

What's at Stake in the WTO: Challenges and Opportunities for Improving Agricultural Development and Food Security in Africa

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for the Civil Society Strategy Meeting on Advocacy
around Africa's Trade and Development Challenges

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Our world is not for sale.

STOP corporate globalization.

Agriculture and Development

- Right to Food is a fundamental right – Article 11 on the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.
- Agriculture is the focus of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Agriculture is also essential for farmers' livelihoods, sustainable rural development, and the structural transformation of African economies (jobs, value addition, industrialization).

SDG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

SDG TARGETS

2.1

- By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round [**END HUNGER**]

2.2

- By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons [**END MALNUTRITION**]

2.3

- By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment [**INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND ACCESS AND VALUE ADDITION**]

2.4

- By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality [**ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY**]

2.5

- By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed [**PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY**]

SDG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

SDG Means of Implementation (MOI)

2.a

- **Increase investment**, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

2.b

- **Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets**, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

2.c

- **Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives** and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Challenges with the Current System that Frustrate the Food Security Needs of Developing Countries

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REALITY

- Despite increased economic growth, the problem of food security is particularly acute in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of people lacking food security has increased from 175.6 million (in 1990) to 214 million (in 2012). Populations are expected to increase ...
- Imports not the solution: In Africa a large segment of the population is unable to procure food for themselves due to their low income levels. Further, in rural areas where agriculture and staple food production are important occupations for the majority of the poor and a source of purchasing power, there is no assurance that increased imports will lead to increased food security.
- This clearly underscores the need for African countries to strive for self sufficiency in food production as an important objective for meeting their food security needs. However, the rules of WTO Agreement on Agriculture come in the way of efforts of many developing countries to meet their food security needs.

Challenges with the Current System that Frustrate the Food Security Needs of Developing Countries

SDG TARGETS

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REALITY

- Some of these are domestic issues that are not trade-specific. However, developing countries must have the policy space to make these investments, and they should not be restricted in their efforts to increase agricultural productivity or incomes of small-scale food producers.

Challenges with the Current System that Frustrate the Food Security Needs of Developing Countries

SDG TARGETS

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REALITY

- Eight of the 35 global areas that qualify as biodiversity hotspots are located within Africa. These eight hotspots are rich in Traditional Knowledge (TK) that has been used by local communities over centuries for various indigenous and medical traditions. In the past few decades multinational companies have started bio-prospecting in these regions for developing new products - mainly drugs and cosmetics - based on TK associated with genetic resources.
- Many patents have been obtained and commercialized by MNCs and other institutions in developed countries on the basis of prevailing TK from Africa. Further, there is no requirement in the TRIPS Agreement to specify the contribution of community knowledge and TK in patent applications. Consequently, TK is being misappropriated for windfall private gains through patents without benefits accruing to holders of such biological material and knowledge.

Challenges with the Current System that Frustrate the Food Security Needs of Developing Countries

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Challenges with the Current System that Frustrate the Food Security Needs of Developing Countries

SDG MOI 2.a

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REALITY

- Now, developed countries are allowed billions in Domestic Support investments, while the vast majority of developing countries are not allowed more than 10 percent of the value of production (*de minimis*) overall support as well as only ten per cent on a per product basis.
- **How? Countries had to cap their Domestic Support at the level at which they came into the WTO.** Developed countries were engaged in massive subsidization, because of a lack of competitiveness in the sector. But developing countries were prohibited by International Monetary Fund/World Bank rules or because of lack of funds from engaging in similar supports.
- Developing countries have been advocating for food security investments to be allowed under WTO rules, but their demands have been blocked thus far.
- In reality, many developing countries are not making the investments that they are even allowed, even though the Maputo Declaration from 2003, African governments committed to invest 10 percent of their national budget in agriculture (reaffirmed in the Declaration of 2014).

Challenges with the Current System that Frustrate the Food Security Needs of Developing Countries

SDG MOI 2.b

- **Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets**, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

REALITY

- Trade restrictions such as **tariff escalation** (high tariffs on finished products like chocolate but not on the raw unprocessed materials like cacao) remain.
- WTO Members agreed to eliminate the majority of **Export Competition** policies during the Nairobi Ministerial. This was positive, but insufficient.
- But most of the policies that were eliminated are no longer in use. Developed countries have “shifted” how they categorize their subsidies, from policies that are not allowed (Amber Box) to categories that are unlimited (Green Box) although many of the policies still damage developing country markets.
- However certain policies, such as damaging Food Aid policies by the U.S., are still allowed.

