United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

International Workshop on

Fostering the Integration of Agricultural Value Chains of Commodity-Dependent Landlocked Developing Countries into Regional and Global Value Chains

24-25 November 2021, Palais des Nations, Geneva, and online

Insights from the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021

By

Yann Duval
Chief of Trade Policy and Facilitation, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

Trading Food for Sustainable Development,
24-25 November, UNCTAD, Geneva

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ESCAP 75
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Survey Scope

50+ trade facilitation (TF) measures **140+ countries**

1. WTO TFA-related measures

\+ 2. **Digital** TF: paperless trade & cross-border paperless trade

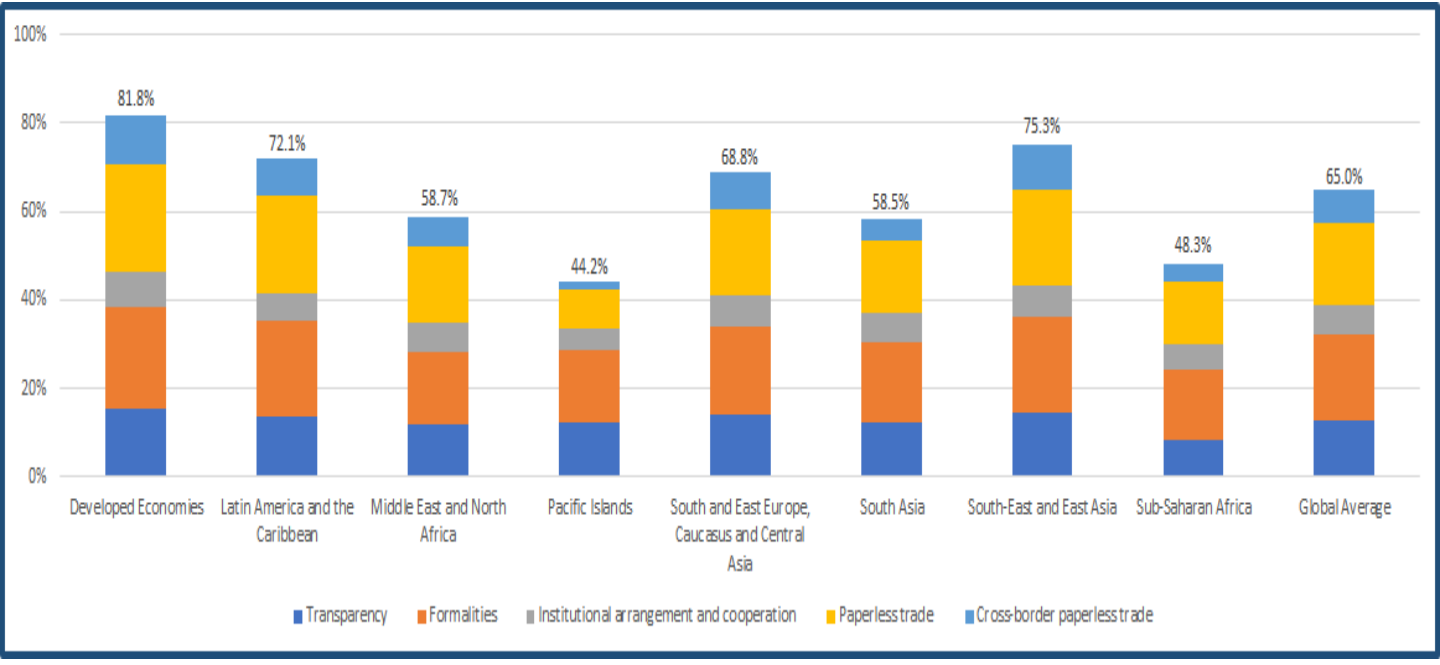
\+ 3. **Sustainable** TF: for SMEs, for Agriculture, for women, trade finance

