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
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
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.
Tariff reduction on agricultural goods: an example from a country in the Americas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tariff Line Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Nature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>702000</td>
<td>TOMATOES FRESH OR CHILLED</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>Ad Valorem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>704901</td>
<td>CABBAGES</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>Ad Valorem</td>
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<tr>
<td>705110</td>
<td>LETTUCE</td>
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<td>710100</td>
<td>POTATOES</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>40100</td>
<td>MILK and CREAM</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>Ad Valorem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On average, these tariffs increase the price by 125%

Source: FTAA Hemispheric Trade and Tariff Database
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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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★ 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
PANAMA: Men and women's share of employment in manufacturing (%) 2000

Source: ILO online database LABORSTAT
Distribution of women's employment in manufacturing

- Apparel: 23%
- Textiles: 2%
- Food and beverages: 50%
- Publishing, printing: 8%
- Non metallic mineral products: 4%
- Other: 3%

Source: ILO online database LABORSTAT 2000
Distribution of men's employment in manufacturing

- 55% Food and beverages
- 7% Publishing, printing...
- 7% Textiles
- 9% Apparel
- 2% Non-metallic mineral products
- 4% Non-metallic mineral products
- 9% Food and beverages

Source: ILO online database LABORSTAT 2000
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
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
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
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.