

ITC MARKET ANALYSIS SERVICES UPDATE

ENHANCING THE TRANSPARENCY OF GLOBAL TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS

T4SD FORUM: INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES CONNECT SUSTAINABLE PRODUCERS TO GLOBAL MARKETS



THE T4SD FORUM 2015 AS PART OF THE WTO PUBLIC FORUM

ITC was an active participant in the recently concluded WTO Public Forum, held at WTO's Geneva headquarters from 30 September to 2 October 2015. Only days after the international community adopted an ambitious set of Global Goals for Sustainable Development, ITC brought together leaders from business, standards organizations, governments, and civil society to look at how new initiatives are helping to make supply chains more sustainable by encouraging inclusive trade. The Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) Forum 2015: Building Sustainable Supply Chains, the second annual instalment of this conference, was held in parallel with the WTO Public Forum. Expanding on the WTO Public Forum's theme "Trade Works," the sessions advanced current conversations on how 'invisible' farmers (smallholders that are outside of traditional trading networks) can tap into the benefits of global trade relationships.

The opening session emphasized the <u>Blue Number Initiative</u>, a global registry for sustainable farmers, which was unveiled earlier that week at the UN General Assembly and is being developed jointly by ITC, Global Standards 1 (GS1), and the UN Global Compact. The Blue Number Initiative builds off of existing technology platforms to create globally accessible online profiles that better connect sustainable farmers with international buyers. Arancha

González, Executive Director of ITC, stated, "Major global brands and thousands of farmers will gain access to sustainability information [through the Blue Number Initiative] that will allow their business networks to be better connected with each other and with their sustainability goals." The registry is already online at unbluenumber.org and will be fully functional by the first quarter of 2016.



Many of the speakers were from one of the 50 organizations that are signatories to the <u>T4SD Principles</u>. All organizations represented in the opening session, such as Nestlé, Control Union, Emery Oleochemicals Group, and Ingenio Azucarero Guabirá, are signatories. Each signatory endorses the

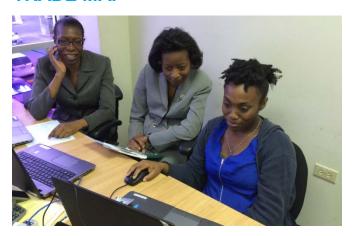
principles of sustainability, transparency, harmonization, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More companies and institutions are invited to complete the <u>Letter of Endorsement</u>.



A full day of sessions allowed for representatives from both the private and public sector to present updates on their sustainability protocols and projects. Themes included the need for involvement of producers, buyers, intermediaries, governments and all other stakeholders in supply chains to work together to

achieve sustainability goals. Communication strategies will need to be improved upon and innovative incentives will need to be more fully implemented to encourage sustainable trade practices. An interactive session utilized group responses to specific questions on sustainability case studies; by surveying an audience of experts, speakers were able to receive meaningful feedback on projects that are currently in progress. Jo Webb from Sedex, a speaker at the T4SD Forum, stated that "pressure on companies to improve supply chain working conditions and performance has never been greater yet smaller businesses often lack access to knowledge and tools to resolve them." The event program, session summaries, photos and video of the T4SD Forum can be found here: bit.ly/1NQufmh. ITC also had a strong presence at other WTO Public Forum events, including Arancha González, Executive Director of ITC as speaker during a session called "Making Digital Trade work for all" and Joseph Wozniak, Head of the T4SD Programme, as speaker at a session called "Private Standards: Leverage or Barrier to Trade?" Fostering new innovations and technologies is helping ITC to remain a trailblazer in the field of sustainable trade.

TRADE MAP



The ITC Market Analysis and Research Section (MAR) has recently developed a new computer program to detect trade data outliers and to compute trade indices in unit values. This program, using SAS software, can be easily customized to the needs of statistical institutes.

During the last week of September, ITC experts delivered a training workshop to the *Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)* on how to use this new program. STATIN is already computing trade indices in unit value using Excel and the new ITC program will greatly improve the detection of outliers and facilitate the computation of trade indices. The workshop was attended by four men and eight women from STATIN as well as a UNSD representative.

NEW! DISCOVER PROCUREMENT MAP at <u>procurementmap.intracen.org</u>



PROCUREMENT MAP

offers information on public tenders combined with legislations on women vendors and SMEs, and sustainable standards to foster entrepreneurship.





MARKET ACCESS MAP

2015 CUSTOMS TARIFF UPDATES



You are looking for customs tariff? We have now the **2015** data for 108 countries and territories available on Market Access Map. For the first time you can now find data on import tariffs applied by Wallis and Futuna and Saint Pierre and Miquelon. See our data coverage at:

www.macmap.org/SupportMaterials/DataAvailabilityMf n.aspx

Market Access Map is a part of ITC's Global Public Good, funded by the European Commission (EC) and donors to ITC Trust Fund.

ANALYSIS ON TRADE AGREEMENTS FOR THE 12 TPP COUNTRIES



ITC has completed an analysis on tariff reductions scheduled among the 12 *Trans-Pacific Partnership* (*TPP*) countries financially supported by the United States International Trade Commission (USITC), the Japanese government and Canada Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) as well as technically cooperated by TPP member governments providing the data on schedules of tariff concessions of EPAs among the TPP countries.