Challenges with the Current System that Frustrate the Food Security Needs of Developing Countries

SDG MOI 2.c

- **Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives** and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

REALITY

- Proper functioning of markets also includes strengthening domestic markets. Very little is being done about this in the WTO.
- Financialization of the commodity markets continues and would be exacerbated by any financial services sector liberalization (ie through the Trade in Services Agreement, or TiSA).
- Public provision of extension services is essential: input subsidies and marketing boards could help, but these were dismantled by IMF/WB programs.
- Markets have failed African producers...

Challenges with the Current System that Frustrate the Food Security Needs of Developing Countries

- Developing countries were encouraged to abandon food crops and pursue export-oriented agriculture. This led to oversupplies, which brought down prices.
- Aggressive [deregulation of agriculture](#), and [consolidation of retail chains](#) has led to downward pressure on global prices and exploitation by TNCs.
- [Climate change](#) has led to droughts that caused food prices to skyrocket, resulting in two global food crises that induced widespread hunger.
- Financialization of and speculation in the [commodities market](#) has led to a [volatility in world food prices](#), in which speculators got rich, but prices stay low for poor producers and high for consumers.
- Developed countries are still allowed to [subsidize agriculture](#) in a way that distorts global markets and suppresses developing country value addition and exports.
- Developing countries face [import surges](#) which wipe out local agriculture, particularly in countries that have been forced to lower tariff protections.
- [Landgrabbing and indebtedness](#) have resulted in massive displacement.
- Agricultural [migrant workers](#) are some of the most exploited and increasing..

What Policies Should Trade Justice Campaigners Promote to Achieve SDGs re: Agriculture?

- **Countries should have the right to support the production of food that is consumed domestically.** Thus, *Public Stockholding programs for Food Security* must be considered as part of the Green Box, and thus not subject to limits or reductions commitments.
- **Countries should not have the right to damage other countries' markets.** Thus, *export subsidies should be banned*, and this includes domestic subsidies that go towards products that are exported. Domestically subsidized food should not be exported in a way that damages other countries' markets, whether it was in a public stockholding program or is used as feed or other inputs for exported food.
- **Countries should have the right to protect their domestic markets from dumping by other countries.** For some countries, import surges are a significant problem, and thus they should have recourse to *a Special Safeguard Mechanism that is workable* in their context. The SSM proposed in Rev 4 is inadequate because it has too many onerous conditionalities and triggers that would make it nearly impossible to use.
- **Countries should be able to protect domestic food markets, including through the use of tariffs.** In any future negotiations, *developing countries should not have to cut tariffs*. In the case that there would be any future tariff cuts, then developing countries should have full recourse to Sensitive Products and Special Products. Developed countries should also be able to maintain tariffs that protect Food Security.

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

- Agriculture was traditionally kept out of the global trade system, because developed countries were inefficient and not competitive and they did not want to compete with competitive exports from developing countries.
- In exchange for allowing services and intellectual property into the WTO, developed countries allowed agriculture to be part of WTO.
- Developing countries realized that the existing Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of the WTO was written by the EU and United States, with much input from their transnational agribusiness corporations, and cemented in place an extremely unfair global trade regime.
- **Developing countries only agreed to launch the Doha Round as a way to ensure reform of the existing unfair agriculture rules.**
- Unfortunately, progress has been stymied since 2001..

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

- Major pillars of the **DDA negotiations**:
 - **domestic support**: substantial reductions for supports that distort trade
 - **exports subsidies**: reductions of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of these
 - **market access**: substantial reductions in tariffs and NTBs (non-tariff barriers)

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

Domestic support pillar: supports for domestic production

- “Non-Trade Distorting” are called **Green Box** in the WTO and are allowed, limitless. This does not mean that the subsidies do not distort trade, rather that these policies *were negotiated to be classified as “non-trade distorting”* during the Uruguay Round.
- “Trade distorting supports” are called **Amber Box** in the WTO and are slated for reduction. This does not mean that *only* these subsidies distort trade, but that they are programs that were not negotiated to be considered “non-trade distorting” in the Uruguay Round. Most developing countries are not allowed very much in this category (only “*de minimis*” which is 10 percent of the value of production.)
- Developed countries are generally changing the classification of their subsidies that were in the Amber Box category, to now be in the Green Box category. This is called “**box-shifting**” and allows them to keep their subsidies without reducing them.
- Note that 90 percent of subsidies, including for food that is exported, are classified under “domestic support.” This includes animal feed subsidies, infrastructure, crop insurance.

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

Export subsidies are those given at the time of export. They are mandated to be eliminated.

- This includes direct subsidies as well as export credits (used by the United States), state trading enterprises, and some types of Food Aid.

