

# Multilateral Trade Reforms Under Doha and Income Distribution in South Asia

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# Introduction and Motivation

- The potential for adverse trade impacts on food security and poverty have been a major area of contention in multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Round.
- Concerns over rural poverty led to demands for enhanced safeguards for developing countries in agriculture, and the talks collapsed as negotiators failed to reach agreement on this issue.
- It is important to evaluate the likely costs of a failure to reach an agreement, and the costs/benefits of potential alternatives.
- Given the nature of the concerns we need to assess potential effects using not only on aggregate measures such economic welfare, but also on social measures such as income distribution.
- In this paper we present some preliminary results derived from a regional CGE model of South Asia that identifies 47 household groups across the region.

- Hertel and Reimer (2005) and Hertel and Winters (2005) review ex ante studies and provide a method of classification by simulation type: partial equilibrium models, general equilibrium models, and micro/macro simulation models that combine (not always with feedback) macro-level simulation with micro-level household models.
- Several single country models have been used for poverty/income distribution analysis, many linking with a multi-regional model (Gilbert, 2007, for India, Annabi et al., 2006, for Bangladesh, Cockburn, 2002, and Acharya and Cohen, 2007, for Nepal, and Naranpanawa, 2005, for Sri Lanka).
- All use multiple representative household approach, some at detailed household level.
- No studies using this approach in regional model of South Asia (that we have found) except Gilbert (2008), which uses GTAP6.

# South Asian Trade Shares 1999-2006

Region	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<i>South Asia as Destination</i>								
Bangladesh	8.7	9.0	8.9	9.7	11.3	9.4	9.7	8.3
India	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.3	2.7	2.6	2.4
Sri Lanka	7.1	7.6	7.8	10.4	12.7	14.3	15.1	17.7
Nepal	45.3	40.0	39.7	46.9	53.6	56.2	61.5	59.5
Pakistan	3.3	3.7	2.8	2.8	2.6	3.3	3.5	4.3
South Asia	3.8	4.3	4.1	4.3	5.0	4.3	4.1	3.9
<i>South Asia as Source</i>								
Bangladesh	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.5
India	1.8	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.8
Sri Lanka	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7
Nepal	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
Pakistan	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6
South Asia	3.8	4.3	4.1	4.3	5.0	4.3	4.1	3.9

Source: COMTRADE

# South Asian Trade Intensity 1999-2006

Region	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<i>South Asia as Destination</i>								
Bangladesh	8.5	9.0	8.7	8.9	9.3	7.5	6.9	5.9
India	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.2	1.8	1.7
Sri Lanka	7.0	7.5	7.6	9.5	10.5	11.5	10.8	12.6
Nepal	44.6	39.9	38.8	43.0	44.3	45.2	43.9	42.4
Pakistan	3.3	3.7	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.7	2.5	3.1
South Asia	3.8	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.2	3.5	2.9	2.8
<i>South Asia as Source</i>								
Bangladesh	7.5	8.2	7.8	8.3	10.2	7.7	6.0	4.8
India	2.6	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.1	1.7	1.7
Sri Lanka	6.6	6.8	7.5	9.3	11.0	10.3	11.6	10.3
Nepal	25.0	24.2	34.9	37.6	41.5	39.8	37.8	34.4
Pakistan	3.8	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.2	3.5	2.9	2.8
South Asia	2.9	3.3	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.4	3.3

Source: COMTRADE

# South Asian Trade Complementarity 1999-2006

Region	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<i>South Asia as Destination</i>								
Bangladesh	40.0	44.6	46.0	52.8	49.5	48.2	44.9	44.5
India	39.3	40.3	42.0	43.7	44.5	47.8	49.7	54.4
Sri Lanka	42.8	47.9	50.2	50.8	51.8	52.3	53.9	57.5
Nepal	46.0	49.7	39.2	45.2	47.6	48.1	50.5	55.2
Pakistan	38.6	37.5	41.0	43.1	43.4	47.6	47.7	50.2
South Asia	46.7	48.6	49.9	52.1	52.7	55.0	54.3	58.9
<i>South Asia as Source</i>								
Bangladesh	5.9	6.4	5.9	7.2	7.0	8.8	6.4	6.2
India	52.5	56.2	58.2	56.5	57.8	59.5	59.2	63.9
Sri Lanka	19.2	23.2	19.5	23.7	20.4	21.0	24.0	23.7
Nepal	20.2	20.9	21.5	26.7	23.8	23.4	26.4	26.6
Pakistan	16.6	16.8	18.4	18.4	18.8	20.7	21.8	21.7
South Asia	46.7	48.6	49.9	52.1	52.7	55.0	54.3	58.9

Source: COMTRADE

# South Asian Trade Export Similarity 1999-2006

Region	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<i>South Asia as Destination</i>								
Bangladesh	37.3	37.2	36.8	33.9	31.6	31.6	29.2	28.4
India	83.5	83.7	82.6	85.0	84.3	84.2	85.1	85.3
Sri Lanka	53.7	56.3	51.6	49.1	44.6	42.4	43.8	44.7
Nepal	38.7	41.5	44.2	48.2	44.5	45.2	44.4	44.2
Pakistan	51.0	51.9	54.0	52.2	52.4	48.7	51.5	50.4

Source: COMTRADE

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