



Methodological note to the Inventory of restrictions on exports of Primary Agricultural Products

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Note: This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

1. INTRODUCTION

This inventory contains information on Restrictions on Exports of Agricultural products. Although WTO Members should notify many of the measures under Article 12 of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture (URRA), few have done so. A key aim of the Inventory is to improve the transparency of the use of these export restrictions. It also offers a databank for empirical analysis advancing the understanding of the economic effects.

2. METHODOLOGY

When building the inventory, the first step was to identify the countries that used any export restrictive instrument on agricultural products starting in 2004. The inventory includes information on all countries, irrespective of their relative importance in trade that notify under Article 12 of the URAA. Other countries were identified through a literature search including the popular press; however, not all of these are included as the analytics of export restrictions suggest that the focus should be on major exporters whose export restrictions spill over into the international markets. The database mostly records export restrictions applied during the period 2007 to 2011 (for some countries information prior to 2007 and for 2012 is provided). Information for the countries in the inventory comes from official government sources, the WTO and FAO.

2.3. CLASSIFICATION USED

Export restrictions were entered to the database in the 6-digit-level of the HS2007 nomenclature.

In the cases where 8- or 10-digit HS level codes were available in the data source they have been indicated in the respective field in the inventory.

Included are products in their raw and semi-processed forms from the following HS chapters and their sub chapters:

- 01-02, 04-24, 29, 33, 38, 41, 43, 46, 50-53, (agricultural raw materials);

2.4. COUNTRY

There are 16 countries—Argentina, Belarus, China, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Viet Nam, with more than 3 800 lines, included in the agricultural raw materials database covering the agricultural sector as defined by the WTO.

2.5. TYPE OF MEASURE AND ITS VALUE

The inventory records measures known to actually restrain export activity. These measures typically increase the relative price of exported products, decrease the quantity supplied or change the terms of competition among suppliers. The list of surveyed measures is exhaustive, ranging from export taxes, prohibitions and non-automatic licensing requirements, to price and tax measures. Definitions are provided below.

Not included in the Inventory are regulatory measures which countries apply to honour commitments which they have made under multilateral conventions such as [the Convention](#)

[on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#) . These export controls are monitored and well documented by the respective regimes.

Moreover, only certain agricultural policies are recorded in the inventory for Argentina. In general, Argentina has imposed a 5% export duties on most agricultural products at the HS8 digit level at least since 2002. The inventory tracks only exceptions and policy changes since.

Table 1. Measures restricting exports and their definitions

Export restriction (term used in database)	Definition
Export tax (M1)	A tax collected on goods or commodities at the time they leave a customs territory. This tax can be set either on a <i>per unit</i> basis or an <i>ad valorem</i> (value) basis. Other terms equivalent to export tax: export tariff, export duty, export levy, export charge . In some countries the term ' cess ' is used.
Fiscal tax on exports (M5)	A tax not paid at the border, but which applies only or discriminates against goods or commodities intended for exportation. An example is when the <i>sales tax</i> which a government charges is higher for goods or commodities intended for exportation than when these goods or commodities are offered for sale in the domestic market. Another term equivalent to fiscal tax on exports: export royalty .
Export surtax (M2)	A tax collected on goods or commodities at the time they leave a customs territory, and which is applied in addition to the normal export tax rate. They can be part of a progressive tax system or can be adapted to price trends and thus be of a temporary nature. Example: a US\$10 surcharge is applied on each ton of a commodity exported when the world price of this commodity exceeds US\$1,800 a ton. Other terms equivalent to export surtax: export surcharge .
Export quota (M3)	A prescribed maximum volume of permitted exports.
Export prohibition (M4)	No exports are permitted. Exceptions may be granted through export licences. Other terms equivalent to export prohibition: export ban, export embargo .
Licensing requirement (M6) ±	Non-automatic export licensing (N) : Exporters must obtain prior approval, in form of a license, to export a good or commodity. This practice requires submission of an application or other documentation as a condition for being authorised to export. Export licenses are often used in conjunction with export quotas. Besides for <i>economic</i> reasons, licensing can be applied for <i>non-economic</i> reasons: national security, protection of health, safety, the environment, morality, religion, intellectual property, or compliance with international obligations. Licensing schemes can operate on the basis of product lists of various types, usually lists of banned products or of restricted products that require licences, be applied to restrict exports by destination (e.g. specific countries) or have other conditions attached, such as a requirement that exportation may only be for a specified purpose. Other terms equivalent to non-automatic licensing: export permit .

Export restriction (term used in database)	Definition
Minimum export price / price reference for exports (M7)	A minimum allowable price for a good being exported. This practice is often used in conjunction with export taxes because they can facilitate customs procedures by preventing under-invoicing and can be used as a base to calculate export taxes. In some cases, minimum export prices are <i>not binding</i> but are used as <i>reference prices</i> . Other terms equivalent to minimum export price: administered pricing .
Dual pricing scheme (M8)	The government applies different prices to a product when it is exported than when the same product is sold in the domestic market.
VAT tax rebate reduction / withdrawal (M9)	Most countries with a VAT system will rebate the VAT on exports. By denying VAT reimbursement in whole or part, it is less advantageous to export a product than to sell it domestically. This in turn encourages exports of products produced locally that use the input to produce downstream products. A variant is the removal or reduction of rebate from <i>other sales taxes</i> on exports of a product.
Restriction on customs clearance point for exports (M10)	The government specifies ports/entry points through which export of a good or commodity is to be channelled.
Qualified exporters list (M11)	The rights to export a certain commodity are allocated to specific companies by the government, through a process of application and registration.
Domestic market obligation (DMO) (M12)	The requirement for producers of coal and other minerals to allocate a proportion of their annual production output to the domestic market. The term DMO appears to be specific to Indonesia, which introduced this measure as an inseparable part of production sharing contracts to ensure that foreign contractors were also held responsible to fulfilling domestic needs of its people.
Captive mining (M13)	When a processing company is required to own the mine which produces its inputs, or has been awarded captive mining rights with the intent that the company will mine the commodity for use in its own domestic processes and not trade it. Captive mining is a form of government support for firms with access to captive supplies, as well as a means to control the price and availability of a commodity. When captive mining concessions increase (as a share of production), exports are likely to fall.
Other export measures (M14)	Measures not elsewhere specified, but which influence <i>de jure</i> or <i>de facto</i> the level or direction of exports of goods or commodities.
Registered exporters & export licenses (M15)	The measure combines "Qualified exporters list" (M11) and "Licensing requirement" (M6). (<i>applies only to agricultural raw materials</i>)

