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3. Role of the WTO on Indian Agriculture

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Introduction

Agriculture is the oldest culture in the Indian human civilization, particularly Indian peoples prime work field. The history of Agriculture in India can be trace back to ten thousand years. Mostly, women are responsible for the agriculture as we see in the history. From the history agriculture is India's prime business, nearly 85% people were working in the farm. As per the time, we found so many changes in farm sector in India. As per need not only India but also whole word want make the changes in agriculture, because each and every country found their economical base in the form of agri. On this basis some developed counties takes initiative to developed the agriculture, and for that purpose '*World Trade Organization*' was found in the year of 1995. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture, which came into force in 1995, represents a significant step towards reforming agricultural trade and making it fairer and more competitive. The implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture started with effect from January 1st, 1995. The WTO is the successor of General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) which was established in 1947. GATT held a total of eight rounds. WTO Agreement on Agriculture known as "**International Treaty**" was one of the main agreement which were negotiated during Uruguay Round and total 123 countries participated. Now a days, members of the WTO are 164 in number. WTO members have taken steps to reform the agriculture sector and to address the subsidies and high trade barriers that distort agricultural trade. The overall aim is to establish a fairer trading system that will increase market access and improve the livelihoods of farmers around the world. As per the provisions of the Agreement, the developed countries would complete their reduction commitments within 6 years, i.e., by the year 2000, whereas the commitments of the developing countries would be completed within 10 years, i.e., by the year 2004. The least developed countries are not required to make any reductions. The Indian agricultural exports have seen a decline in recent times due to globalization and other miscellaneous factors. Agricultural exports are going through a phase of turbulence in these global competing times. The present article tries to examine the effect of WTO on Indian

agriculture after the reforms, the specific WTO policies which have caused a decline in agricultural exports along with other domestic factors. It gives some suggestive measures that can be taken to boost the agricultural exports. Agriculture WTO members have taken steps to reform the **agriculture** sector and to address the subsidies and high trade barriers that distort **agricultural** trade. The overall aim is to establish a fairer trading system that will increase market access and improve the livelihoods of farmers around the world. WTO plays big role in agriculture field. A multi-lateral treaty that addresses and makes rules for market access, tariffs, import quotas, domestic and export subsidies, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, rules and processes for resolving disputes, the WTO plans to re-examine the **agriculture** agreement in 2003. The objectives of WTO laws are – promoting free and liberal trade. But there was rampant misuse of this concept. The exporting countries started dumping their products in the importing countries, resulted a serious threat to the economy of developing countries especially to the agriculture of India.

Objectives

1. To set and enforce rules for international trade.
2. To suggest policy measures in the identified agricultural sector.
3. To provide a forum for negotiating and monitoring further trade liberalization.
4. To examine trade arguments.
5. To enhance the transparency of decision-making processes in agriculture.
6. To cooperate with other major international economic.
7. To study the performance of Indian Agricultural exports under WTO regime.

Methodologies

This research is based on both the primary and secondary data. The collection of secondary data related to production and exports were undertaken by referring to published information of government, both Maharashtra and Government of India. The relevant data was segregated and classified for study and analysis in view of the objectives of the study. Primary data was collected for each selected value added commodity from processors and exporters export from different regions of India specially Maharashtra. The selected products were those in which Maharashtra has maximum contribution to export from country. For collection of primary data, the respondents were selected through stratified convenient sampling in terms of the various regions of Maharashtra.

Sources of Organization

They were collected from different published sources like, monthly bulletin of India's exports and imports, DGCIS Ministry of Commerce, APEDA, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Socio-economic review of Maharashtra, export-import transports, agriculture institutions of state governments and Government of India. The CMIE, EPW research foundation, World Bank and other sources of data were also referred.

The analysis is done based on the secondary time series data available from sources like International Financial Statistics, IMF, World Bank, FAO Yearbook of trade statistics, UNCTAD Yearbook of commodity statistics, World Trade Statistics, WTO, data on Indian economy compiled by CMIE, Export data as compiled by MPEDA, various issues of economic survey of India, Government of India and economic review and Government of Maharashtra. A survey was conducted to analyze problems faced by exporters and processors. The survey was limited to exporters and processors located in Maharashtra and concerned with export of agriculture commodity and value added products selected for study.

