Trade-led Growth in Times of Crisis Asia-Pacific Trade Economists' Conference 2-3 November 2009, Bangkok

Session 9

Adapting Trade Policies to Promote Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

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Trade Policy for Agricultural Development and Food Security: Reflections from Asia

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Divergent views?

- Significant distortions resulting from use of trade policy instruments
 - Basic regularities
 - Concerns for the future shape of policy
 - Global market lens
- "Success" in pursuit of key policy objectives
 - Likelihood of change of government mindset?
 - Positive effects on growth and poverty reduction
 - Domestic market lens
- What types of policies should be pursued?
 - Context specificity
 - · commodities and countries
 - stage of development
 - Elimination or reform?

Evidence

Nominal Rates of Assistance (WB Distortions Study)

All Exportables

1980-84	1985-89	1990-94	1995-99	2000-04	
-25	-25 -20		-6	-4	

All Importables

1980-84	1985-89	1990-94	1995-99	2000-04
23	38	26	31	36

Stylized facts from WB distortions study

- Taxing producers in absolute and relative sense was bad policy
- 2. Increasing NRAs on import competing products is not a desirable trend
 - misallocation of resource use within agriculture
 - tax on exportables (Lerner Symmetry)
- 3. Dispersion of NRAs increases as fewer commodities are protected more heavily
- 4. Policies continue to seek reduced fluctuations in price/quantity availability
- 5. Dispersion of NRAs across Asia has increased scope for more open trade?
- 6. Most important instruments continue to be trade restrictive measures
- 7. Movements in consumer tax equivalent closely replicate changes in producer support/taxation because latter mostly due to trade measures

Evidence – Rice NRAs

Country	Status	1980-84	1985-89	1990-94	1995-99	2000-04
Bangladesh	Importable	-5	20	-5	-12	3
Indonesia	Importable	8	-1	-9	-13	19
Malaysia	Importable	94	158	127	57	71
Philippines	Importable	-16	14	21	53	51
Sri Lanka	Importable	-6	0	9	19	4
China	Exportable	-54	-34	-30	-7	-6
Thailand	Exportable	-18	-15	-16	-11	-8
Vietnam	Exportable	-	-3	-27	0	23
Pakistan (B)	Exportable	-50	-56	-18	-2	-24
Pakistan (I)	Exportable	-25	-20	-1	8	13
India	Exportable	-31	-4	-21	-13	21
Average		-10	5	3	7	15

ce policies (examples)

imacy of price stability

tuated widely

orrelation domestic: border prices

mestic prices stable for four decades

entially an exportable

mport restrictions but stabilization mainly through

restrictions

export tax varied with world prices

ge of instruments used

es – attainment of self-sufficiency

status for rice (in lieu of binding tariff)

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