Market Access negotiations pillar of DDA:

- Mandates **tariff cuts**.
- **Tariff peaks** and **tariff escalation** in developed countries are supposed to be reduced to facilitate greater imports from developing countries.
- Exceptions to tariff cuts, called **Sensitive Products** have qualifications which result in that they are mostly utilized by developed countries and not open to developing countries.
- Exceptions to tariff cuts, called **Special Products** (which are necessary for food security, farmers' livelihoods, and rural development) are *proposed* by the G33 (group of 46 countries) to mitigate the negative impacts of tariff cuts.
- Flexibilities to raise tariffs in times of import surges, called the **Special Safeguard (SSG)** have conditions such that they are mostly used by developed countries.
- Flexibilities to raise tariffs in times of import surges in developing countries, referred to as the **Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM)**, have been *proposed* by the G33 of developing countries.

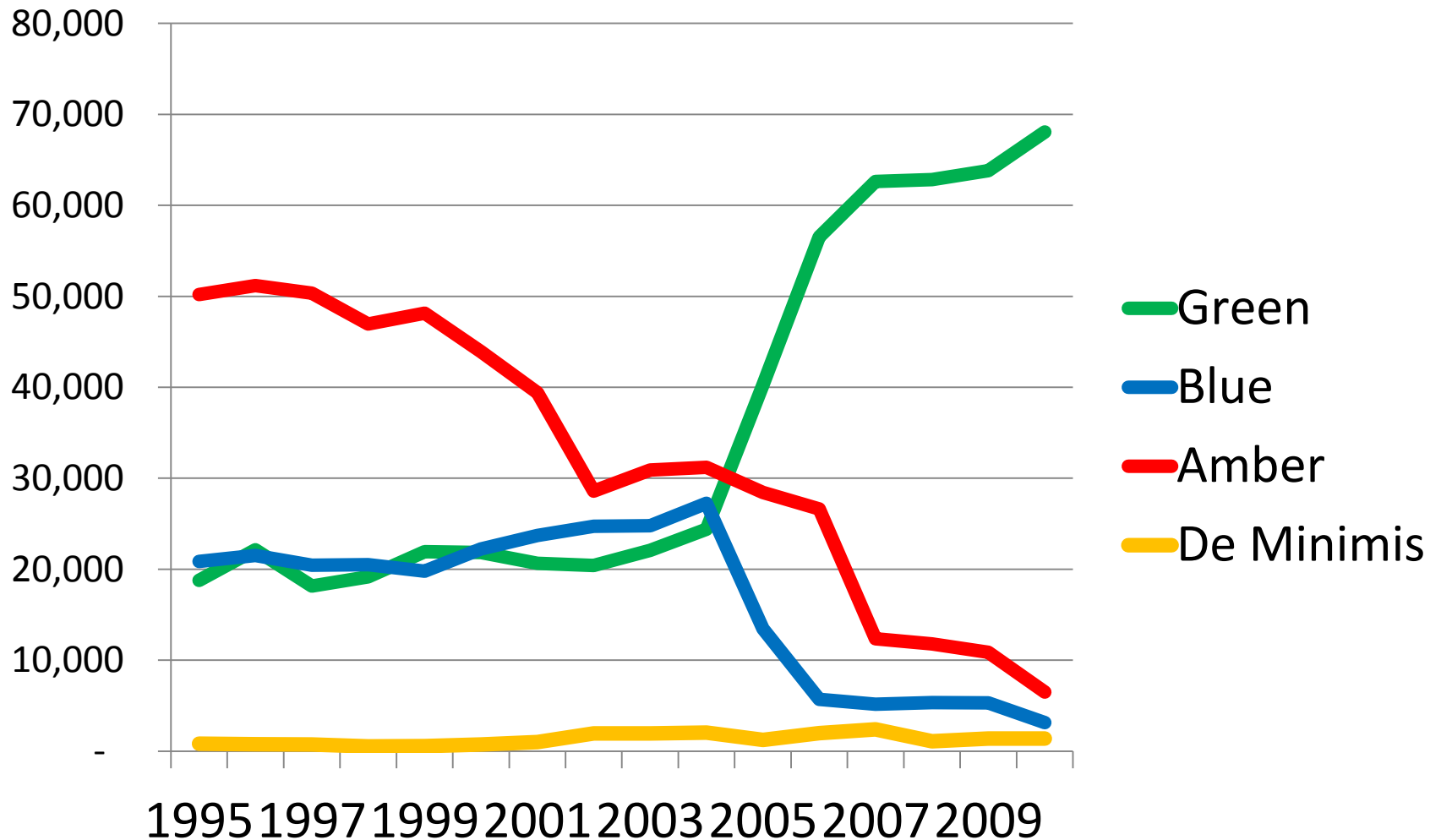
Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

