



United Nations Environment Programme
Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Economics and Trade Branch



UNEP's Experiences with Integrated Assessment

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Structure of Presentation

- **Past IA Projects**
- **Principles for Countries**
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- **Structure of IA Projects**
- **The Rice Studies**
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Developing Mutually Supportive Trade and Environment Policies

WSSD, Plan of Implementation, para. 97

"continue to enhance the mutual supportiveness of trade, environment and development with a view to achieving sustainable development"

WTO Doha Ministerial Declaration, para. 6

"an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, and acting for the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development can and must be mutually supportive"

UNEP, Governing Council Decision 21/14

"assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to enhance their capacities to develop and implement mutually supportive trade and environmental policies"



UNEP Experience with Integrated Assessment

- 6 Country Projects on environmental assessment of trade liberalisation and on economic instruments ('97-'99): **Bangladesh, Chile, India, Philippines, Romania, and Uganda**

- 6 Country Projects on IA of trade-related policies in different sectors ('99-'01): **Argentina, China, Ecuador, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania**

- 6 Country Projects on IA in the rice sector ('02-'04): **Senegal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Colombia**

- 9 Country Projects on Integrated Assessment and Planning ('03-'06): : **Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Russia, Uganda**



Principles for Countries

- **Country-driven**
- **Multi-stakeholder approach**
- **Coordination between trade, environment and sectoral ministries**
- **Process-oriented approach through establishment of national steering committees**
- **Learning-by-doing approach**
- **Integrated approach**
- **Provide local solutions to local problems**
- **Address development priorities of countries**
- **Implementation, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up**



Criteria for Selection of Country Projects

- **Selected policy process**
 - Clear, & can be influenced
 - Links with trade, poverty & environment
- **Commitment & active involvement of different government ministries/offices**
- **Ability to allocate a multidisciplinary team & implement the project**
- **Regional balance**



Structure of Integrated Assessment Projects





Impacts Identified in the Rice Sector

Economic Impacts

- Increase in domestic prices and decrease in import prices (benefits both producer and consumer, but not always realized)

Social Impacts

- Positive and negative impacts on employment (more jobs in rice production, less in other crops, monocultures, etc.),
- Varying impacts on poverty reduction and food security (in some very positive, in others rather at risk)



Impacts Identified in the Rice Sector

Environmental Impacts

- **Change in land use (increased rice production)**
 - Intensification ⇒ increased and inadequate use of agrochemicals
 - ⇒ soil degradation, loss of soil fertility, loss of biodiversity, water pollution
 - Extensification ⇒ clearing of forests and wetlands
 - ⇒ Increased demand for water (irrigation) and water pollution, loss of biodiversity

Environmental impacts identified pose future threats to the economy



Overall Findings of Rice Studies

- **Most countries benefited from trade**
- **However, most studies concluded that trade liberalization caused either actual damage or serious risks to the environment**
- **Need for trade liberalization policies that result in maximizing the quality of human life through sustainable economic activities that respect the limits of the environment**



Policy Recommendations in the Rice Sector-China

- Enhance the competitiveness of production in indica rice
- Encourage rational agro-chemical input application rates and wider use of alternatives
- Help farmers to improve their product quality
- Take advantage of the finding that the change of rice paddy areas caused by free trade will decrease overall national greenhouse gas emissions
- Increase the price of irrigation water and introduce technologies to encourage efficient use of water resources in the north



Successes of UNEP IA projects

- **Increased awareness about potential environmental, social and economic impacts**
- **Improved coordination between trade, environment and relevant sectoral ministries**
- **Enhanced capacity in participating countries to conduct integrated assessments**
- **Enhanced capacity for design and implementation of policy responses**
- **Replication of IA by other institutions**



Challenges of UNEP IA projects

- **Difficulty integrating the three components**
- **Difficulty establishing indicators and valuing certain environmental impacts**
- **Need for better training and support of national institutions**
- **Inadequate dissemination and communication of project results**



Lessons Learned

- **Work with sustainability benchmarks in planning processes is not common**
- **Stakeholder participation is widely applied but needs to produce manageable information**
- **Additional information gathered needs to be synthesized in a systematic way to have impact on decision making**
- **Inconsistencies and discontinuity in the policymaking process**