GTAP-related activities within the WTO

GTAP Advisory Board Report, Addis Abba, June 2006

I. GTAP-related papers and other activities

a) Increasing transparency and understanding of modelling methods for trade policy in general and GTAP in particular

- Joint IISD-WTO seminar on modelling the gains from trade liberalization: Recognizing the need for a stocktaking of the situation, the Global Subsidies Initiative (GSI) of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have decided to jointly organize a one and a half day technical workshop on modeling the gains from trade liberalization, with the twofold aim of developing a consensus view on why model results differ, and identifying research priorities. The seminar also aims at discussing communication strategies with the policy community in relation to model results and complementary analytical approaches to assessing the impact of trade policy.
- **Discussion Paper**: As part of the dialogue and clarification process with Geneva delegations on this kind of work, Roberta Piermartini and Robert Teh have produced a paper on "Demystifying Modelling Methods for Trade Policy". The paper has been published as WTO Discussion Paper (N. 10). This publication serves two main purposes. The first is to provide an introduction to trade policy practitioners, involved in WTO negotiations, to quantitative models of trade policy. The second objective is to provide a survey of relevant CGE simulations of the Doha negotiations, and an understanding of the different results.
- Training Activities: The WTO continues its technical assistance activity targeted to trade policy modellers. This year the WTO has delivered two courses on modelling methods and techniques: at the Master course in the University of Dar es-Salaam and in the course run by ArtNet in Bangkok. The presentations covered an overview of the working of GTAP and of the estimates on the impact of Doha negotiations.

b) Using GTAP

A number of GTAP-related studies have been published in the last years by WTO Staff. Some of these studies have been published as WTO discussion papers or WTO working papers. Among these are:

Hildegunn Nordas (2004) "The global textile and clothing industry post the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing", WTO Discussion Paper Series No. 5. The paper uses GTAP to assess the impact of the removal of import quotas in the textile and clothing sector.

Alexander Keck and Roberta Piermartini (2005) "The Economic Impact of EPAs in SADC Countries", Staff Working Paper Series ERSD-2005-04 The paper assesses the impact of various liberalization scenarios between the EU and Southern African countries in the framework of Economic Partnership Agreements.

Lee Ann Jackson of the Agriculture and Commodities Division has used GTAP in a series of papers co-authored with Kim Anderson that examine how the adoption of new agricultural biotechnologies affects the welfare of key groups within both adopting and non-adopting countries, focusing on the implications for Australia, New Zealand and Sub-Saharan Africa. Her works are:

Global Responses to GM Food Technology: Implications for Australia (2004) RIRDC Publication No. 04/xx, Canberra: Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, 2004 (forthcoming)

<u>GM Food Crop Technology: Implications for Sub-Saharan Africa</u> (2004) April 2004 (for presentation at the Conference on African Development and Poverty Reduction: The Macro-Micro Linkage, Somerset West, South Africa, 13-15 October 2004.)

<u>GM Food Technology Abroad and its Implications for Australia and New Zealand</u> (2004) Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Melbourne, 11-13 February 2004.

<u>Standards, Trade and Protection: The Case of GMOs</u> (2003) Presented at seminars at the World Bank in Washington DC, 2 October and the University of Minnesota, 6 November 2003 (revised version being submitted to a journal)

II. Update on WTO work on a comprehensive Protection Database

CAMAD (Consolidated Analytical Market Access Database) is a joint WTO-UNCTAD-ITC project. It aims at providing a single set of tariff data. It covers applied preferential and MFN tariff rates and includes *ad valorem* and AVEs for non-*ad valorem* protection data. The data set matches data from IDB (official MFN applied rates and preferential rates) CTS (bound rates) and TARMAC (preferential collected data) at the tariff line level. The dataset provides tariff information over time (1996 onwards). Dissemination of the data is not allowed at present. Currently, only an informal "Job document" exists (JOB(04)/179).