In Rev.4, (the draft Doha text on Agriculture, from December 2008):

- **domestic support:** substantial reductions for supports that distort trade
 - The United States did not want to make substantial reductions to trade-distorting domestic supports beyond what is already applied.
 - Amber Box (trade-distorting) only represents about 10 percent of subsidies; 90 percent of developed country subsidies are “Green Box” and not slated for reduction.
 - Proposed a new “Blue Box” which would allow U.S. even more subsidies.
- **exports subsidies:** reductions of, with a view to phasing out, all forms
- **market access:**
 - **Tariff cuts** for developing countries are too steep.
 - **Tariff escalation** in developed countries should be curbed more.
 - Exceptions to tariff cuts for developing countries, called “**Special Products**” are too limited.
 - Flexibilities to raise tariffs in times of import surges, referred to as the **Special Safeguard Mechanism**, includes conditionalities that make it impractical and unworkable.

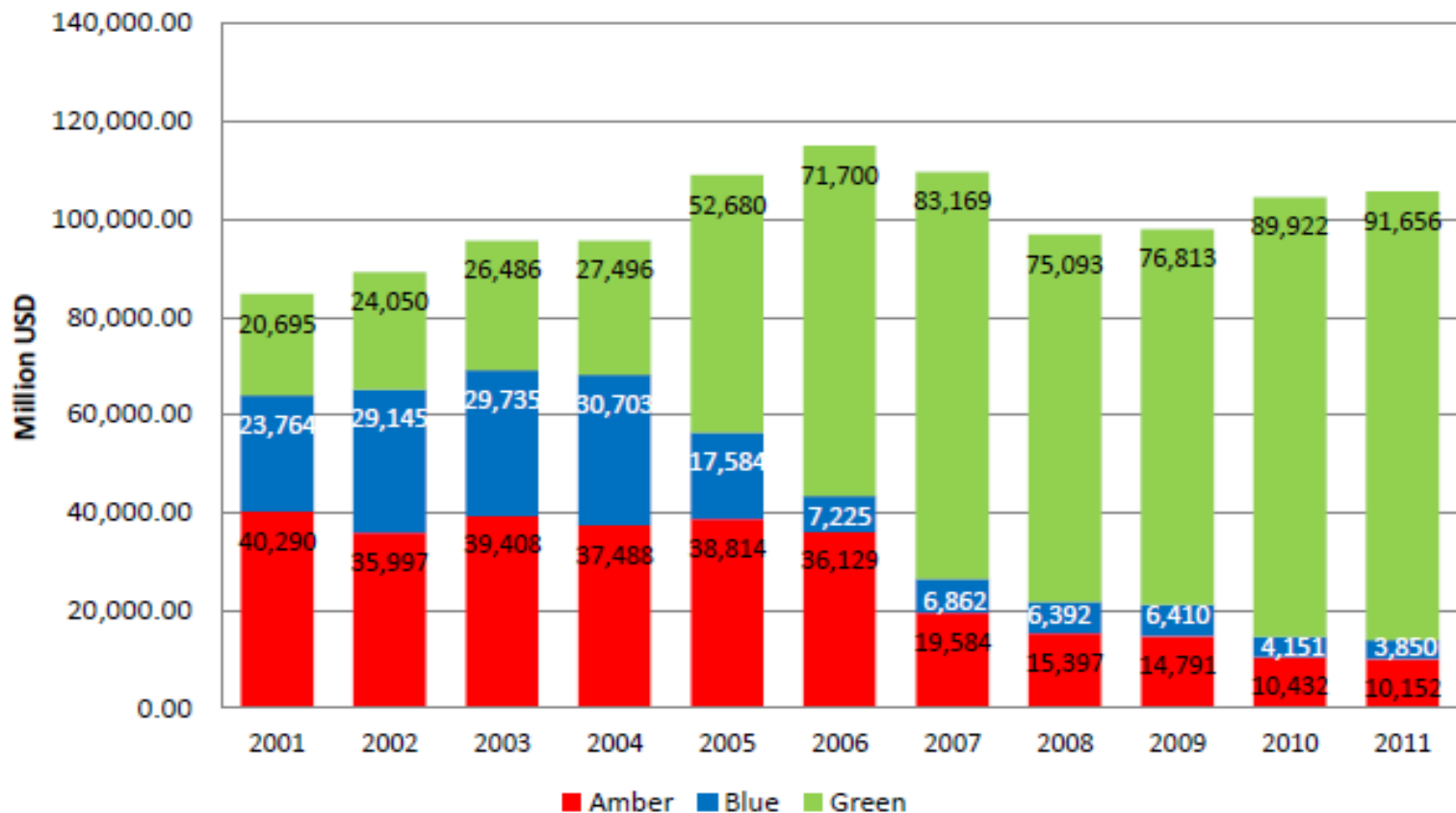
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Box Shifting (EU)..(Million Euros, from WTO notifications) (from Peter Lunenborg)