\+ 4. **Trade facilitation during crisis and pandemic**

Implementation of Trade Facilitation

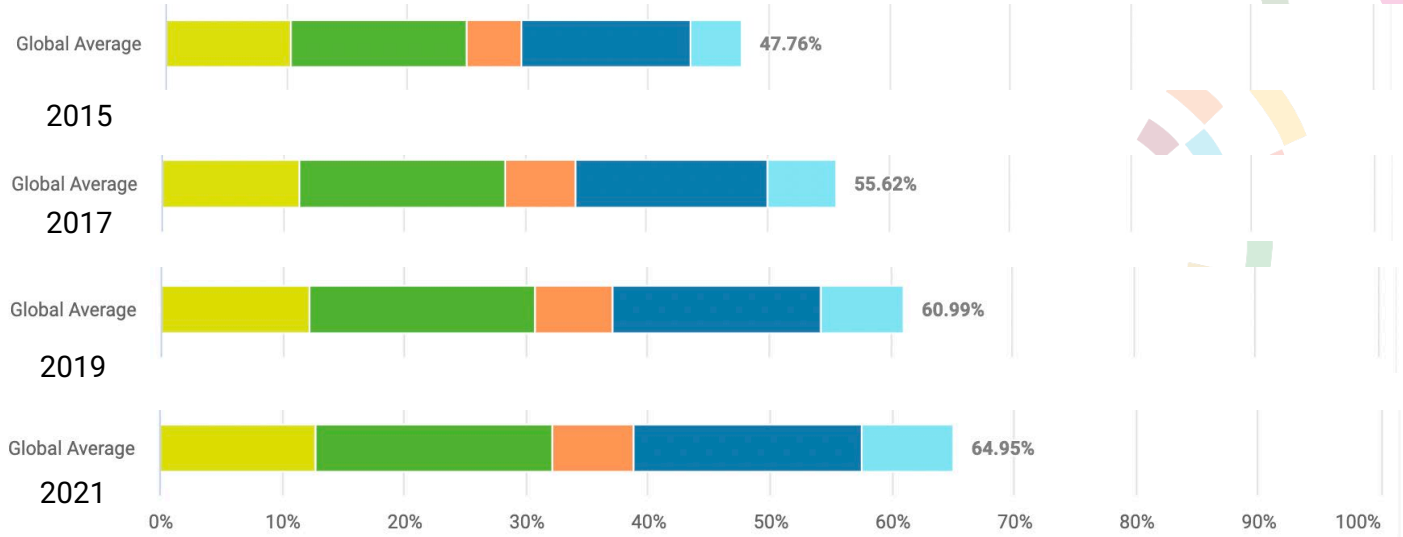
Global average stands at 65%

Southeast and East Asia leading developing countries



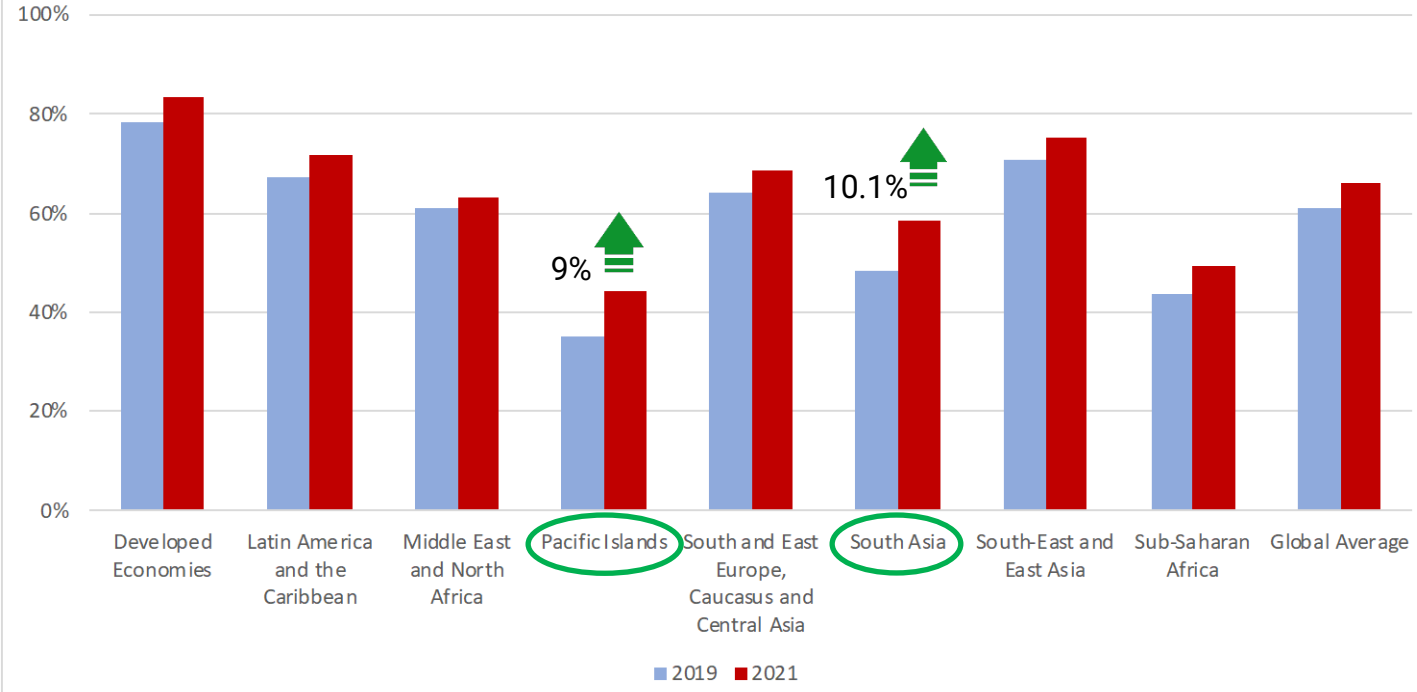
Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

Global trend 2015-2021



Progress of Global Implementation (by region)

All regions has made progress since 2019
Most progress observed in South Asia and Pacific Islands



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

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Trade Facilitation Implementation in Countries with Special Needs (LDCs, LLDCs, SIDSs)

Significantly lower than global implementation rate (65%)

LDCs
49%

LLDCs
57%

SIDSs
52%

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

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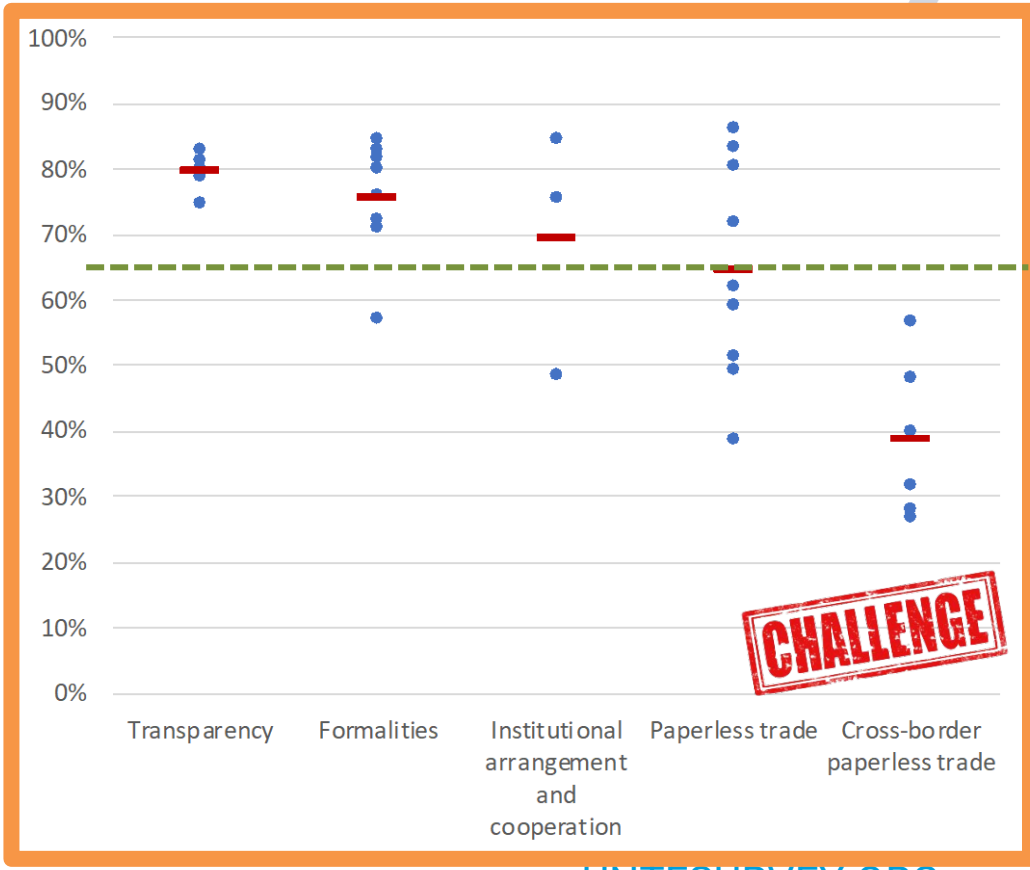
Implementation of Different Groups of TF Measures

