

**OPPORTUNITIES IN
MULTILATERAL
NEGOTIATIONS FOR AFRICAN
COUNTRIES**

Background

- Art 20 of AoA mandates the negotiations on further liberalisation on Agriculture
- Reaffirmed at Doha in 2001
- Areas of negotiation is in three pillars
 - market access,
tariffs, selection sensitive products, designation of special products,SSM
 - Export Competition
Elimination of Export Subsidies, disciplining the displacing effects of food aid, etc
 - Domestic Support
Substantial reduction of trade distorting DSM

Why should Africa be interested in Agriculture Negotiations?

- The significance of Agriculture to most African countries as a driving force
- Most African countries especially LDCs have high dependency on Agriculture from two perspectives;
- The potential that Agric provides

- a) As an employment, food security and rural livelihood
 - b) Export revenue generator
- An increasing realisation of the positive role that trade can contribute towards African development
 - The recognition of the fact that globalisation as inevitable

- Unlike in the Uruguay round and the lessons learnt from unilateral and IMF/WB adjustment programs, Africa is now cautious on commitments to be made.
- African position is guided by pronouncements embedded in various AU declarations on WTO

Key principles for Africa

- Adequate policy space must be provided
- Consideration of S&D treatment for developing and LDC countries.
- Addressing distortions affecting competitiveness of African products on international markets e.g. cotton issues
- Addressing supply constraints on the production side.

African Countries interests in Market Access

LDCs

- Clarification and implementation of the 97% DFQF principle agreement of HK
- Simplification, transparency and implementation of RoO

Other interests

- Proportionality in tariff reduction
- Designation of special products
- Introduction and application of SSM
- Preference erosion

Domestic Support

- Substantial reduction of trade domestic support by the developed countries.
- Clarification and review should not result in any box shifting.
- Cotton request of total elimination of trade distorting support on DS

Export Competition

- Even though Africa originally targeted 2010 as end date for export subsidies, now agreeing to HK decision of 2013.
- Safeguard access to food aid for emergency situations, but discipline the distorting effects

Opportunities

Opportunities include among others:

- Enhanced market access with predictable/ binding commitments
- Enhanced competitiveness
- Access to financial resources to address supply side constraints e.g. A4T
- Enhanced TRTA

Challenges

- Institutional and human constraints to ensure that an effective negotiating mechanism is in place and able to advance interests of Africa.
- Coordination between Capitals and Geneva
- Capacity to identify specific needs of African countries that require financial assistance.
- Absorption capacity of TRTA support