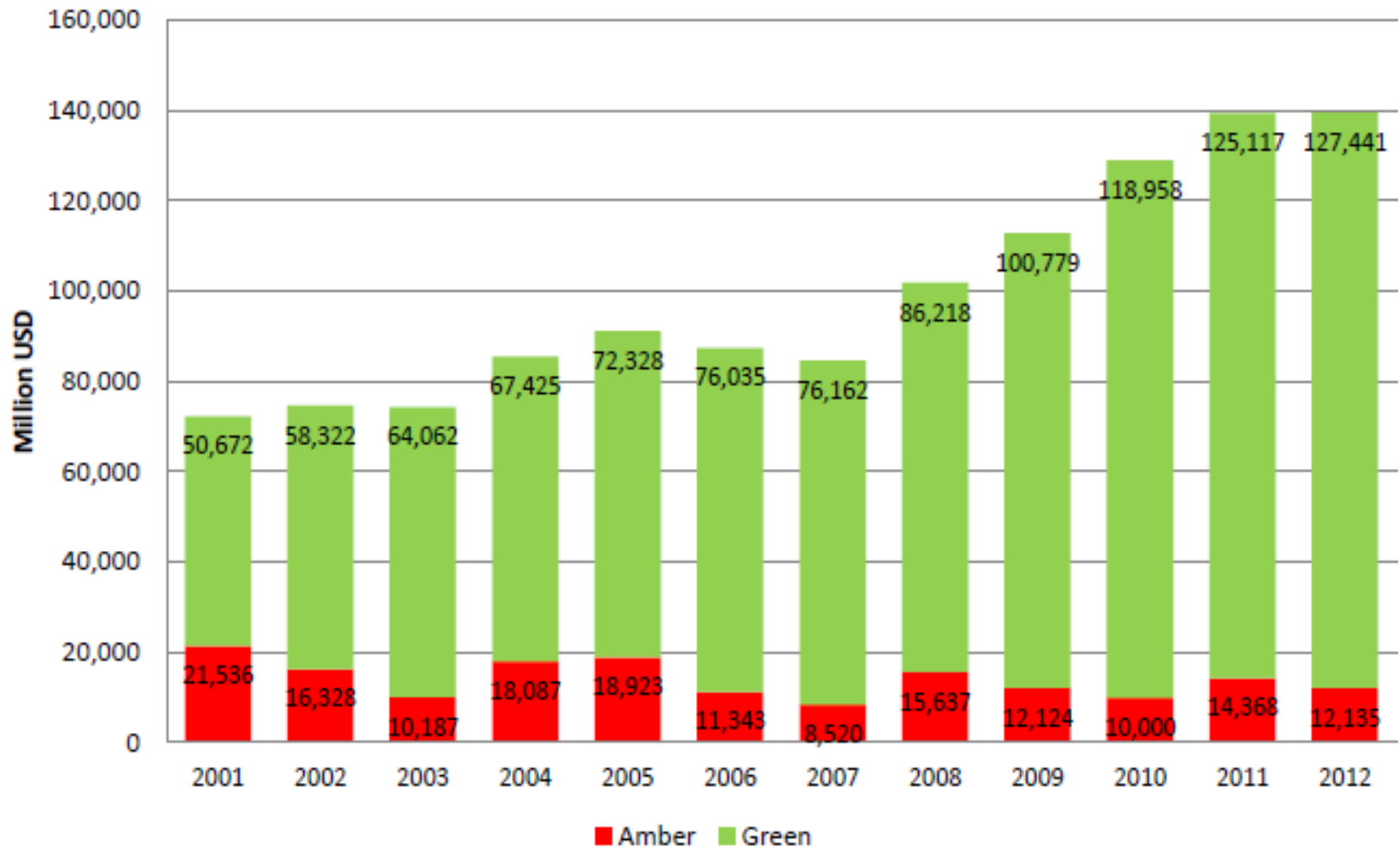
Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

Trends in Domestic Support - European Union*



Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

Trends in Domestic Support - United States



Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

Some Examples of Damages to African Countries from Domestic Support, from Aileen Kwa:

- Ghana - Tomato Paste: Tomato paste imports from the EU increased by a staggering 650 percent from 3,300 tons in 1998 to 24,740 tons in 2003. Farmers lost 40 per cent of the share of their own domestic market and prices were extremely depressed.
- Cameroon - Poultry: Poultry imports increased nearly 300 per cent between 1999 and 2004. Some 92 per cent of poultry farmers dropped out of the sector. A massive 110,000 rural jobs were lost each year from 1994 to 2003.
- Cote d'Ivoire – poultry: poultry imports increased 650 per cent between 2001 and 2003, causing domestic production to fall by 23 per cent. As a result, prices dropped, forcing 1,500 producers to cease production and the loss of 15,000 jobs.
- Mozambique – vegetable oils: vegetable oil imports (palm, soy and sunflower) saw a fivefold increase between 2000 and 2004. Domestic production shrank drastically, from 21,000 tonnes in 1981 to 3,500 in 2002. About 108,000 smallholder households growing oilseeds have been affected, not to mention another 1 million families involved in substitute products (soy and copra). Small oil processing operations have closed down, resulting in the termination of thousands of jobs.
- Senegal – Poultry: 70 per cent of the poultry industry was wiped out because of EU poultry imports.

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

- The situation has changed since 2001. There is a global recognition of the importance of sustainable, and resilient local agricultural production for domestic food security.
- Now, many developing countries have the resources to, and the commitment to, support agricultural production.
- A global “best practice” has emerged of **public stockholding**, wherein the government purchases from resource-poor farmers at a fixed price (guaranteeing a decent income) and distributes the food to low-income citizens (many of whom are farmers).
- Given that the entire package of AoA changes were still far off, developing countries made a **proposal in 2013 to ameliorate the most damaging of all the existing WTO rules: the prohibition on developing countries investing in domestic production more than 10 percent.**
- Their proposal was to be based on **food security proposals made by the Africa Group** going back as far as 2006!

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

- Their proposal was to simply move “public stockholding for food security” into the Green Box (as a program that is not trade-distorting).
- Currently, developing countries have to calculate the subsidy as the **difference between the Market Support Price (subsidized price by the government) and an “External Reference Price,”** which is set as the **average price from 1986-1988** – incredibly low!
- They must also calculate the subsidy **as if it was given to the entire crop, not just to the procured volume.**
- Thus the alleged subsidies are gigantic, even if the allocated funds are small.
- These calculation requirements do not apply to programs in countries like the United States, where consumers are given coupons to purchase food, even if it is subsidized production.
- **Developing country programs for public stockholding reduce hunger and poverty among farmers and consumers, but are WTO-illegal.**

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to Bali to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration ...

- The **United States has consistently opposed** this move, and has mobilized support from Australia, the EU, Japan, Pakistan, etc.
- In Bali in December 2013, WTO members agreed on a **Peace Clause**: existing public stockholding for food security programs could continue, but the conditions were very onerous (and not applicable to trade-distorting programs in developed countries.)
- In November 2014, Members agreed to **engage constructively to negotiate a permanent solution by the end of 2015.**
- **Many African countries, such as Botswana, Ghana, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe have programs for public stockholding of wheat or corn for food security purposes.** Some of these countries have already breached their subsidy limits and are vulnerable to these programs being challenged at the WTO.

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration and...

Case study: Kenya

- 10.8 million people in Kenya were undernourished during 2012-14. They passed a Food Security Law in 2011. Agriculture is 26% of GDP, another 25% through linkages, and more than 70% of labor force are in the rural sector.
- During the base period 1986-88, Kenya did not provide support to agriculture sector, therefore they only have recourse to 10 percent *de minimis*.
- They have a strategic plan for agricultural sector. The National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) is mandated to ensure food security in Kenya by providing maize to consumers at affordable prices. It also promotes domestic maize production through support for irrigation, subsidized fertilizers and price support. This provides economic incentive to food agricultural crops, to cope with the price volatility in the markets to ensure that we don't have a switch from food crops to non-food crops.
- Another area is the issue of restocking. What happens when crops are wiped out from droughts? The government uses funds to purchase near-dying animals from the farmer-ranchers, and then they are able to use the funds to re-stock. Kenya is switching to a Strategic Food Reserve to include other crops that are not taken into consideration. Even local governments are purchasing crops, developing local storage, above what's being done by the national cereals board.
- Unless the rules of AoA are amended, NCBP may face difficulties in its operations for enhancing farm incomes and stabilising prices and thereby constraining the effectiveness of food security policy in Kenya. It could force more than 10 million people to continue to remain trap in the vicious circle of undernourishment, hunger and poverty.

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration and...

Case study: Zambia

- Zambia is suffering from a very high level of prevalence of undernourishment (48.3%) and around 7 million people are suffering from undernourishment during 2012-14.
- Agriculture employs about 85% of the population but contributes just 10% of gross domestic product (GDP) and 5% of exports, mostly due to weak linkages with manufacturing.
- Maize is a staple crop in which Zambia is self sufficient. In recent times, Zambia was a net exporter of this crop.
- The Food Reserve Agency (FRA) administers the strategic food reserves and engages in market facilitation, development and management of the national storage facilities. FRA buys maize from the local market at administered price to protect the interest of producers.
- On account of procurement of maize by FRA at administered prices, product specific support to maize has exceeded the *de minimis* during 2003-04 to 2012-13.
- To comply with obligations under WTO's AoA, a modification in the policy of maize may be required in future.
- This would erode policy space for government to implement existing maize policy and thus force half of Zambia population to suffer from hunger, extreme poverty and malnutrition.

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration and...

Other African case studies:

- **Ghana** – public stockholding in paddy rice, soya beans, maize - National Food Buffer Stock Company (NAFCO).
- **Senegal** - Self-sufficiency in rice grew from 20 per cent in 2007 to 40 per cent in 2011 after reintroduction of state marketing and procurement policy interventions in the domestic market.
- **Nigeria** – considering to introduce ‘Guaranteed Minimum Price’?
- **SSA:** Despite increased economic growth, the problem of food security is particularly acute in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of people lacking food security has increased from 175.6 million (in 1990) to 214 million (in 2012).
- By 2010, only seven countries had reached the target fixed in the Maputo Declaration (2003) of devoting 10% of GDP to agriculture: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Senegal and Zambia.

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration and...

Others: Does India or the U.S. subsidize more?

- The fight in WTO appears to be between the U.S. and India. In **India**, 65 percent of the population is engaged in farming, 85 percent of whom own less than 2 hectares. Over 190 million people are chronically malnourished. And a whopping 40 percent of children are underweight. There is an agrarian crisis – 300,000 farmer suicides between 1996 and 2014. The domestic food security program costs **\$21 billion and serves 840 million recipients** – but it is limited under WTO.
- **US**: domestic subsidies in 2011 totaled almost \$140 billion; including **\$79 billion to support its own domestic food aid programs for 47 million recipients**; subsidies located in the Green Box and not subject to limits.

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration and...

Case Study: COTTON

- US cotton subsidies alone – which enrich a few thousand producers in politically important districts – have so depressed global cotton prices that Brazil has twice won WTO cases against the U.S. But rather than change the subsidies, the U.S. now [pays off the Brazilian producers](#) to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. The EU also massively subsidizes cotton.
- Unfortunately, this arrangement leaves the less politically powerful small farmers in [Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali](#), and other African cotton-producing countries who have been suffering for years, in the dust.
- Every Ministerial has resulted in an agreement to “come to a conclusion” on disciplining cotton subsidies expeditiously..but no actual commitments to limit subsidies since 2001..

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration and...

According to Geneva sources:

- African countries have generally not been active in seeking a permanent solution to the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes. This has created two problems.
- First, in WTO negotiations, silence of a country on an issue creates an impression that the country does not have any interest in that issue. Thus, silence of most of the African diplomats at the WTO on the issue of food security has created a wrong impression that these countries have very little at stake, and perhaps no interest, in the negotiations on the permanent solution.
- Second, the silence of the African countries has also led to a wrong impression that the issue of food security is relevant only for a handful of developing countries (like India).
- Both these aspects can have severe adverse consequences for food security programs in Africa.

Agriculture Trade Rules, from Doha Development Agenda to Rev. 4 to the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration and...

In the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration:

- **Public Stockholding:** merely affirmed previous mandates, leaving a deadline of the 11th Ministerial, to be held in December 2017;
- **Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM):** mandated discussions to a Special Session (negotiations) but the potential link to market access is ambiguous;
- **Export Competition:** mandated the elimination of almost all forms, but most of them are not being used anymore;
- **Domestic Support:** no conclusion on disciplines.

...and Beyond: What are the Key Agricultural Issues and Contestations Now?