The empirical study is based on data analysis using statically and econometric methods. Period-wise growth rates and trend-breaks are worked out to find out any possible shifts in the trend behavior of the trade variables under study. While growth rates are worked out by using Regression method, for the year's pre and post WTO trend breaks.

Agricultural trade Policy

As we seen, agriculture is one of the important backbone of Indian Economy. Agriculture has special significance for low income, poor and insecure section of rural society. India's agricultural policy stabs to ensure that agriculture is profitable and farm prices are stable through assured minimum support prices to farmers and confirming subsidized food access to under privileged consumers through the Public Distribution.

Agricultural policy of India is generally designed by the Government to raise the agricultural production and productivity and also to upgrade the level of income and standard of living of farmers within a definite timeframe.

WTO Agreements

The WTO agreements cover goods, services and intellectual property. They spell out the principles of liberalization, and the permitted exceptions. They include individual countries' commitments to lower customs tariffs and other trade barriers, and to open and keep open

services markets. They set procedures for settling disputes. They prescribe special treatment for developing countries. They require governments to make their trade policies transparent by notifying the WTO about laws in force and measures adopted, and through regular reports by the secretariat on countries' trade policies.

Relationship between WTO and Indian Agriculture

It is now an established fact that the Uruguay Round did not bring about trade liberalization in agriculture to the desired extent. There were no significant reductions in domestic support as well as export subsidies by the developed countries. Although the Agreement on Agriculture achieved a great deal by defining rules for international trade, its achievement in terms of immediate market opening has been limited. The anticipated gains from agricultural trade liberalization, therefore, have eluded the developing countries till now.

It was also expected that the contemplated fair trading regime would help the efficient producers in realizing higher prices for their products. On the contrary, prices of most agricultural commodities are declining in the world markets, mainly due to export of subsidized agricultural products from western countries. It was anticipated that due to the reduction in domestic support in developed countries, cereal production would shift from developed to developing countries. Empirical evidence, however, shows that there has not been much change in the pattern of world cereals production and exports.

As far as India is concerned, it has been possible to maintain without any hindrance the domestic policy instruments for promotion of agriculture or for subsidized targeted supply of food grains. The domestic policy measures like the operation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the public distribution system (PDS) as well as provision of input subsidies to agriculture have not been constrained by the Agreement. In fact, certain provisions contained in Annex 2 of the Agreement, popularly known as the 'Green Box', give us the flexibility to provide support for, research and extension services, pest and disease control, marketing and promotion services, infrastructure development, payments made for relief from natural disasters, payments under regional assistance programme for disadvantaged regions and payments under environmental programs.

Food security of our people, protection of the interests of domestic farmers and their livelihood as well as the need for export maximisation will be the guiding principles during the ongoing negotiations.

Conclusion

The finally, Indian agriculture products by seeking a reduction in the high tariffs and subsidies present in developed countries. A higher growth in agriculture thus, needs a comprehensive revamp of agriculture policy with reorientation towards rapid diversification of this sector. Several agricultural products such as cereals, pulses, fresh and fruits and vegetables, marine products, meat and meat preparations, dairy and poultry products and even cotton are subjected to stringent sanitary and phyto sanitary measures. A study related to the commodity specific and country specific sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures will be a great help to the exporters. An exploratory study on impact of domestic policy measures on agricultural export of India can be taken up. Another area is effectiveness of the formulation of focus market policy of Government of India. There is stiff competition in the international market for all the agricultural commodities. A study can be taken up examining various factors contributing to the international competitiveness. There is a shift from unprocessed products towards ready to use and ready to eat products or processed agricultural products across the world. Thus a study exploring the opportunities in market specific processed products can be conducted. Finally, a study examining the effect of change in the export earnings due to processed products of selected goods such as cereals, fruits, vegetable, fish, poultry, dairy, meat etc., will be useful for developing product specific processing units among different states in the country.

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