AID FOR TRADE EXPERT DIALOGUE BANGKOK, 18th Nov. 2013





Case study: Bangladesh

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Outline of presentation

Preparation Stage
Implementation Stage
Preliminary Results
Identified Challenges for Project
Implementation
or Next Steps



Research Team

- Joined the project at the end of May 2013
- No formal research team was formed for Bangladesh





Project Overview

- Background, rationale and aims/objectives of study
 - "The project at hand is to design a methodology to measure AfT project effectiveness"



Overview of Aid for Trade in Bangladesh



Trade and development strategies:

- The overarching goal of Bangladesh is to take the country forward through achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and becoming a middle income country by 2021.
- The country's development strategies and priorities are laid down in its ten-year national development plan, named the Perspective Plan (PP), 2011-2021.
- Trade is explicitly highlighted in the country's development priorities. The PP endorses the present trade policy regime, outlined in sub-section 2.1, and underscores that "to cross the middle income threshold by 2021, Bangladesh will need to transform its trade regime to the kind seen in high-performing emerging market economies".



Trade and development strategies (contd.)

- The PP also emphasises that "trade should be mainstreamed in the country's national development agenda, and should particularly incorporate Aid for Trade", and recognises that Bangladesh needs to take initiatives for making best use of AfT with a view to building and improving the country's trade capacity and infrastructure so as to benefit from the opportunities created in the multilateral trading system.
- The PP outlines several strategic approaches meant to get the maximum leverage out of the manufacturing sector and its competitiveness in the global marketplace, including:
- (a) Export diversification
- (b) Export restructuring in a globalised economy
- (c) Working on market access issues.



Trade and development strategies (contd.)

- Like the PP, the Sixth Five Year Plan (SYFP) (GOB, 2011)
 also endorses the country's outward-oriented growth and
 trade strategy, and seeks to further reduce trade barriers as
 provided by the WTO rules framework and to promote more
 effective cooperation with the neighbours and also envisages
 active participation in relevant international and regional/subregional fora.
- Aid for Trade is considered as a means to facilitate the achievement of these policy objectives.

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