

RESEARCH

1. Study on Prospects of India's Economic Cooperation with Jordan

The Study was carried out for Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India with the following terms of reference:

I. Macroeconomic Profile and Performance of Jordan:

- Analysis of GDP trend and contribution of various sectors
- Analysis of other macroeconomic variables (government finance, inflation, interest rates, exchange rates)
- Analysis of balance of payments
- Analysis of investment trend and capital account of balance of payments
- Economic forecast, investment scenario, political stability, etc.

II. Analysis of External Sector of Jordan

- Trade with the world
 - (i) Product basket,
 - (ii) Major partner countries,
 - (iii) Role in WTO,
 - (iv) RTA with other countries/trade blocs
 - (v) Overall trade policy
- Bilateral trade relations with India
 - (i) Trend analysis of export and import of India with Jordan
 - (ii) India's major exportable and importable products (2 digit and 6 digit level) to/from Jordan
 - (iii) Analysis of product basket in details (share, growth rates, etc) to identify high growth-high share, high growth-low share products from India's export and import interest
 - (iv) Trade Complementarity Index (TCI) calculation

III. Analysis of Potential Tradable Products

- Calculation of Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA)

- Identification of potential products for exports: What India is exporting to World but not to Jordan.
- Identification of potential products for imports.

IV. Analysis of Trade Barriers

- Trend analysis of tariff changes
- Detailed analysis of 6-digit level of tariffs on India's export items to Jordan
- Analysis of non-tariff barriers.

V. Towards Good Sector Cooperation

- Projection of trade gains from bilateral trade agreement
- Possible negative and sensitive list

VI. Investment Opportunities and Other Issues

- Identification of services of India's Interest and analysis of the existing market structure of the identified services in Jordan
- Identification of market access barrier and MFN exemption in the identified services
- Analysis of existing FDI regulations and sources of current FDI in Jordan and identification of sectors where FDI from India will be beneficial
- Analysis of potential FDI from Jordan.

2. Export Prospects for Indian Agricultural Products – An Assessment of Issues

The study was carried out for the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India with the following specific objectives:

1. Critically examine the trends in global agricultural trade and identify the export potential products for India.
2. Critically examine the direction of trade and identify the emerging markets for India.
3. Examine the constraints for export growth in terms of market access, domestic and export subsidies on products of export interest to India.
4. Critically examine the constraints and opportunities for trade expansion under the existing and prospective RTAs.

The study has been carried out. Rigorous methodologies have been used and extensive data analysis has been carried out to identify India's competitive agricultural exports and potential markets. The study also analyzed various options for meeting the emerging global challenges.

3. Evaluation of Performance of Export Promotion Councils

The study was conducted for Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The following are the terms of reference:

1. Review and suggest revised objectives of Export Promotion Councils with a view to make them potent source of promotion and facilitation for international trade.
2. Study of functioning of selected EPCs to understand their efficacy in the following areas:
 - Analysis of export performance in terms of different segments of their products to various regions/countries;
 - Identification of major trading partners and potential trading partners;
 - Identification of major competing countries for different product groups which have the potential to replace Indian goods in the major trading partners/potential trading partner countries;
 - Identification of non-tariff barriers of exports to various countries/regions.
3. Review and recommend organizational structure and institutional mechanism for Export Promotion Councils in order to ensure their democratic functioning and greater degree of participation from members in their activities, as also to ensure synergies between large and small members within the councils.
4. Review the functioning of the EPCs for systematic interaction with their members in a regular and structured manner and identify various domestic policy, export policy and third country related issues which are to be addressed for improving sectoral competitiveness and exports.
5. Review and suggest ways of improving skills and human resource capacities of Export

Promotion Councils with a view to strengthen them as a means of providing guidance to their constituents in international trade and offer information, analysis and advice for decision making to the Government and the Council members.

The Study has been completed and report submitted to the Department of Commerce.

4. Implementation of India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement: Issues and Concerns

The study was conducted for Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The study made attempts to see in retrospect the impact of FTA on selected sectors in India. The terms of reference for the study were as follows:

- Analysis of overall trade and production dynamics by identifying the critical sectors
- The future potential of India's exportable such as petroleum products, chemicals, etc and importable such as copper, edible oil, spices, etc
- The impact of trade of cash crops through FTA routes
- Analysis of nuances of Rules of Origin problems (Multiple RoO and circumvention of rules) and its implementation problem
- Analysis of existing tariff and non-tariff barriers (especially quota on tea and spices).

5. Export Potential for Value Added Cashew Products in Russia and China

The study was conducted for the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation (KSCDC) with following terms of reference:

1. Review the developments in cashew industry (both at global and domestic levels) and assess the potential market opportunities for KSCDC.
2. Detailed examination of demand trends and the structural composition of cashew industry in China and propose market entry suggestions for KSCDC's value-added cashew products.
3. Detailed examination of demand trends and the structural composition of nut, snack and confectionary industry in Russia and propose market entry suggestions for KSCDC's value-added products.

4. Develop specific Export Strategy Options for China and Russia in terms of product range, target consumer, promotion strategy, distribution strategy, stocking policy and importation options.

