



**TRADE4SD FINAL EVENT
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MATS

AGENDA

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16.30 - 16.45: TRADE4SD and MATS joint lessons learned (Attila Jambor, CORVINUS and Bodo Steiner, UNI HELSINKI)

29th of April 2025



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Trade4SD objectives



- ❑ Better understand **trade and SDG relationships**
- ❑ **Integrate existing modelling tools** to analyse sustainability linkages of trade
- ❑ Provide **context-specific** case studies of selected agri-food value chains
- ❑ Analyse the **coherence** of the current EU trade-related policies
- ❑ Identify **options for improving** the sustainability **impacts** of EU trade policy

MATS objectives



- ❑ identify key **leverage points for changes** in agricultural trade policy from a systems perspective starting from their **sustainability impacts**
 - MATS focus is on **improving trade governance** on a local, national, and global level, with focus on **social & environmental sustainability & investment issues**.
- ❑ analysis of **trade regimes and their sustainability impacts** utilizing both **quantitative** and **qualitative** research methods (**15 case studies**)
 - **trade regimes** as they relate to **institutional, regulatory, and legal frameworks** (primarily: multilateral trading system, bilateral trade agreements, unilateral measures, Voluntary Sustainability Standards)
 - multi-disciplinary assessment of policy coherence & conflicting sustainability impacts
 - integrated micro (case studies) and macro (modeling) approach



Joint **modeling insights** from MATS & Trade4SD

- Both **complement each other** by applying macro models focusing on trade dynamics (incl. Computable General Equilibrium models, CGE)
- MATS uses **macro** modeling as **one element** in its overall systemic approach to Triple Bottom Line measurements (econ, envir., social).

(1.) Key joint policy lessons

- ❑ we need to **account more for local needs and conditions** of exporting nations/ value chain actors in the **design of new trade policies**
 - ❖ more local investments **supporting resilience** (diversity) of local value chains, and strengthening human rights conditions.
- ❑ without **functioning institutions**, there's no effective trade **governance**, no effective **sustainability standards**
 - ❖ we need more 'SDG proofing' of trade agreements that includes policy coherence checks (impact assessments / trade-offs among impacts)

(2.) Key joint policy lessons

- ❑ Policy/ instrument **coherence** remains key issue
 - for reaching more coherence use **inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation** processes that also build local knowledge (capacity)
 - note existing in-coherence of Voluntary Coupled Support under CAP and special sector payments with the pursuit of environmental goals
 - note export incentives arising from decoupled payments to EU farmers go counter export-oriented LDCs

(3.) Key joint policy lessons

- formulate **model-driven policy insights** that are **stakeholder-inclusive and stakeholder-driven**, so that those stakeholders have incentives to implement policy instruments
 - **avoid** via impact assessment that *individual* trade regimes / policies/ sustainability standards have **contradictory sustainability implications**
 - **increase policy transparency**: independent, built-in ex ante/ex post **impact assessment** of trade regimes & investment monitoring

(4.) Key joint policy lessons

- ❑ we need more **investment facilitation** measures & greater **transparency** regulating investments,
 - while **accounting for varying compliance costs** associated with sustainability standards and policy instruments (smallholder farmers)
 - while improving land ownership rights, boosting integration of IP rights in trade frameworks

JOINT CONCLUSIONS

- ❑ **Need for more INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE** --- we need more stakeholder-inclusive **multi-stakeholder** approaches, thereby **de-risking trade and value chains** through partnerships
 - tailor to **local** needs and conditions
 - support **local** value chain growth – for resilience
- ❑ **Need more ACTOR EMPOWERMENT** --- key role of **private investment**, key role of **capacity building** also to reduce future compliance costs and thereby support inclusion of vulnerable actors in value chains (CBAM, EUDR)

JOINT CONCLUSIONS

❑ Increase **policy-coherence** and **instrument-coherence**

➤ **EXTENDED IMPACT ASSESSMENTS** of trade regimes **are essential**

=> **transparency, effectiveness of trade regimes**

- address **proliferation** of bilateral trade agreements
- address **trade-offs** among bilateral trade agreements (sustainability impacts)



Thanks!