



Estimating the Impact of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) on Potential Export for Lao PDR: A Case of Agricultural and Agro-food Products

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ARTNeT Capacity Building for Trade Policy Researchers

Supporting Equitable Development in ASEAN: Impact of Regional Integration on CLMV Countries

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Contents covered

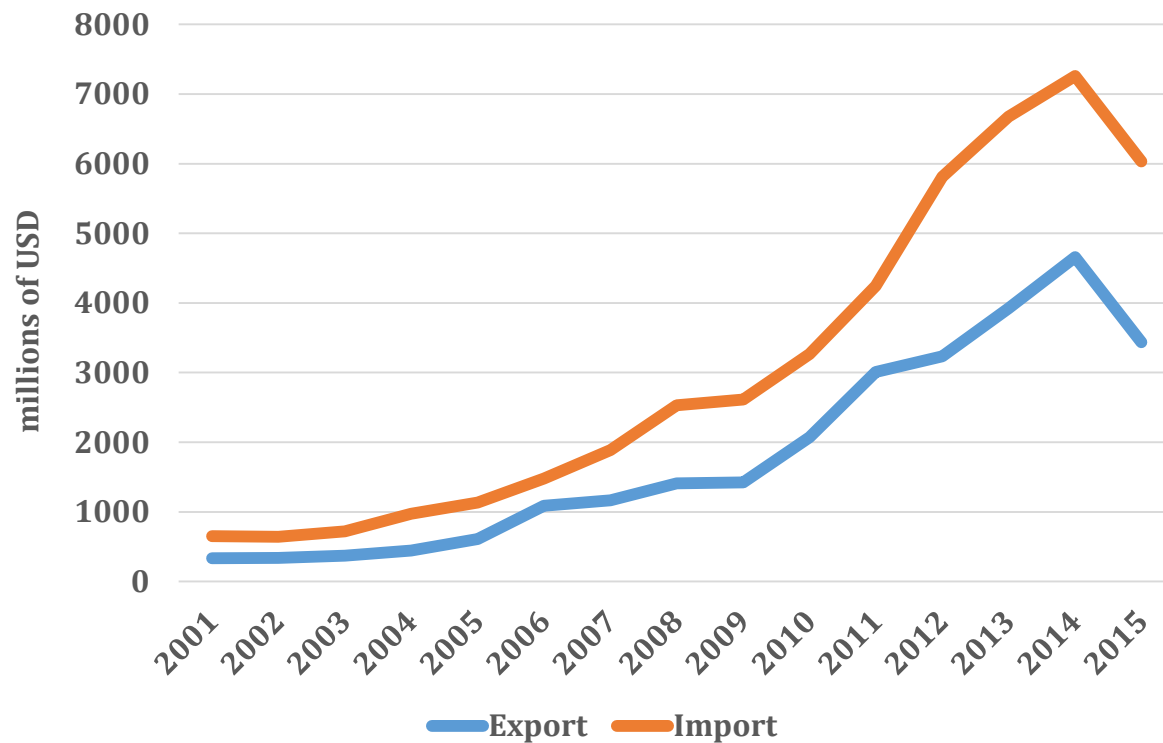
- Background issues
- Existing studies and findings
- Proposed methodology
- Expected implications for policy
- Research timelines

Background Issues

Trade liberalization

- Lao PDR has gradually liberalized trade by participating in multilateral and bilateral trade agreements.
 - Joining the ASEAN in 1997, followed by implementing AFTA in 1998 under the common effective preferential tariff (CEPT) scheme.
 - Being a member of WTO in 2013.
- Lao PDR trades with more than 50 countries and the country has reached the BTAs with 15 countries.
- The country is granted the unilateral tariff preferences in form of generalized system of preferences (GSP) treatment from 47 countries.

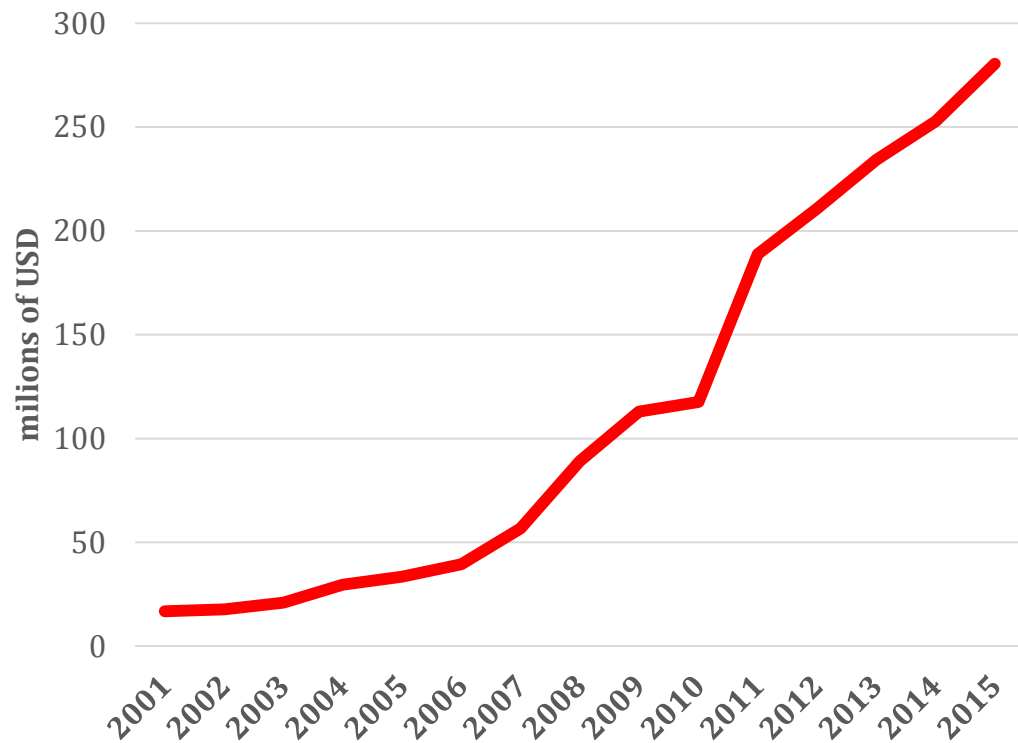
Trade performance of Lao PDR



Source: International Trade Center

- Merchandise trade has been more and more expanded even small size.
- Exports are dominated by primary goods such as copper, electricity but manufactures and agricultural exports are growing.
- Imports are dominated by final goods such as petroleum, vehicles, electrical equipment, construction equipment while intermediate goods account for a small proportion of total imports.

Agricultural commodities exports



Source: International Trade Center

Main agricultural commodities exported are:

- HS07: Vegetables and certain roots
- HS08: Fruits
- HS09: Coffee, ginger, tea
- HS10: Maize, rice
- HS11: Milling products
- HS12: Oil seed

Critical issues on NTMs

- Multilateral negotiations under WTO have successfully liberalized trade.
- However, non-tariff measures (NTMs) have arisen to replace the traditional trade protection, namely tariff.
- Among various forms of NTMs, SPS and TBT has become more and more important in recent years as the WTO allows countries adopt appropriate protection of human, plant and animal health.
- SPS and TBT affect small developing countries like Lao PDR as it participate in international agricultural trade.

Research objectives

- To estimate the potential export of agricultural and agro-food products between Lao PDR and its trading partners;
- To examine the impact of NTMs imposed by importing countries on export efficiency of those products; and
- To provide policy recommendation for the formulation of effective strategies that can increase quality, productivity and accordingly enhance competitiveness of the Lao exporters.

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_3086