ITC has conducted a forward looking analysis of all the trade agreements "in force" between TPP members and created a comprehensive database of tariff dismantling schedules from 2011 to 2030.

ITC NON-TARIFF MEASURES PROGRAMME

NEW NTM SURVEY LAUNCHES

In the framework of ITC programme on non-tariff measures (NTMs) twelve new business surveys on non-tariff measures were launched during the period July-September 2015. The surveys were launched in *Uganda, Kyrgyzstan, Dominican Republic* and 9 *European Union* countries: *Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Estonia, Latvia* and *Lithuania*. Surveys in other 19 EU countries were launched prior to July 2015.

The surveys are implemented following the request of national or regional authorities. The results of these surveys will help improve the understanding of the current trade and business environment in the country and will allow the private and public sectors to identify potential actions to support and improve the competitiveness of domestic firms.

Survey launches in Uganda, Kyrgyzstan and Dominican Republic were accompanied by a national stakeholder meeting jointly organized by ITC and the respective national authorities. These meetings brought together representatives from the public and private sector, who



were informed about the survey implementation in their respective countries and its goals.

The NTM surveys in the EU countries is a collaboration between ITC and the European Commission (EC). The

survey will interview over 7,000 companies in 28 EU countries in order to providing a deeper understanding of firms' perception of NTMs. The results of the survey will be available in early 2016.

For more information on survey in:

- Uganda: www.ntmsurvey.org/uganda
- Kyrgyzstan: www.ntmsurvey.org/kyrgyzstan
- Dominican Republic: www.ntmsurvey.org/dominicanrepublic
- European Union: www.ntmsurvey.org/eu

TRADE OBSTACLES ALERT MECHANISM IN MAURITIUS

The Trade obstacles alert mechanism (TOAM) has been launched in Mauritius in September 2015. This mechanism was developed and piloted in 2015 in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), following on from the recommendations of the survey on non-tariff measures.

During this occasion an inter-agency protocol was signed by all agencies involved in trade rules and procedures in order support the well-functioning of the mechanism. The main objective of this innovative project is to identify and eliminate trade barriers, and hence improve the business environment in the country. The MCCI is now promoting and administrating the



system under the supervision of the ITC. To learn more about the TOA, visit www.tradeobstacles.org/demo

MULTI-AGENCY MEETING ON NTM CLASSIFICATION

As member of the key contributors to the development on an international NTM classification in 2009, ITC was invited to participate in the recent Expert Meeting on the NTM classification, held on 28-29 September 2015 in Geneva.

Organized by UNCTAD, the meeting was attended by a number of agencies, including the WTO, UNIDO, World Bank, FAO, the European Commission and the OECD, as well as by researchers active in the areas of NTMs. It served to take stock of NTM-related work in different agencies and initiate discussions on a revision of the classification.

ITC chaired the session on rules of origin and contributed to the different thematic sessions with several presentations and interventions, drawing from the experience with NTM data collection for Market Access Map and from the business perspectives on NTMs as barriers to trade as captured in the NTM Surveys. Meeting participants recognized the relevance and importance of ITC's unique survey work for both



the further development of the classification and the research on the impact of NTMs in general.

The meeting initiated a process to continuously oversee the NTMs classification and its revisions so that it remains relevant for the needs of policy makers, researchers and businesses. To this end, working groups dedicated to the different chapters of the classification were created, which were tasked to follow up on the initial discussions. ITC was designated to lead the expert working group on rules of origin.

PARTICIPATION AT THE JOINT DTN-APEC WORKSHOP ON UNDERSTANDING NTMS.

ITC participated on a workshop on Facilitating SME Trade through Better Understanding of Non-Tariff Measures in the Asia Pacific Region for the Agriculture, Food Processing and Handicraft Sectors jointly organized by Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippines and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The workshop was held in Iloilo City, the Philippines on 21 and 22 September 2015. The workshop aimed at providing a broad overview of NTMs, legal and institutional frameworks, technical barriers to trade, phytosanitary measures, as well as resources available to help understand NTMs imposed by member economies. ITC contributed to the event by providing an introduction on NTMs and its impact on the business community as well as an overview of ITC's NTM business surveys.





NEW PUBLICATION: STATE OF PALESTINE: COMPANY PERSPECTIVES - AN ITC SERIES ON NON-TARIFF **MEASURES**

A study by ITC, based on survey of 239 Palestinian exporters, finds that the State of Palestine has scope to facilitate trade by streamlining procedures and enhancing transparency of rules and procedures.

Inspections, quality control measures and rules of origin are considered the most onerous measures reported by Palestinian exporters. Domestic procedural inefficiencies include delays, high fees (such as for certificates) and arbitrary behaviour of officials. The report puts forward recommendations on transparency, trade information, product quality and conformity assessment, and underlines the importance of implementing the Palestinian national export strategy.

All reports can be accessed free of charge here: www.ntmsurvey.org/publication



CONTACT

International Trade Centre

Palais de Nations 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland Telephone: +41 22 730 0111

Market Analysis and Research Team

Telephone: +41 22 730 0234

Email: marketanalysis@intracen.org

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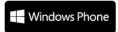


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P: +41 22 730 0111 F: +41 22 733 4439 E: itcreg@intracen.org www.intracen.org

International Trade Centre Palais des Nations 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland



