

Gender and Trade

Some issues to consider

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How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

- Women as producers:
 - Dual role: productive and reproductive roles
 - Time allocation: market versus non-market activities
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How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

□ As workers

- In terms of quality of employment
 - As compared to previously existing opportunities
 - Effect on the wage gap
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How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

□ Women as consumers

- Trade liberalization may lower prices on important consumer goods -- so women may gain significantly from a reduction in the price of their basic bundle of goods and in increased access to medicine and basic health services – given their role as primary household managers.
 - Conversely, elimination of subsidies or price supports may raise the price of basics, making household management more costly.
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★ Tariff reduction on agricultural goods: an example from a country in the Americas

| Tariff Line Level | Description | Value | Nature |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------|------------|
| 702000 | TOMATOES FRESH OR CHILLED | 224 | Ad Valorem |
| 704901 | CABBAGES | 123 | Ad Valorem |
| 705110 | LETTUCE | 123 | Ad Valorem |
| 710100 | POTATOES | 30 | Ad Valorem |
| 40100 | MILK and CREAM | 159 | Ad Valorem |

On average, these tariffs increase the price by 125%

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★ The case of agricultural liberalization:

- ❑ Production Factors: Impact of trade liberalization on the agricultural sector:
 - Are women formal or informal workers?
 - Are women intensively employed more in large agricultural concerns or in smaller farms?
 - Are women employed more in traditional or nontraditional sectors? What are the trends?
 - ❑ Consumption factors: Can the loss of agricultural income be offset by other factors, such as cheaper imported foodstuff?
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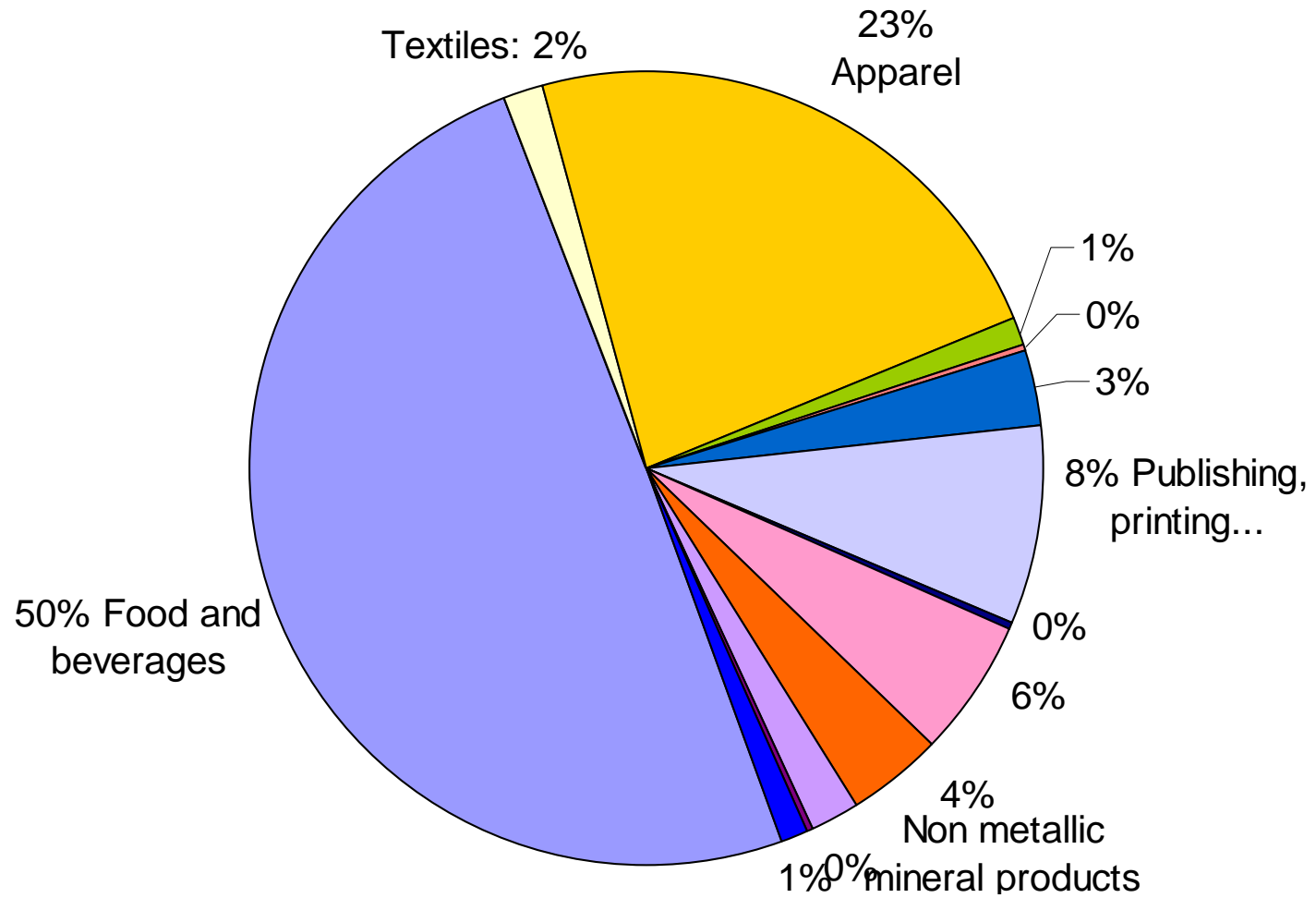
How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

- ★ The issue of sectorial concentration:
 - ❑ Are some sectors more affected by trade?
 - ❑ Are women concentrated in some of these sectors?
 - ❑ How do we look at the issue of sectorial concentration?
 - overall concentration, compared to men
 - in terms of the female labour force
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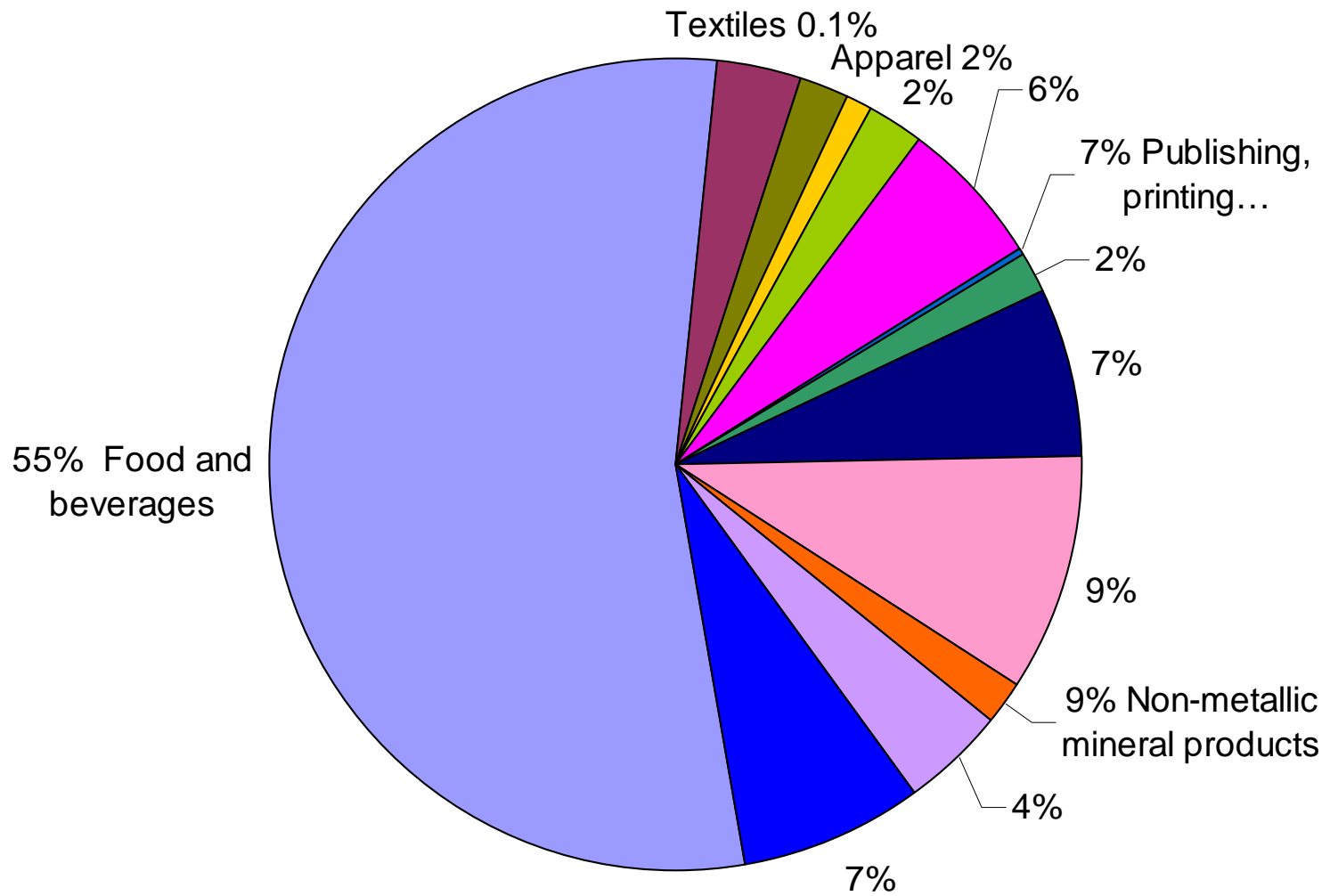
PANAMA: Men and women's share of employment in manufacturing (%) 2000



Distribution of women's employment in manufacturing



Distribution of men's employment in manufacturing



Gender and Trade: What are the options?

- ❑ Incorporate language on gender into trade agreement provisions
 - ❑ Incorporate language on gender in side agreements
 - ❑ Incorporate gender consideration into trade-related projects
 - ❑ Incorporate gender consideration in domestic policy-formation
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Gender and Trade: some suggestions

- ❑ Coordination and collaboration among NGOs, national institutions and international organizations
 - ❑ Communication among trade people and gender people
 - ❑ Sharing of country experiences
 - ❑ Wider dissemination of information
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Gender and Trade: some suggestions

- ❑ Trade Unit -SICE/CIM collaboration:
 - Section on trade and gender on the SICE Website:



www.sice.oas.org

Trade & Gender on the SICE Website

- The website will include:
 - Links to international organizations involved in the issue of gender and trade
 - Links to other sources of information, such as articles, bibliographies...
 - The presentations and papers done by the Trade Unit
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Trade & Gender on the SICE Website

- Best Practices submitted by OAS Member States
 - A list of trade & cooperation agreements and impact studies including vocabulary on gender equality, non-discrimination, and other relevant issues.
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