Towards sustainable trade facilitation in Asia and the Pacific

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Sustainable trade facilitation in Asia and the Pacific

UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

- Trade facilitation for SMEs
- Women in Trade Facilitation
- Agricultural Trade Facilitation
- Resilient trade facilitation (in times of crisis)
- (Environmental)
Implementation of Sustainable TF measures

• Implementation of TF measures for special and disadvantaged groups (SME & Women) remains low

• Challenges also exist in TF in times of crisis
Trade facilitation for SMEs

Measures targeting SMEs such as facilities for SMEs access to Single Window and SMEs access to AEO scheme are carried out on a limited basis.
Good Practices – Trade Facilitation for SMEs

Measures targeting SMEs

TAJIKISTAN’s Trade Information Portal guides SMEs for imports and exports, and documents to be submitted.

SMEs benefit from AEOs

REPUBLIC OF KOREA offers expedited AEO authorization examinations to SMEs through multiple procedural preferential provisions, including a “priority audit”.

Single Window accessible to SMEs

SINGAPORE established a document Service Center that helps SMEs to access single window more easily. The centers submit documents on behalf of SMEs.
Women in Trade Facilitation

The regional average level of implementation for Women in Trade Facilitation remains low – specific gender concerns remain limited in trade facilitation.

Figure 24. State of implementation of Women in Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific
TRADE FACILITATION POLICY/STRATEGY INCORPORATES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OF WOMEN

**INDIA** National Trade Facilitation Action Plan 2020-2023 promotes gender inclusiveness in trade: “Women in Global Business Program” capacity building and connectivity & provide information and resources monitoring program.

MEASURES TO BENEFIT WOMEN INVOLVED IN TRADE

**AUSTRALIA** promotes gender diversity in trade - “Building Futures: Pathways to Trades” to secure rewarding trade career paths for women in trade.

FEMALE MEMBERSHIP IN NTFC

**KIRIBATI** National Women’s Organisation namely Aia Mwaea Ainen has representation in the NTFC.
Agricultural Trade Facilitation

Efficient trade facilitation is crucial for the expedited movement of perishable goods.
## Good Practices in Agricultural TF

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<td><strong>INDIA</strong></td>
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<td>Bilateral agreements with the national standards bodies of trading partners</td>
<td>Special treatment for perishable goods through a Statutory Regulatory Order</td>
<td>IPPC electronic phytosanitary (ePhyto) certificate Solution</td>
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Trade facilitation to mitigate pandemic and crisis impacts

The pandemic highlighted the role of trade facilitation in ensuring the swift movement of medical and other essential goods.

Trade facilitation has emerged as an effective tool to mitigate the devastating effects on COVID-19.

Many countries still lack long-term trade facilitation plans to enhance preparedness for future crises.
Continued and sustained efforts should be made to further enhance cooperation and make trade information transparent.
Good Practices during crisis

**24/7 Expedited clearance for essentials**

**Coordination and joint clearance between border agencies**

**CHALLENGE:** Long-term preparedness for future crises

**Turn to digital documents + develop technique for validating e-cert**

**Issue guidance on Customs issues related to the COVID-19 emergency in order to provide solid and practical solutions for all stakeholders**
Conclusion & Way Forward

- Ensure implementation of digital trade facilitation measures lead to sustainable development
- Design trade facilitation strategies that are inclusive and supportive of the SDGs
- Strengthen long-term capacity to keep trade going during future crises
THANK YOU

- Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Paperless Trade
- UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
- United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNeT)
- E-Learning Series on Business Process Analysis for Trade Facilitation
- Cross-Border Paperless Trade Readiness Assessment
- Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF)