

WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2015 TRADE WORKS

PLUGGING IN TO THE GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN: ASIAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' PERSPECTIVE: MYANMAR

Tin Htut Oo,
Chairman,
National Economic and Social Advisory Council,
and
Agriculture Division, Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd.,
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POTENTIAL AGRIFOOD BASKET

ASIAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AGRIFOOD VALUE CHAIN
CONTEXT : MYANMAR

ASEAN ECONOMIC GAP: NEW CLMV vs OLD ASEAN 6 –
IMPORTANCE OF AGRIFOOD VALUE CHAIN

AEC AND EXPANDING REGIONAL TRADE WITH PLUS 3 & INDIA
MYANMAR - THE POTENTIAL AGRIFOOD BASKET OF ASIA

- Natural resource rich: land and water,
- Agro-ecological diversity
- Young labor force with relatively low labor cost
- Hub of Asia: strategic location – both from geo-political and geo-commercial aspects
- Rapid regional and sub-regional market integration – AEC, EU market access with GSP privileges, GMS corridors, China's Belt & Roads-AIIB
- Border Trade Export in 2013-14: 25% of total export and 60% of total agricultural commodities export (Formal trade only)

CHALLENGES & BINDING CONSTRAINTS

- Necessity for improving policy, governance, legal regulations and institutional capacity to create better business environment (WB 2015 Ease of Doing Business standing 177/189)
- Underdeveloped infrastructure – storage, transport and ports, logistics (LPI ranking 145/155)
- Weak wholesale marketing and market information service systems, lack of NSBs and farmers cooperatives/associations
- Low investment in agriculture and agrifood industry by public and private sector – including FDI and access to fund
- Top 5 Constraints in Agriculture Investment (USAID Survey): policy and regulatory environment; infrastructure; finance; governance; human capital

ISSUES IN CLIMBING UP THE GVC

- UPSTREAM ISSUES – seeds, agrochemicals, mechanization,
- ON-FARM ISSUES –knowledge and technology transfer, R&D, GAP, soil & water management, =[Various forms of contract farming linking]=
- DOWNSTREAM ISSUES – post-harvest technology, storage, packaging and processing for value addition
- CROSSCUTTING ISSUES – agricultural finance, investment, credit, sustainability, inclusiveness, green growth - A4T, T4D, B4D

HARMONIZE PUBLIC PRIVATE: TRADE WORKS

- TRADE FACILITATION –TSC INCLUDING SPA NEEDS STRENGTHENING - INSTITUTIONS, HARDWARE AND HUMAN CAPACITY; FIRST, RAPID REGIONAL TRADE EXPANSION TO FORMALIZE BORDER TRADE AS NORMAL TRADE TO FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH IN REMOTE BORDER AREAS AND REDUCE ECONOMIC GAP BETWEEN REGIONS; DEVELOPING REGIONAL INITIATIVES SUCH AS ASEAN MRL, GAP FOR FRUITS
- FROM BUSINESS AS USUAL TO NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY VISION OF DEVELOPING THE VALUE CHAIN – BUILDING THE MISSING LINKS AND STRENGTHENING THE WEAK LINKS BY BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE IN HARMONY
- PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE TO FACILITATE TRADE AND ENCOURAGE BUSINESS FOR DEVELOPMENT; IN DEVELOPING ASIAN AGRARIAN ECONOMIES CONTEXT MAKING TRADE WORK BETTER FOSTERS GROWTH - INCREASING INCOME AND ENHANCING WELFARE OF SMALLHOLDER PRODUCERS - REDUCING POVERTY AND HUNGER

THANK YOU