Unitar Online Catalogue

Agriculture in International Trade Agreements (Asia and the Pacific)

Prosperity

Deadline: 8 Nov 2026

Type:	Course
Location:	Web-based
Date:	16 Nov 2026 to 11 Dec 2026
Duration:	4 Weeks
Thematic Area:	Other
Website:	http://www.unitar.org
Price:	$0.00
Event Focal Point Email:	pft-elearning@unitar.org
Partnership:	FAO (613)

BACKGROUND

The value of global trade in agri-food products has almost tripled since the establishment of the World Trade Organization, with some regions emerging as net exporters and others deepening their dependence on food imports. Given the centrality of imports to food security and the role of exports in generating income, trade remains a critical element of development strategies in many countries, particularly in Asia and the Pacific.

Looking ahead, global agricultural trade is expected to continue to expand, as countries become more integrated into international markets. However, the design and appropriateness of trade and related policies will vary depending on the level of agricultural development in each country. Moreover, the policy space available to Governments is shaped by international legal and institutional frameworks, particularly those established within the framework of the World Trade Organization. In this context, striking a balance between advancing national policy objectives and compliance with trade commitments is essential to mitigate potential negative impacts on trading partners.

Another distinctive feature of the current trade landscape is the proliferation of regional trade agreements, which have increased not only in number but also in complexity. Regional trade agreements often go beyond multilateral agreements in establishing deeper trade and economic integration. Understanding how agriculture is approached within the framework of regional trade agreements is therefore critical for informed policy engagement and strategic negotiation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to increase the knowledge of participants in order to:

- A better understanding of the international regulatory frameworks governing trade and the mechanisms for their implementation, as well as the implications of recent WTO ministerial conferences;
- Discuss the importance of non-tariff measures on international trade and the importance of WTO agreements on these measures on national trade policies;
- Identify the trends of regional trade agreements and describe the provisions of regional trade agreements in policy areas related to agricultural trade, and compare them with the provisions of multilateral trade agreements.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The course consists of three modules, each consisting of two to three lessons. The first two modules are global in scope. The third module is designed to cover key themes from the other two modules, with a particular focus on the countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Module 1. World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)

- Lesson 1.1. Agriculture in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the WTO Agreement on Agriculture provisions on Market Access
- Lesson 1.2. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture provisions on Domestic Support and Export Competition
- Lesson 1.3. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture Implementation and the Doha Round Negotiations

Module 2. Non-tariff measures in agriculture and related WTO agreements

- Lesson 2.1. Introduction to Non-Tariff Measures in Agriculture, and the WTO Agreement on the Application of SPS Measures
- Lesson 2.2. The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement, and other related rules

Module 3. Agriculture in Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)

- Lesson 3.1. Trends in RTAs
- Lesson 3.2. RTA provisions on Tariffs, Tariff Rate Quotas, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade
- Lesson 3.3. RTA provisions on Export Restrictions, Export Duties and Rules of Origin

METHODOLOGY

The course will be conducted in English over a period of four weeks and will be organized in three modules. The course will be delivered via the e-learning platform developed by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNTIAR) (http://www.unitar.org/event, using training materials developed by FAO. This educational tool will help participants achieve the educational objectives of the course through a self-paced study routine with optional and required readings, case study exercises, discussion forums, and assessment tests. The course will be facilitated and guided by international experts with considerable practical experience to ensure that real-life examples are incorporated into the course work.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

This course is designed to assist professionals from the Ministries of Agriculture, Ministries of Economy, Trade and other relevant government authorities, who are directly involved in the formulation and implementation of trade or agricultural policies in countries in Asia. ***The target countries for this course are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam.***
Participants from the private sector and academia can also benefit from the course.

Priority will be given to policymakers and practitioners who influence agricultural trade, and professionals who are able to transfer information and technical advice to their constituencies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This course is offered free of charge. Limited places are available and will be subject to a selection process by FAO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), taking into account geographical distribution and gender balance in particular.

In preparing this session, FAO draws on its extensive experience in providing guidance, capacity-building and technical advice to its member countries on agricultural trade policy and multilateral trade negotiations, as well as its normative work under international conventions and agreements on sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

A certificate of completion of the course will be issued to participants who have successfully completed all tasks and assessments related to the course.