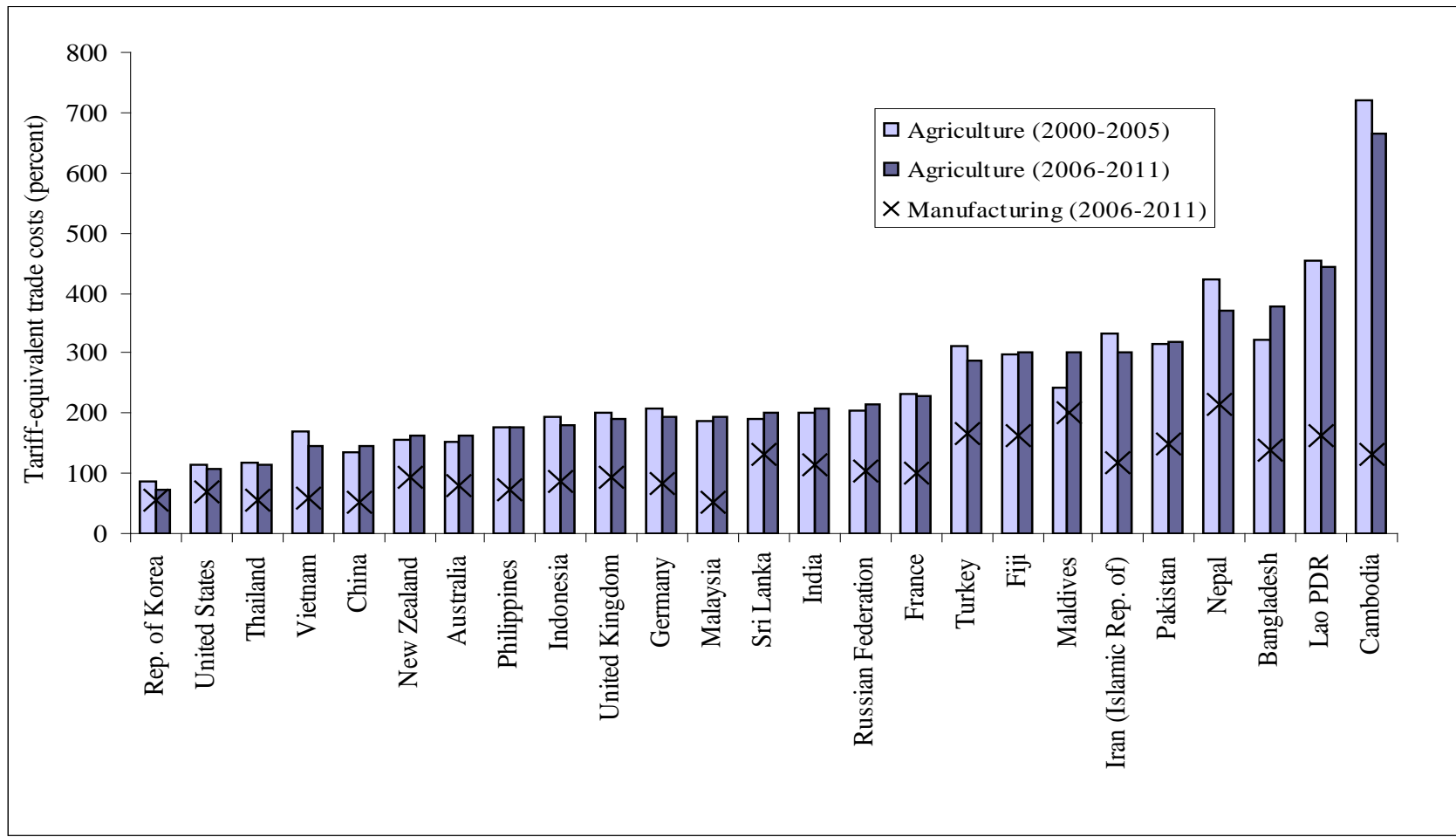
Key Drivers of Agricultural Trade



Trade Facilitation

- What is Trade Facilitation?
 - Any measure that **reduce barriers** to the movement of goods between buyers and sellers throughout the international supply chains (ESCAP 2010)
 - Simply any measure that facilitate and **simplify movement of goods and information** along the supply chains
 - i.e. TF **reduces time, cost and complexity of trade transactions**
- What is agricultural trade facilitation?
 - Trade facilitation of agricultural products
 - For example, **facilitating development of product standards; improving certification procedures, improving storage facilities, reducing paperwork for agro trade or implementation of e-traceability**

Comprehensive Trade Costs (excluding tariff) for Agricultural Goods with Japan (2000-2005, 2006-2011)



Source: ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database, updated August 2013

Benefits of Trade Facilitation

GDP gains from 25% reduction in time to export/Import, GMS and China

Country	GDP gain from export time reduction		GDP gain from import time reduction	
	\$ Million	Percent	\$ Million	Percent
Cambodia	28	0.6	44	0.9
Lao People's Democratic Republic	15	0.6	32	1.3
Myanmar	40	0.5	79	1.0
Thailand	174	0.1	166	0.1
Vietnam	208	0.5	316	0.7
China	336	0.0	371	0.0

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