

**Areas identified for
Technical Assistance to
Least Developed Contracting States
Under Article 11(d) OF SAFTA Agreement**

**(finalised by the Second Meeting of the Sub-Group on Technical Assistance
Kathmandu, 31 August – 3 September 2005)**

1. Capacity building in the following areas:

- a. Mutual recognition of technical regulations and standards, training and skill development.
- b. Product certification, testing laboratories and metrology, standards, testing, quality management, accreditation and certification (MSTQ) - for agro-processed products, pharmaceutical products etc.
- c. Training and human resource development in trade related areas such as product development, marketing etc.
- d. Training in the areas of statistical data administration, trade procedures, documentation and computerization of trade data.
- e. Development of trade related institutions and upgradation of the capacity of existing institutions
- f. Development of trade negotiating skills

2. Development and improvement of tax policy and instruments

Tax/Tariff related laws, rules, regulations and their administration.

3. Customs procedures related measures:

- a. Assistance to improve institutional, managerial, regulatory and procedural matters relating to customs
- b. Assistance for creation of database, training, post clearance audit for the customs valuation; and automation of customs administrations.
- c. HS Nomenclature
- d. Rules of Origin

4. Legislative and policy related measures, assistance for improvement of national capacity on:

- a. Legislation on anti-dumping, safeguards, competition etc.
- b. Trade Policy Reforms
- c. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures/Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures
- d. WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation
- e. WTO Agreement on Agriculture and Subsidies
- f. TRIPS and Intellectual Property Rights

5. Studies on:

- a. Development of trade related physical infrastructure such as road, railway, Inland Container Depot (ICD), Container Freight Station (CFS) etc.
- b. Improvement of banking and insurance services for promotion of intra-SAARC trade
- c. Development of export financing mechanism

6. Research and Development:

- a. Assistance for product specific R&D particularly in area of fashion and design, finishing and packaging

7. Export Promotion

- a. Support for carrying out studies and providing advisory services for identifying export niches for the products of the Least Developed Contracting States.
- b. Provision of commercially relevant market information to help exporters: Assistance to participate in trade fairs and exhibitions, inward and outward missions
- c. Support for product development and market promotion in export oriented sectors like leather and footwear, jute goods and diversified jute products, gems and jewellery, ICT, light engineering, agriculture and agro-based industries, fisheries and livestock etc.
- d. Support for improving technical, managerial and entrepreneurial skills of small and medium size enterprises engaged in export production.
- e. Provide information on import-related formalities and procedures on products of specific export interest to Least Developed Contracting States.

8. Investment Promotion

- a. Support for identifying areas to stimulate intra-SAARC FDI flow to the Least Developed Contracting States.

9. Training and human resource development in trade related areas such as product development, marketing etc.

10. Support for product development and market promotion in export-oriented sectors

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