"General & Digital TF measures"

"Paperless trade" implementation rates vary greatly depending on the individual measures

"Cross-border paperless trade" is still a challenge (< 40%)



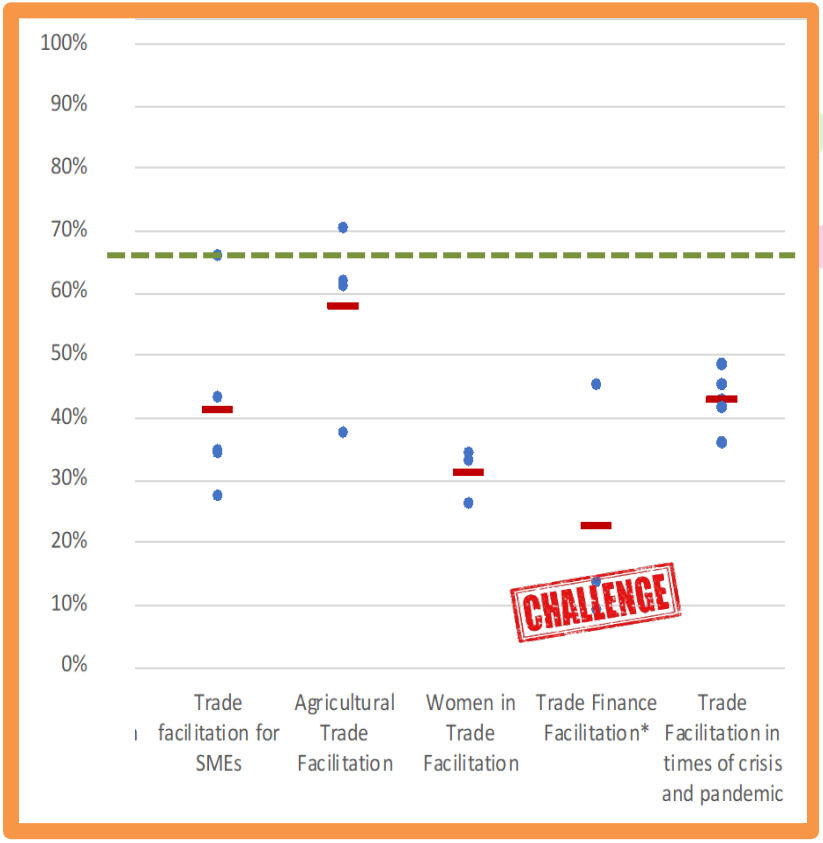
Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

Note: UNRCs are still receiving feedback from some member countries on data validation. Therefore, the results may be further – probably slightly – revised in the final report to be issued in the coming months.

Implementation of "Sustainable and Resilient TF measures"

Implementation of TF measures for special and disadvantaged groups (SME & Women) remains low;

TF measures related to agri-food sector relatively better implemented



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

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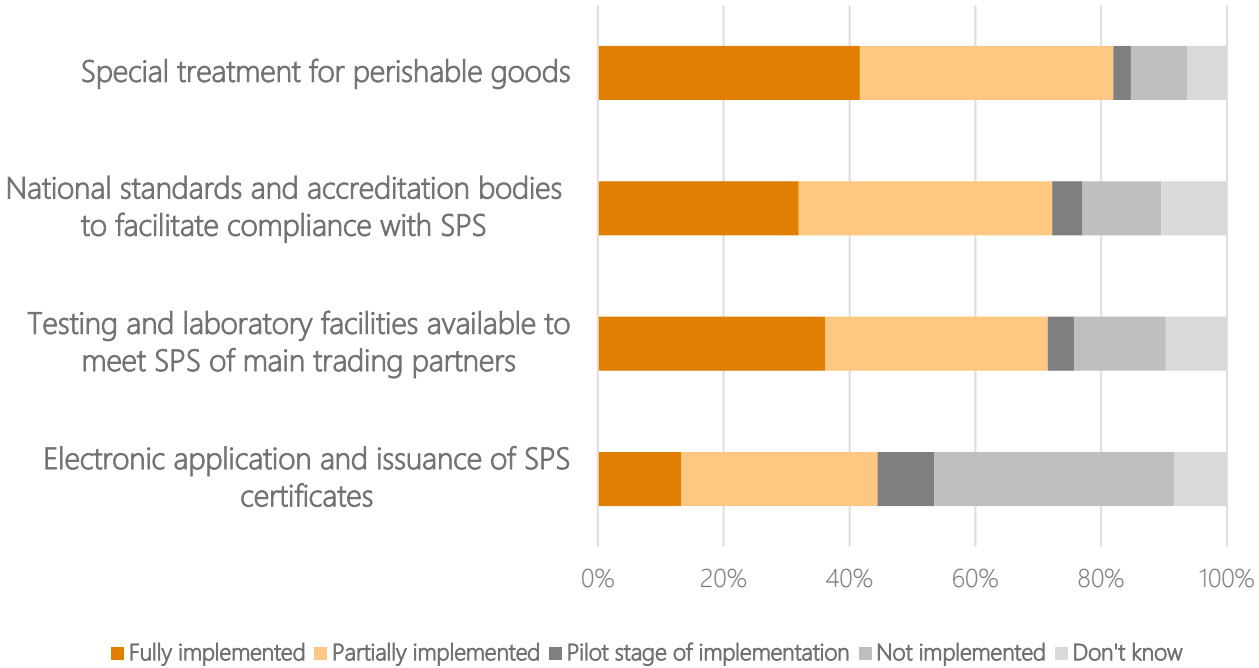
State of implementation of agricultural TF measures globally



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

Good Practices

National standards and accreditation bodies to facilitate compliance with SPS

[INDIA] Bureau of India Standards (BIS) has signed bilateral agreements with national standards bodies of Afghanistan, Bhutan, Brazil, France, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, the UAE, and the US. BIS has also inked 21 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) in the area of "standardization and conformity assessment". BIS has also been actively engaging in regional forums, such as the South Asia Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) and the Pacific Asia Standards Congress.