± Only license related to export quotas are recorded for agriculture products.

* **Sources:** Adapted from OECD, Analysis of non-tariff measures: the case of export restrictions (TAD/TC/WP(2003)7/FINAL, April 4, 2003, p.8; Joanna Bonarriva et al, Export controls: An overview of their use, economic effects, and treatment in the global trading system, Office of Industries Working Paper No. ID-23, US International Trade Commission, August 2009, p. 2; Jeonghoi Kim, Recent trends in export restrictions on raw materials OECD Trade Policy Working Papers, No. 101, OECD Publishing, 2010, p 6 and 12.

Table 2. Unit value of measures

Export tax	In percentage of ad valorem or in value as reported by the official source
Export surtax	In percentage
Fiscal tax on exports	In percentage of FOB value
Quota	In units of quota
Export prohibition	Length of the prohibition period, if the measure is temporary, for example 180 days
Licensing requirement	N Non-Automatic
Minimum export price / price reference for exports	In USD / kg, as reported by the official source
VAT tax rebate reduction/withdrawal	Reduction in percentage
Other export measures (not defined elsewhere) for example congestion charge and punitive charges for overloading	In percentage of freight charge

3. STRUCTURE OF INVENTORY

Table 3.describes the selection criteria and the data fields of the Inventory

Table 3. Inventory variables and their description

Variable	Description
Selection criteria:	
1. Country (cou)	Select the country of interest from the drop down menu.
2. Commodity and HS 6 digit code (HS6)	Select the commodity of interest from the drop down menu. Commodities are listed by.The HS6 code and title (HS2007).
3. Year (year)	Select the year from the drop down menu. Values are 2009 and 2010. Refers to the year when the measure was applied (also if only part of the year).
4. Type of measure (tom)	Select the type of measure from the drop down menu. Measures are explained in the Table 1. In tomx column, a suffix (a, b, c, etc.) distinguishes between measures taken in the same year. For example: M6 Licensing requirement M6_a Licensing requirement (a) M6_b Licensing requirement (b) Licensing requirement (a) may be a revision of Licensing requirement (b).
Fields:	
5. HS8 or HS10 digit code (HS8)	HS8 or HS10 digit code if it has been indicated in the information source.
6. Value (val)	where applicable, a value of the measure (e.g. rate of tax). See Table 2.
7. Shared value (val_shared)	Where applicable, shows the total value of the measure which two or more products share, for example when the volume of a quota is assigned to a group of products.
8. Sharing products (val_shared_products)	Where applicable, this field stores a list of the products to which the above-mentioned measures apply.
9. Unit (val_unit)	Unit of the value of the measure, for example % or EUR/tonne.
10. Direction of change (dir)	newly introduced, left unchanged, extended without change (applies to a temporary measure), revised procedurally or eliminated or whether it's restrictiveness has been increased or decreased.

Variable	Description
11. Date of introduction or change (dati)	DD/MM/YYYY. The date when the measure first entered into force or revision took effect, per law/regulation/decree. Date may be earlier than 2009 or 2010.
12. Ending date (end)	DD/MM/YYYY. The date when the measure was ended, per law/regulation/decree. Applies only if measure is temporary or has been changed.
13. Is measure temporary? (temp)	Yes, if a law/regulation/decree specifies that the measure is of a specified short duration, (e.g. six months). Otherwise No.
14. Exemptions granted (exem)	Yes, if specified countries or firms are exempted from the measure. Explanation for exemption is provided. Otherwise No.
15. Agency hosting public information (host)	Name of authority which publishes a notice or other information on its website. This authority may be the same or different from the authority in charge of the measure.
16. Name of document (nod)	Title of the notice/document providing information about the measure.
17. Link to notice / document (link)	Hyper link to the notice/document about the measure. OECD is not responsible for the content or availability of external sites.
18. Legal basis for measure (leg)	Title of law/regulation/decree authorising or mandating the measure.
19. Agency in charge of measure (agen)	Name of government authority responsible for the implementation and administration of the measure. This authority may be the same or different from the authority hosting information about the measure.
20. Implementation procedures (impl)	Where available, a summary description of procedural aspects of the measure (e.g. measure is applied for a specified time but can be extended, criteria that must be met for obtaining an export licence).
21. Purpose of measure (pom)	The policy objective(s) of the measure as stated in an official document or explained by a government official.
22. Additional information (add)	For information not recordable elsewhere.
23. Verification status (ver)	"Verified" if data are verified, otherwise "Not verified" (indicated in the Excel file).