

ABSTRACT

This research project studies Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) implemented by ASEAN + 6 countries including China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand to propose policy recommendations to alleviate problems occurred. This research studies only NTMs on products in agricultural sector, livestock sector and fishery sector. The criteria to choose commodities in those three sectors to include in the study are export value and interesting NTMs issues in those sectors. The products chosen are Thai export of fruits, rice, chicken, swine, tuna and shrimp products. This study also analyzes information primary data (in depth interview, focus group and company or institution visits) to summarize important NTM issues in each sector and propose policy recommendations.

The results of the study show that for agricultural products (fruits and rice), important NTMs issues are normally related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures regarding disease, pest and remaining hazardous chemical substance. Livestock products exported from Thailand also encounter NTMs problems from SPS measures (especially measures regarding the H5N1 disease for chicken product and foot and mouth disease in swine products) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures (such as labelling measures). In addition, there are also issues regarding animal welfare that many developed countries have paid attention to. For fishery products, SPS measures the exporters encounters are measures related to remaining hazardous chemical substance (in some case there exist unreasonable measures), halal standard, epidemic disease. Moreover, fishery products also encounter measures pertaining use of labor regulations and environmental effects regulations. The restrictive level of measures implementation in each country on agricultural product, livestock products, and fishery products are varied based on different factors; for example, risks from imported agricultural products on consumers and producers in the importing countries, domestic production capability in the importing countries, import duties impose on the imported products. The study finds that in general Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea is quite strict in measures implementation and enforcement. This could be partly because these countries are island so they need to be cautious for the disease and pest come with those imported agricultural products. In addition, those countries normally have high concern on food safety for consumers. For China and India, they still employ some non-tariff measures with imported agricultural products but less restrictive compared to the four countries mentioned earlier.



Regarding overall policy recommendations to promote Thai exports are as follows. Thai government shall encourage more private participation, especially representative from SMEs and farmers, to provide their opinions and comments during the preparation of trade negotiation and dispute settlement procedures. Thai government shall implement system to reward exporters that products can meet the standard and punish exporters with problematic products by creating the publicly available list of good vs bad exporters. Effective zoning policy should be implemented to prevent the spread of disease in livestock industry so that the products from safety zone could be identified and preventing the import ban from Thailand as a whole. Thailand product quality standard and internal standard inspection system must be improved over time in order to prepare for new product standards related to environment and animal welfare. Production technology transfer from large firms to SMEs could be encouraged through tax incentive.