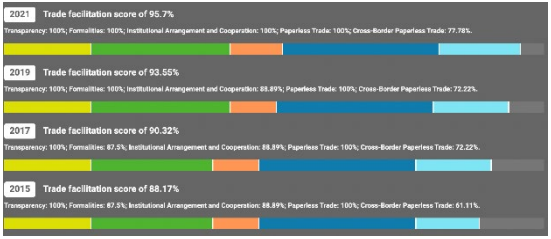
Special treatment for perishable goods

[BANGLADESH] The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is finalizing a Statutory Regulatory Order to facilitate a faster release and disposal of perishable goods from ports. Customs will also be able to sell or transfer of seized and unreleased perishable goods that could not be disposed of through auction due to various reasons to the state-owned agencies.

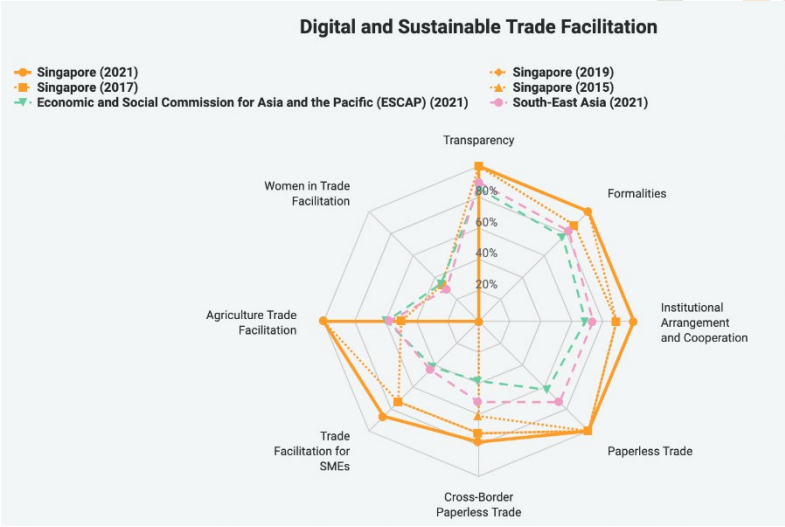
Other agricultural trade facilitation measures

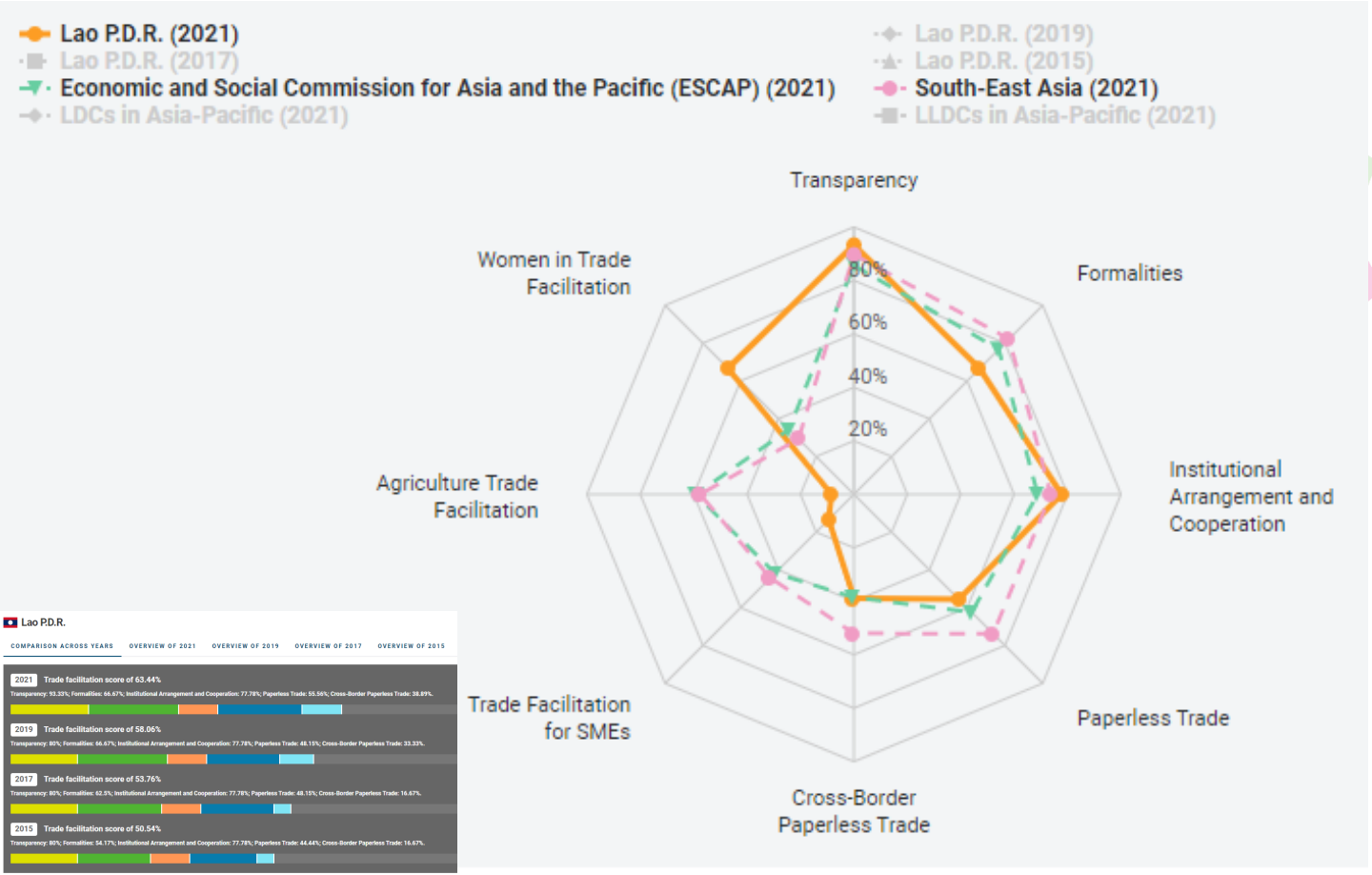
[PERU] has integrated 12 agriculture-related trade procedures into its single window. Measures include: the sanitary authorization of an establishment dedicated to the primary processing of agricultural food and animal feed; the inspection and verification report for the importation of agricultural inputs; the certificate of sale of primary agricultural food and animal feed; among others

