Towards sustainable trade facilitation in Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP
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.

Figure 20. State of implementation of Trade Facilitation for SMEs in Asia and the Pacific
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

- Women’s membership in the National Trade Facilitation Committee or similar bodies
- TF measures to benefit women involved in trade
- TF policy/strategy to increase women’s participation in trade

- Fully implemented
- Pilot stage of implementation
- Partially implemented
- Not implemented
- Don’t know
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.

Figure 22. Level of implementation of Agricultural Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific
## 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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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.
Resilient trade facilitation: TF in times of crisis

Continued and sustained efforts should be made to further enhance cooperation and make trade information transparent.

Figure 27. State of implementation of Trade Facilitation in Times of Crisis in Asia and the Pacific
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

1. Ensure implementation of digital trade facilitation measures lead to sustainable development

2. Design trade facilitation strategies that are inclusive and supportive of the SDGs

3. Strengthen long-term capacity to keep trade going during future crises