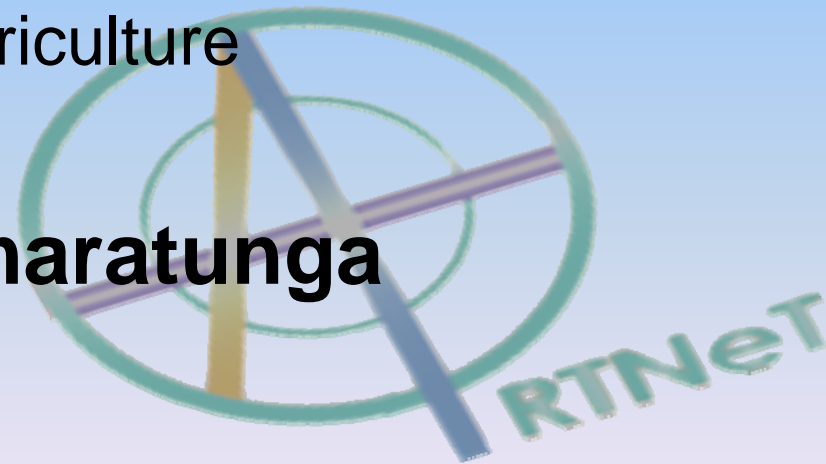


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Session 9

Adapting Trade Policies to Promote Food Security and
Sustainable Agriculture

Parakrama Samaratunga



Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade

www.artnetontrade.org

Adapting Trade Policies to Promote Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

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Introduction

- Agricultural GDP - 13.4% (2008)
- Agricultural labour force – 32.7% of total employments (2008)
- Agricultural land use – approx. 45% of total land area (1990)
- Heavily concentrated on few major crops

Introduction (contd.)

- Low agricultural productivity partly explain rural poverty
 - 11% ave. monthly HH income
- Failed to grow in to a vibrant commercial industry
- Failed to provide employment to the growing no. of youths
- A sustainable increase in agricultural production
 - poverty alleviation
 - reduction in unemployment
 - improvement in rural income and
 - improving income distribution

Enhance food
security

Food Security and Agriculture

- Availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic food stuff to offset fluctuations in production and prices
- Original macro-biased definition has evolved over time to include micro level dimensions of food availability, accessibility and utilization.
- Trade policy has strong implications on the present food security situation in the country via all three parameters.



Food Availability –

Sufficient availability of food with the nation through domestic production, net imports and carry-over of stocks

Food Accessibility –

Individual's capability to purchase food and to be able to procure food through safety nets

Food Utilization– Consumption of food by the household in a proper form. It also takes into account food preparation, storage and utilization, food safety, nutritional safety and dietary balance

Food Security and Agriculture (contd.)

- Sri Lanka has been a net food importer since the time of the British colonial rule prior to 1948 ⇒ ⇒
- Lower productivity and competitiveness along with import surge resulted from speedy liberalization were partly responsible
- Increases in nonessential and “luxury” food items that do not contribute to improved food security.



Food availability in Sri Lanka by major food commodity groups, 2000-2007

Year	Production		Exports		Imports	
	Qty (000Mt)	% of the availability	Qty (000Mt)	% of the availability	Qty (000Mt)	% of the availability
2002	2,979.11	96.73	3.94	0.13	104.65	3.40
2009	0.00	0.00			703.09	100.00
2001	42.51	25.95			121.30	74.05
1999	346.65	85.81			57.34	14.19
1939	52.71	9.42			506.68	90.58
1960	33.39	23.09			111.21	76.91
1953	841.78	87.64	6.07	0.63	124.82	12.99
1970	282.77	88.17	4.31	1.35	42.25	13.17
1975	117.72	98.30	0.07	0.06	2.10	1.75
1935	51.35	100.00				
1938	294.95	82.76	15.24	4.28	76.66	21.51
1937	215.21	79.01			57.16	20.99
1958	1,022.59	104.60	61.93	6.33	16.93	1.73
1937	6,280.74	77.41	91.55	1.13	1,924.19	23.72

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