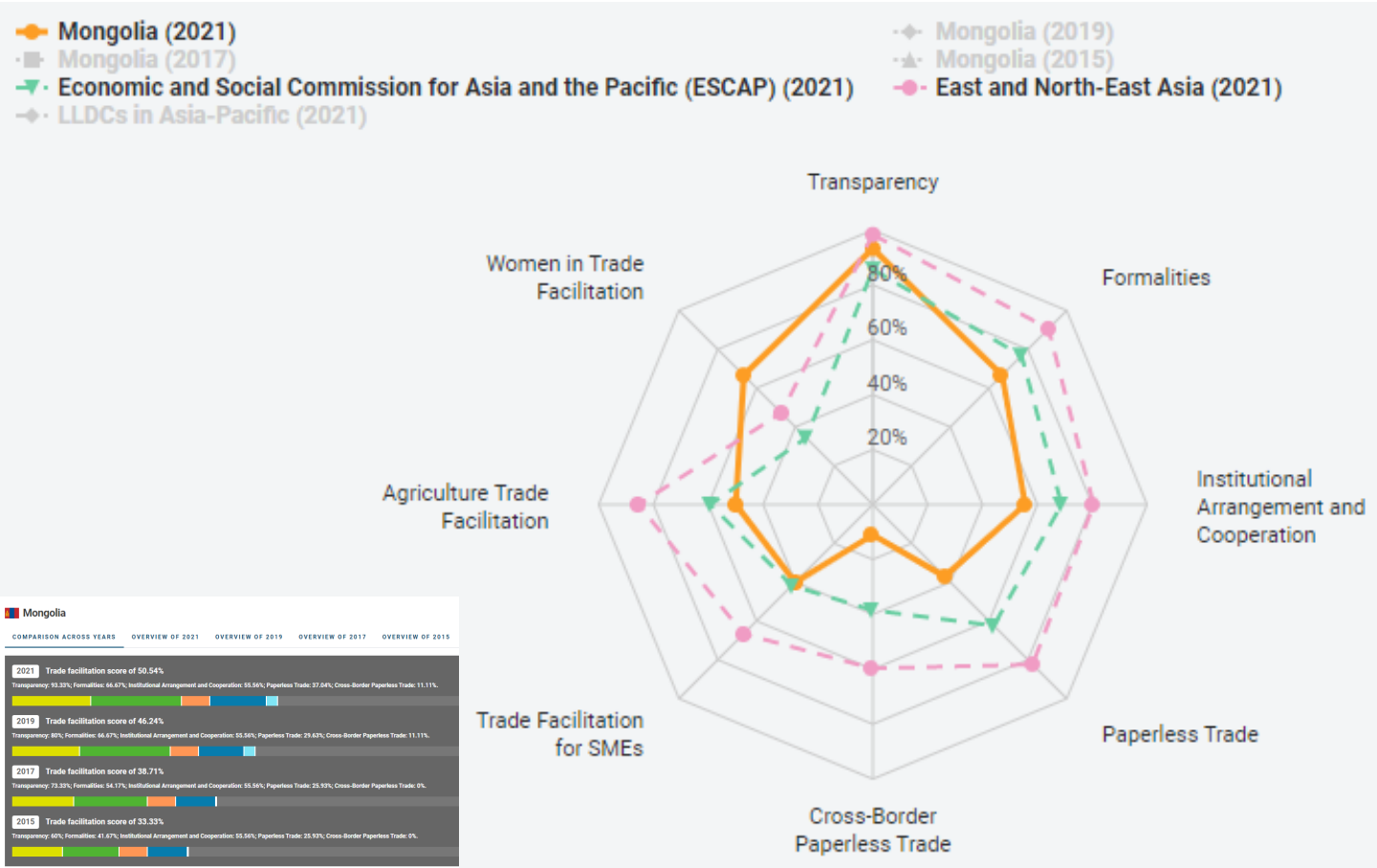
A deeper look at economy data (a snapshot from the UNTF website)



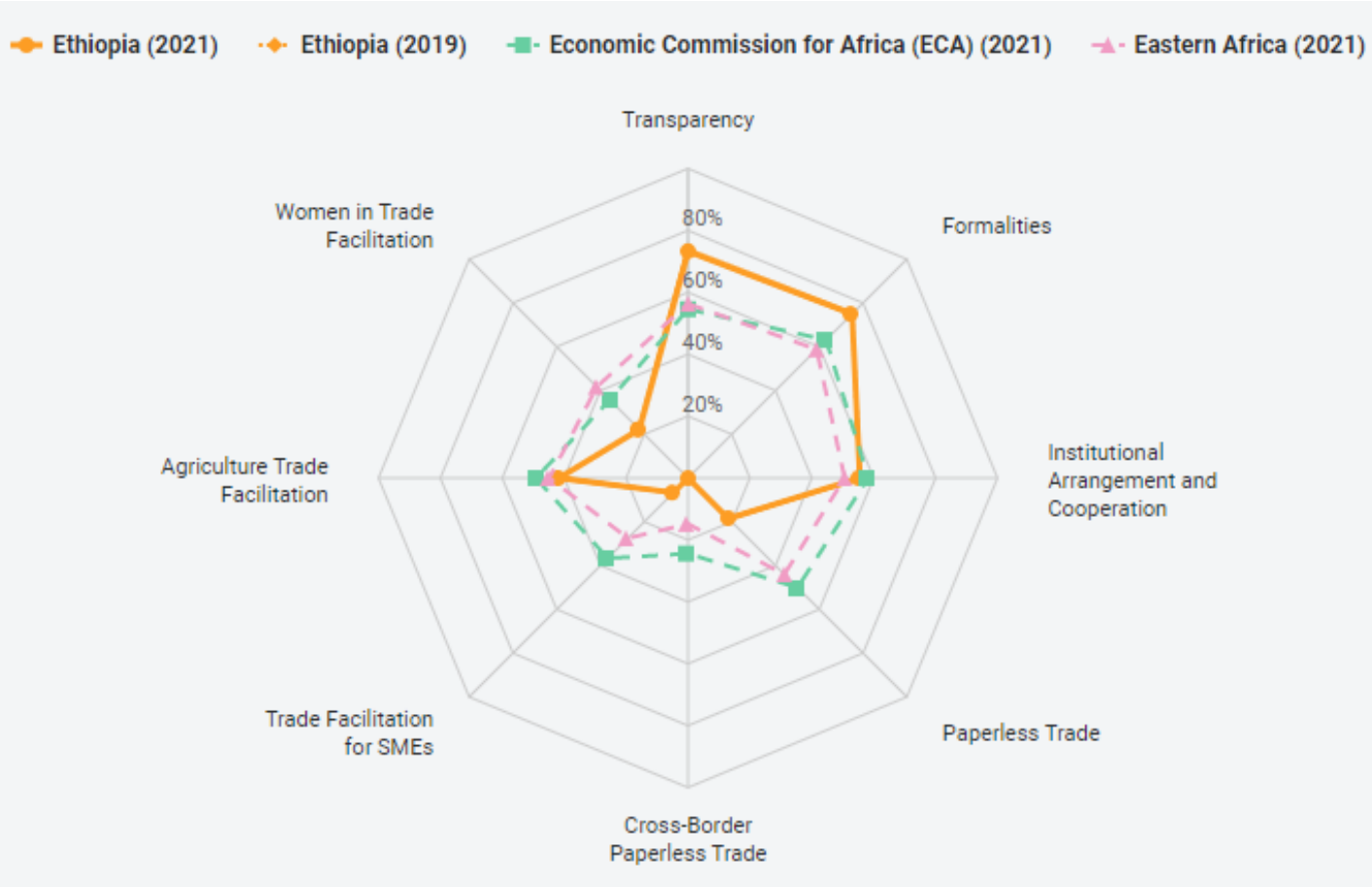
22	Electronic application and issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin	Fully implemented	Fully implemented	Fully implemented	Fully implemented
23	E-Payment of Customs Duties and Fees	Fully implemented	Fully implemented	Fully implemented	Fully implemented
24	Electronic Application for Customs Refunds	Fully implemented	Fully implemented	Fully implemented	Fully implemented
25	Laws and regulations for electronic transactions	Fully implemented	Fully implemented	Fully implemented	Fully implemented
26	Recognised certification authority	Fully implemented	Fully implemented	Fully implemented	Fully implemented
27	Electronic exchange of Customs Declaration*	Planning stage	Planning stage	Planning stage	Partially implemented
28	Electronic exchange of Certificate of Origin	Planning stage	Partially implemented	Partially implemented	Partially implemented