The study has analyzed the emerging export opportunities for KSCDC's products in China and Russia. These markets have been selected as India has no commercial presence and a successful entry to help the company to reap the benefits of first mover. The export potential for KSCDC's products in these markets have been assessed by undertaking detail market surveys that covered market characteristics, consumption patterns, competitors' assessment, distribution & logistics networks and import procedures.

6. Designing Gender Sensitive Foreign Trade Policy for India

The study offered by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry was jointly conducted by IIFT and Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS). The study explores the linkages between gender and trade with special reference to India. The importance of gender issues for economic as well as trade policy has gained significant ground over the last decade.

The study reviews some of the key international literature on the issue, summarizes government responses in terms of export related and domestic policies and programmes and provides insights through new primary research into sectors in India which employ large numbers of women workers. The study provides ideas and recommendations for future action to ensure both women and men benefit from future trade liberalization.

7. Declining Trend of Exports in Handicraft in India: Measures to Arrest the Decline

The study was conducted for Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, GOI with the following terms of reference:

- To enhance the competitiveness of Handicrafts products in terms of increased market share and ensuring increased productivity by higher unit value realization of the products.

- To build and ensure effective supply system that is geared to responding to large scale orders, adhering to quality and product standardization which are prerequisites of global markets.
- To provide requisite support/linkages in terms of adequate infrastructure, technology, product diversification, design security and other components that are vital for sustainability of artisans/craftsmen engaged in the Handicrafts sector.
- Convergence of various resources available under various on-going export promotion schemes.
- Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in the form of collaboration between the Central/State Governments, artisans and their groups, financially creditworthy and commercially linked marketing enterprises and financial institutions.
- Pro-active and strong technical and programme management assistance for export capacity building, designing of the interventions and their implementation.

8. Exchange Rate Movement and India's Exports of Textiles and Engineering Goods

At the instance of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Institute has undertaken this research study in which not only the impact of exchange rate on export performance has been examined but also the structural factors affecting the export of these commodities including certain non-price factors.

The broad objective of the project was to analyze the export performance of the Textiles and the Engineering Goods sectors in India with a view to suggest policy for improving performance. This broad objective was divided into three sub-objectives:

1. To determine the determinants of exports in these sectors
2. To determine the major problems faced by the exporters in the sectors
3. Based on (1) and (2) Suggest policy measures for improving export performance.

Objective 1 was further divided into the following parts:

- To study the Commodity Composition of Textile & Engineering exports and structural shifts therein
- To review the policy changes affecting the Textile & Engineering exports – with a focus on exchange rate policies
- To examine the criticality of exchange rate in affecting the competitiveness of Textiles & Engineering Goods exports. (Price vs. Non-price factors)

The study has been completed and report submitted to RBI.

9. Preparation of National Citizen Satisfaction Index

The study was conducted for Quality Council of India. It aimed at measuring citizen satisfaction levels across 28 states in India covering seven sectors, namely: Education, Healthcare, Consumption, Environment, Governance, Physical Infrastructure and Information Technology by using certain sub-indices within each category. The existing literature which dealt with the nexus between consumer satisfaction and different aspects of public utility services has mostly been limited at the township or city levels. The study is therefore a concerted effort to study citizen satisfaction across Indian states. The stated objective of the study is to understand the cross-state efficiency and accountability of provision of public utility services by the governments and citizens' notional appraisal of those services. The study is expected to help the government to understand the expectations of the general public, which in the long run would enhance the quality of life, and hence satisfaction.

10. Evaluation of Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme

The study was conducted for Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry with the following terms of reference:

1. To assess the impact of projects and studies sanctioned under the MAI scheme on Export Promotion.

2. To evaluate the quality of projects implemented and study reports generated.
3. To find out the level of participation by the different stakeholders including EPCs, Chambers, Ministries, etc.
4. To assess the reach of the benefits of the scheme to the SME exporters.
5. To find out the best format which has created more impact on the beneficiaries, under the current scheme?
6. To find out the dissemination level of the studies under the scheme and their impact.
7. To assess the implementation mechanism adopted by the executing institutions like EPCs and its efficacy.
8. To broadly find out the extent of ultimate benefits in terms of product reach and/ or new markets for the Indian exporters.
9. To evaluate the strength of the executing agencies in terms of capabilities, resources and structure suitable to MAI scheme including revenue sources and membership fees for the EPCs.

The study has been completed and report submitted to the Department of Commerce.

11. Feasibility of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) between India and the East African Community (EAC)

The study offered by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry was conducted to analyze India's existing economic relations with East African Community (EAC) consisting of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania & Uganda and to gauge in which way these economic relations can be strengthened. In other words, the study was launched to evaluate macroeconomic profile of EAC members, India's bilateral trade relationship, identify future trade and investment potentiality both in goods and services sectors and recommend government on broad framework of strategies to enhance cooperation. The study has clearly identified that there are potential gains to India in engaging itself with EAC through a trade and investment framework agreement (TIFA). TIFA will enable India to have better market access in these countries.