



Non-Tariff measures: Currently available evidence and future research agenda

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Introduction



Emerging policy challenges in trade

- Past 20 years, trade liberalization has been used as an effective development tool
- During this period, we have seen a **continual decline of tariff rates** by virtue of MTAs under WTO and PTAs at regional and bilateral level
- Reduction in tariffs has not been reflected by a reduction in Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs)
- **NTBs are increasingly** becoming important as countries are recurring to NTBs as alternative trade policy instruments for protectionist or regulatory purposes
 - G20 Leaders Summits, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, WTO



Low intensity protectionism (and use of NTMs)

- Trade protectionism remained **high and a sizeable** number of countries, developed and developing alike , have raised tariff and introduced new NTMs
- Many countries introduced **direct subsidies** (and agricultural export subsidies) and support for domestic industries
- Some rise in **trade defense** mechanism/contingency protection including anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard clauses (are murky and complex)
- **Smaller and poorer developing countries** who cannot apply similar support measures are discriminated against by default
 - e.g., LDCs, LLDCS and SIDS



Patterns of NTMs

- A number of countries have imposed more **strict import licensing** requirements for some sensitive goods like steel products
- **Safeguards and antidumping** measures were used by both developed and developing countries
 - Anti-dumping measures could be among the most disruptive instruments with potentially serious negative effects on trade and hence the rise in the use of such measures is a concern
- Mostly in developed and big developing countries, have expanded the **use of subsidies** as a part of national economic stimulus packages.
 - Subsidies are actionable under WTO rules and can be countervailed. Therefore, they may in turn generate a chain of countervailing measures and increased protection



Possible effects of NTMs

- **Increased and excessive** trade protection in one country is likely to lead to retaliation by other countries in the presence of a global negative shock
 - beggar-thy-neighbour policies
- Main danger still remains in their excessive and/or abusive use by trading partners
- Estimates suggest the **impact on trade flows** and GDP (and overall national welfare)



Survey of literature

- **First generation:** Baldwin (1970) and Corden (1971)
 - any measure (public or private) that causes internationally traded goods and services to be allocated in such a way as to reduce potential real world income” (Baldwin 1970)
- **Second generation:** Deardorff and Stern (1985, 1998), Feenstra (1988)
- **Third generation:** Anderson and Neary (1996, 2005); Beghin and Bureau (2001), Kee, Nicita & Olarreaga (2009), Ferrantino (2009)
- **Approaches to measure** the incidence of NTMs

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7685