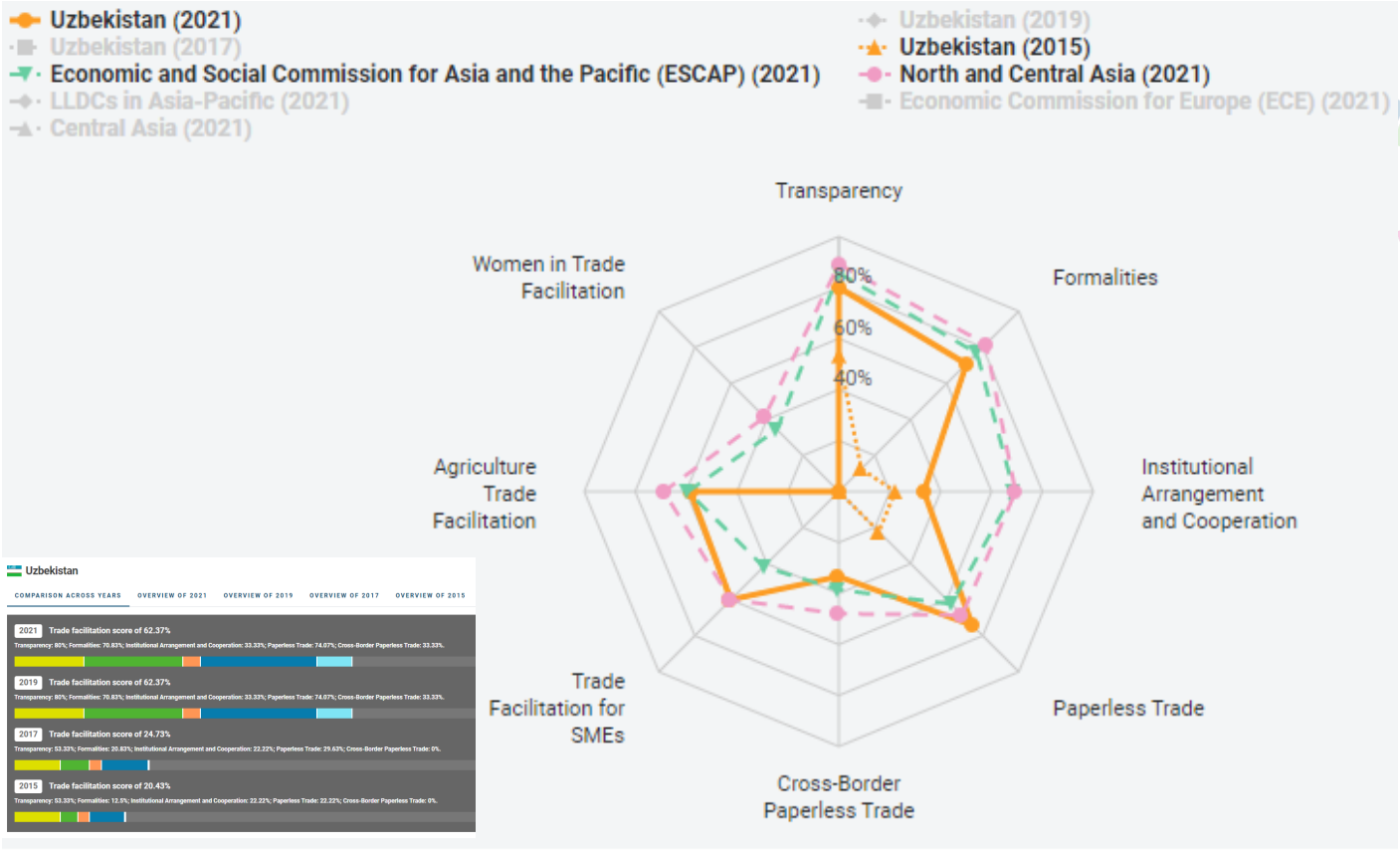



Lao P.D.R. (2021)
Lao P.D.R. (2017)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2021)
LDCs in Asia-Pacific (2021)
Lao P.D.R. (2019)
Lao P.D.R. (2015)
South-East Asia (2021)
LLDCs in Asia-Pacific (2021)
Transparency
Formalities
Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation
Paperless Trade
Cross-Border Paperless Trade
Trade Facilitation for SMEs
Agriculture Trade Facilitation
Women in Trade Facilitation
80%
60%
40%
20%
Lao P.D.R.
COMPARISON ACROSS YEARS
OVERVIEW OF 2021
OVERVIEW OF 2019
OVERVIEW OF 2017
OVERVIEW OF 2015
2021 Trade facilitation score of 63.44%
Transparency: 93.33%; Formalities: 66.67%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 77.78%; Paperless Trade: 55.56%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 38.89%.
2019 Trade facilitation score of 58.06%
Transparency: 80%; Formalities: 66.67%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 77.78%; Paperless Trade: 48.15%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 33.33%.
2017 Trade facilitation score of 53.76%
Transparency: 80%; Formalities: 62.5%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 77.78%; Paperless Trade: 48.15%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 16.67%.
2015 Trade facilitation score of 50.54%
Transparency: 80%; Formalities: 54.17%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 77.78%; Paperless Trade: 44.44%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 16.67%.


