

DDA – key issues for future research

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Key issues in the current negotiations

- **Agriculture**
- **Non-agricultural market access**
- **Singapore issues**
- **Development – Special and Differential treatment (SDT)**

Implications for research

Classic issues retain importance

- Agriculture
- Non agricultural market access

Key areas where data could be improved

- Differentiation between regions and especially *between* developing countries
- Better taking into account of impacts of *preferential schemes*



Other issues of importance

- **Singapore issues** – Investment, competition, public procurement, trade facilitation
- **Services**
- Preference **erosion**
- **Non tariff** barriers – SPS, TBT etc.
- **RTAs** – implications for members and non-members

Singapore issues

- Subject to controversy in WTO.
- Most recent EU position is to accept consensus position on these issues (see letter to WTO)
- Nevertheless they will remain on the table
- Received wisdom is that, although useful, they are too costly to implement
- Quantification of costs and benefits would be extremely useful to clarifying the debate

Services

- Liberalisation needs to go further
- EU position is that developing countries have much to gain from opening their markets
- However little firm quantitative data is available
- Some recent work on Mode 4, but figures still very preliminary



Preference Erosion

- Key concern for developing countries
- In areas like agriculture preferences sometimes very significant
- Complicated by lack of credible data on actual use of preferences, but data improvement is underway
- Credible figures on actual impacts vital for DC decision making
- Importance of differentiation *between* different DCs

Non Tariff Barriers

- Technical standards and food safety standards
- Undoubtedly have an impact on imports to key developed markets but extremely difficult to quantify
- Some recent work, but still preliminary
- Likely to increase in importance in future, as tariff rates reduce

RTAs

- Proliferation of RTAs is an issue for the system
- Need to better understand implications – for members and non-members
- Research needed in parallel with that on the multilateral level