Non-tariff Barriers Threaten Exports from Emerging and Transition Economies

The rapid increase in the use of non-tariff measures such as plant and animal health requirements and technical regulations in OECD countries is raising concerns that they are being used for purposes of trade protection. Developing, emerging and transition economies are particularly concerned with this trend. They have not increased their market share for food and agricultural products in OECD countries since the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture came into force in 1995.

The OECD’s Agricultural Policies in Emerging and Transition Economies 2001 assesses the impact of non-tariff mechanisms on developing, transition and emerging economies and the possible use of these measures as instruments of trade protection. The publication explores the economic and legal implications of technical measures, legislation on intellectual property rights, and customs procedures among other mechanisms affecting global trade.

Such measures have a particularly significant effect on non-OECD countries that have difficulty in complying with new or higher standards and in ensuring that their concerns are reflected in the formulation and application of WTO rules. Technical assistance can help in improving the ability of policy-makers and trade negotiators in non-OECD countries to understand and respond to non-tariff measures. But such assistance needs to be complemented by a greater opening of OECD markets to non-OECD agricultural products.

Further, Agricultural Policies in Emerging and Transition Economies 2001 contains the latest Producer Support Estimates for Russia and EU accession candidates showing that levels of support remain well below the OECD average. It also reviews policy trends and prospects for some major non-OECD countries whose agricultural sectors and markets are of particular importance, including Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa.

The publication will be available on 3 September 2001. Journalists wishing to obtain a copy are invited to contact the Media relations Division (tel. 33 1 45 24 80 97 or news.contact@oecd.org).

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AVAILABLE ON CD ROM

Major agricultural indicators for the economies covered in this report are available on CD-ROM. The OECD Agricultural Database provides a unique collection of policy-relevant agricultural statistics, as well as detailed support estimates for both OECD and transition economies. It is in Beyond 20/20™ user-friendly software that enables you to export data, build graphs and carry out your own analysis.

FURTHER READING

Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries: Monitoring and Evaluation 2001
OECD Agricultural Outlook 2001-2006