Mongolia (2021)
Mongolia (2019)
Mongolia (2017)
Mongolia (2015)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2021)
East and North-East Asia (2021)
LLDCs in Asia-Pacific (2021)
Transparency
Formalities
Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation
Paperless Trade
Cross-Border Paperless Trade
Trade Facilitation for SMEs
Agriculture Trade Facilitation
Women in Trade Facilitation
80%
60%
40%
20%

Mongolia
COMPARISON ACROSS YEARS
OVERVIEW OF 2021
OVERVIEW OF 2019
OVERVIEW OF 2017
OVERVIEW OF 2015
2021 Trade facilitation score of 50.54%
Transparency: 53.33%; Formalities: 66.67%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 55.56%; Paperless Trade: 37.04%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 11.11%.
2019 Trade facilitation score of 46.24%
Transparency: 80%; Formalities: 66.67%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 55.56%; Paperless Trade: 29.63%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 11.11%.
2017 Trade facilitation score of 38.71%
Transparency: 73.33%; Formalities: 54.17%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 55.56%; Paperless Trade: 25.93%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 0%.
2015 Trade facilitation score of 33.33%
Transparency: 60%; Formalities: 41.67%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 55.56%; Paperless Trade: 25.93%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 0%.


Ethiopia (2021)
Ethiopia (2019)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (2021)
Eastern Africa (2021)
Transparency
Formalities
Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation
Paperless Trade
Cross-Border Paperless Trade
Trade Facilitation for SMEs
Agriculture Trade Facilitation
Women in Trade Facilitation
80%
60%
40%
20%


Uzbekistan (2021)
Uzbekistan (2017)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2021)
LLDCs in Asia-Pacific (2021)
Central Asia (2021)
Uzbekistan (2019)
Uzbekistan (2015)
North and Central Asia (2021)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (2021)
Transparency
Formalities
Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation
Paperless Trade
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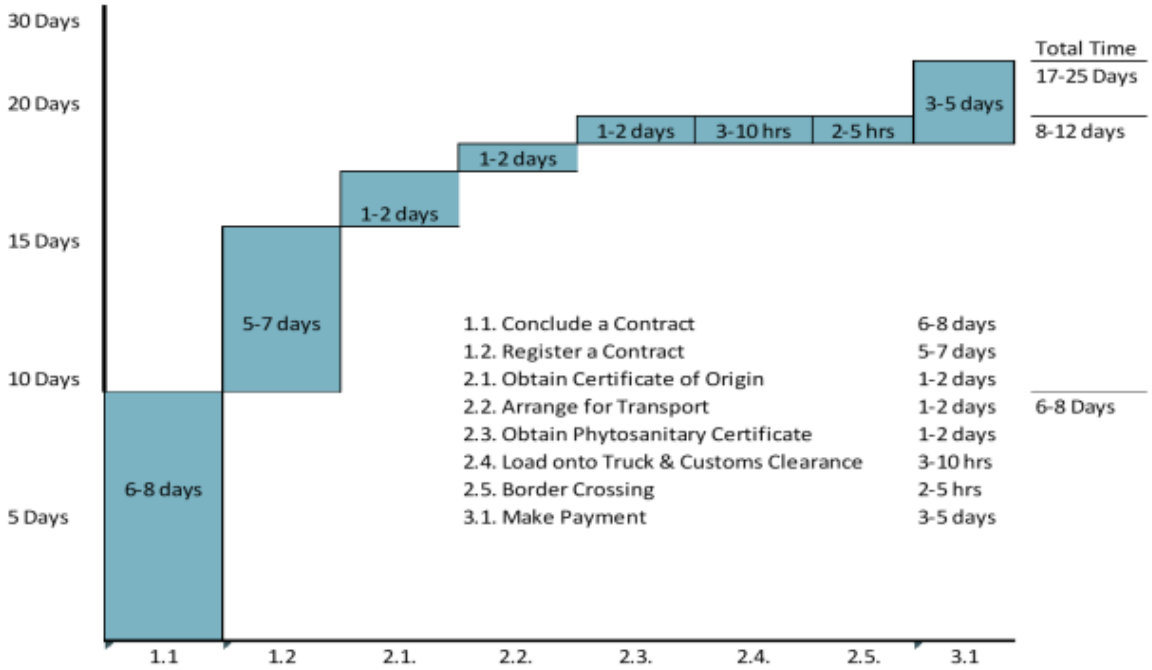
Women in Trade Facilitation
80%
60%
40%

Uzbekistan
COMPARISON ACROSS YEARS
OVERVIEW OF 2021
OVERVIEW OF 2019
OVERVIEW OF 2017
OVERVIEW OF 2015
2021 Trade facilitation score of 62.37%
Transparency: 80%; Formalities: 70.83%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 33.33%; Paperless Trade: 74.07%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 33.33%.
2019 Trade facilitation score of 62.37%
Transparency: 80%; Formalities: 70.83%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 33.33%; Paperless Trade: 74.07%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 33.33%.
2017 Trade facilitation score of 24.73%
Transparency: 53.33%; Formalities: 20.83%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 22.22%; Paperless Trade: 29.63%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 0%.
2015 Trade facilitation score of 20.43%
Transparency: 53.33%; Formalities: 12.5%; Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 22.22%; Paperless Trade: 22.22%; Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 0%.

Business Process Analysis of import/export processes

Figure 4. Time process chart for the export of dried fruits from Uzbekistan to China



www.unescap.org/resources/readiness-assessment-cross-border-paperless-trade-uzbekistan

Conclusion

- Agri-food products are perishable + subject to additional procedures → need for dedicated agri-food TF plan / strategy, including
  - up-to-date regulatory information portals
  - national/regional quality infrastructure
  - Expedited border procedures
  - Agri-food single window (integrated with traceability systems)
- Digitalization of procedures can help → accession to the *Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific* when eligible → conduct readiness assessments to develop long-term action plan*

*readiness.digitalizetrade.org

Thank you!