To promote BIODIVERSITY and combat BIOPIRACY (SDG TARGET 2.5):

- A landmark proposal made by the African Group in 2003 to the TRIPS Council was premised on the understanding that protection of genetic resources and TK particularly those originating from developing countries is an important means of addressing poverty.
- According to the proposal, an effective protection of genetic material and TK would be in the nature of an international mechanism within the framework of the TRIPS Agreement.
- The African Group suggested modifying Article 29 of the TRIPS Agreement by adding the requirement that an applicant for a patent should disclose the country and area of origin of any biological resources and TK involved in the invention, and to provide confirmation of compliance with all access regulations in the country of origin. **The African Group also suggested that the Council for TRIPS should consider adopting a Decision on Protecting Traditional Knowledge.**
- The proposed *Decision* sought to provide for rights relating to protection of TK involving commercialization of their knowledge; prior and informed consent for any access and any intended use of their knowledge; and full and equitable remuneration for their knowledge. It also sought to address the issue of wrongfully granted patents.
- However, this proposal, and similar other proposals on this issue by other developing countries, has met with stiff opposition from some developed countries.

...and Beyond: What are the Key Agricultural Issues and Contestations Now?

From the OWINFS Global WTO Turnaround Statement

- **5. We Demand Trade Rules that Support Food Security and Sovereignty**
- Another global food crisis has again highlighted our broken system of trade in food, which exposes farmers to floods of imports when prices are too low (often due to unfair export subsidies in rich countries) while at the same time expanding the ranks of humans suffering from hunger when food prices spike. This volatility is a result of excessive speculation in the commodities markets, and global food rules – written largely to satisfy corporate agribusiness – that treat food as a product for corporate profit instead of a Human Right. It is time for a fundamental transformation of the food system, and the following changes to the WTO are essential for a global system that would ensure Food Sovereignty and Food Security to develop:
 - -Developing countries should have the right to subsidize food for the poor, including through direct payments to poor farmers, as proposed in the current negotiations by the G33 to promote Food Security.
 - -Developing countries should have the right to raise tariffs and use other measures to protect farmers' livelihoods, rural development, and food security. This ability, called the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) in the WTO, must be far more flexible than is reflected in current WTO proposals for it to be useful in achieving food security. No additional commitments on Agriculture should be made of LDCs.
 - -Developing countries should be able to exempt products from any potential future tariff cuts as they deem necessary to protect farmers' income, food security and rural development; the Special Products designation in the WTO must be expanded. We reject any standstill on tariffs in agriculture.
 - -Export subsidies should be disciplined, including so-called "Green Box" subsidies.
 - -Trade rules must be modified to facilitate proper regulation of commodities to prevent excessive speculation and volatility in the global markets.
 - -Special attention should be paid to banning subsidies of agro-fuels, as they have diverted land away from food production and aggravated ecological degradation.

...and Beyond: What are the Key Agricultural Issues and Contestations Now?

To promote EMPLOYMENT and STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION:

- Developed Countries are intending to abandon any efforts to **discipline Domestic Supports**, instead pursuing an agenda of “new issues...” But **African countries also have an interest in pursuing the disciplining of Domestic Supports**, so that they may increase market share in agricultural trade.
- It is in the interest of African countries not to have to cut tariffs on agriculture products in **market access** negotiations, or they will face a flood of (subsidized) imports from developed countries.
- **Tariff peaks and escalation should be reduced** (but this may come at a price of cuts to developing country tariffs..)
- Cotton subsidies in developed countries **must be abolished** immediately.

To promote FOOD SECURITY, the RIGHT TO FOOD, and to END EXTREME POVERTY:

- The issues of relevance to developing countries, particularly to move **Public Stockholding for Food Security** into the Green Box, and to allow for a **flexible and workable SSM** for developing countries during import surges, **will in some ways depend on the mobilization of civil society pressuring governments to push for a resolution.**

...and Beyond: What are the Key Agricultural Issues and Contestations Now?

And what can we do about them?

- Take advantage of key moments in the global agriculture calendar to link the WTO to ongoing problems in agriculture at events such as the Committee on Food Security (CFS) in Rome in October.
- Work with the CFS, FAO, the UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food, and other international agencies that share our views to get the message out.
- Hold events on the issues at the upcoming UNCTAD XIV conference in Kenya, July 17-22, 2016, as well as at the WTO Public Forum.
- Make links with movements working against Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), and against hunger and for domestic food security (including the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa).
- Expose and denounce the U.S. subsidies programs that harm developing country food security and employment.
- Develop materials demonstrating the link with hunger and WTO.
- Outreach to the media to gain coverage of the issues, and write our own OpEds and other articles for publication.
- Support campaigns in key countries, especially those that want to expand food security programs..
- Gear up for a Permanent Solution on Food Security by December 2017.