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A Three-step Approach for Data Collection

Open data collection

Experts and other interested parties invited to fill the questionnaire or update the pre-filled questionnaire

Cross-checking and verification

UNRCs internally verified the data by cross-checking answers from the experts, desk research, further interviews with respondents and informants.

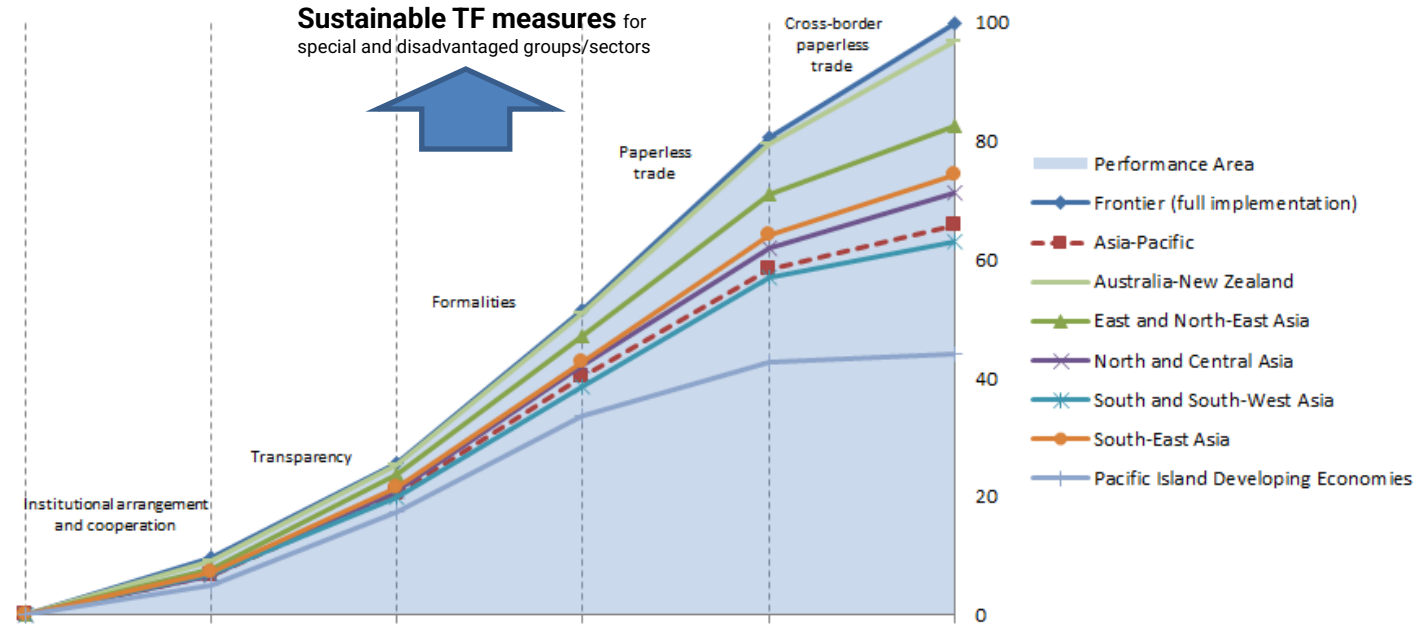
Key outcome of step 2:
A set of national dataset for each country surveyed

Final validation by countries

UNRCs sent the preliminary results to countries for final validation.

Moving up the trade facilitation ladder

towards seamless international supply chains



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

Note: ESCAP is still receiving feedback from some member countries on data validation. Therefore, the results may be further – probably slightly – revised in the final report to be issued in the coming months.

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AGRICULTURAL TRADE FACILITATION

44. Are testing and laboratory facilities available in your country to meet sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards of your main trading partners?	Fully implemented [ ]	Partially implemented [ ]	Pilot Stage [ ]	Not implemented [ ]	Don't know [ ]
44.1. Are sufficient testing and laboratory facilities available domestically to certify agricultural and food products for exports in a timely manner (i.e., the time between application for testing and the conduct of the test is reasonable)? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know 44.2. Are your testing and laboratory facilities recognized (i.e., accredited) internationally? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know		**Progress over the past 12 months?**		**Further information** (e.g., website, date of implementation…)	

Testing is the determination of product characteristics against the requirements of the standard. Certification is the formal substantiation that a product, service, organization or individual meets the requirements of a standard. Accreditation is the activity of providing independent attestation as to the competency of an individual or organization to provide specified services.

45. Are national standards and accreditation bodies in place to facilitate compliance with SPS standards?	Fully implemented [ ]	Partially implemented [ ]	Pilot Stage [ ]	Not implemented [ ]	Don't know [ ]
45.1. Does your country have mutual recognition agreement on national standards with trading partners? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know 45.2. Does your country have mutual recognition agreements of conformity assessments of agricultural or food products with trading partners? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know If yes, please specify for which products or (sub)sectors: _____ 45.3. Does your country implement ISO/IEC guides on conformity assessment procedures? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know		**Progress over the past 12 months?**		**Further information** (e.g., website, date of implementation…)	

Standards, technical regulations, and SPS measures are formal documentation containing the requirements that a product, process, or service should comply with. Standards are usually developed and published under the auspices of a national standards body (NSB) in accordance with the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade Code of Conduct and the Directives of International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

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46. Can SPS certificates be applied for and issued electronically?	Fully implemented [ ]	Partially implemented [ ]	Pilot Stage [ ]	Not implemented [ ]	Don't know [ ]
46.1. Is the relevant procedure published? [ ] Yes, online [ ] Yes, not necessarily online [ ] No [ ] Don't know 46.2. Is any paper document still required for submission? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know		**Progress over the past 12 months?**		**Further information** (e.g., website, date of implementation…) **Submitted through E-Single Window?** [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know	
47. Is special treatment given to perishable goods at border-crossings?	**Fully implemented [ ]**	**Partially implemented [ ]**	**Pilot Stage [ ]**	**Not implemented [ ]**	**Don't know [ ]**
47.1. Does your country give priority to perishable goods when scheduling physical examinations? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know 47.2. Are cold storage facilities available at land border crossings for perishable goods? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know		**Progress over the past 12 months?**		**Further information** (e.g., website, date of implementation…)	

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