Analysis of Welfare Effects of South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) on Pakistan's Economy by Using CGE Model

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Abstract

The current research investigates the Welfare impact of SAFTA on the economy of Pakistan in general and South Asia in perspective. This research analyzes the potential economic costs and benefits of Pak-India trade in exporting various consumer goods. The first scenario is when normal trading relation with India will be restored; it means that both countries will give the MFN (Most Favored Nations) status to each other. In the second scenario, the SAFTA will be operative and there will be free trade between India and Pakistan and both countries will remove all tariffs and custom duties from each others' imports. The Global trade analysis GTAP model is used to analyze the possible impact of SAFTA on Pakistan in a multi country, multi sector applied General equilibrium frame work. After employing the simplified static analysis framework, the analysis based on simulations reveals that current demand for Pakistani Basmati Rice and other consumer items like leather and cotton-made garments will expand after the FTA and consumer surplus will increase. The drop in the domestic prices of Rice will increase the production of many downstream industries, which will have pleasant multiplier effects on the economy of Pakistan. The government may reduce MFN tariffs on industrial dates before implementing the FTA. A key rule of multilateral trade system is that the reduction in trade barriers should be applied on a most-favored nation basis (MFN) to all WTO members the countries which are part of the SAFTA.. The only exception to the MFN principle built into the GATT legal framework is the provision for reciprocal free trade within customs unions and free trade areas (GATT article XXIV). The objectives of the present study are to analyze and quantify the potential economic cost and benefits of the prospective trade between India and Pakistan to consumers, producers and government of the two countries. The export of Rice, leather and cotton-made garments may be conducted by two scenarios, i.e. when normal trading relations between Pakistan and India will be restored and when there will be a free trade between Pakistan and India in the presence of South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). Results based on this research reveal that on SAFTA, grounds, there will be net export benefits in Pakistan's economy.

Keywords: Agriculture, Trade liberalization, FTA, SAFTA, Welfare gain, Economy

1. Introduction

The objective of this study is to present a quantitative assessment of trade liberalization exercises in Pakistan in terms of economic trade, with other south Asian countries. This paper begins with a review of Pakistan's economic reforms and their coverage. Section II discusses the methodology, offering a brief description of CGE Modeling including the GTAP. The experimental designs are discussed in Sections III. Apart from unilateral and regional trade liberalization, as a founding member of the WTO, Pakistan remained firmly committed to the multilateral trading system and has already established a large number of reforms in keeping with the GATT/WTO principles. However, the paper does not review the outcome of multilateral trade Liberalization. In Section IV, GTAP model simulation results are analyzed. Section V concludes.4 Section I Until the late 1970s, Pakistan's economic development centered on an inward-oriented development strategy based on import substitution industrialization performed mainly by state owned firms. Both tariff and non-tariff barriers were widely used to protect domestic economic activities. Trade restrictive policies were accompanied by other regulatory policies such as control on foreign exchange, finance and foreign direct investment. These restrictive economic policies had severe adverse implications on overall economic growth, in particular growth of exports. The agreement on SAFTA was signed in Dhaka in April 1993 by the SAAC members, providing a legal framework for trade liberalization and strengthening intra-regional economic cooperation. In 1995, SAFTA had been ratified by all contracting states and in accordance with Article 22 of the agreement SAFTA became operational on 7th December 1995. SAFTA followed a positive list approach, including flexible provisions for least developed countries (LDCs). At the Ninth SAARC Summit held in Male in 1997, the Heads of Governments decided to accelerate the pace of transition of SAFTA to South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) by the year 2001 or Consumption is also quite high during Christmas. Similarly, the fruit enjoys enormous significance on the occasion of Dial and such festivals another religion. In Europe and North America, the fruit is particularly preferred during the dark winter month. Usual sales of dates are spread to a period from October to April.

2. Methodology

It is widely acknowledged that applied general equilibrium (AGE) or computable general

Equilibrium (CGE) modeling has become the tool of choice for analysis of a wide range of trade policy issues such as tariffs and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in both developed and developing countries in a variety of settings. In particular, AGE modeling is useful for analyzing the welfare effect of trade policy that needs to address second-best issues, where there are significant interactions between policy measures for one sector and distortions elsewhere in the economy. Such models have two distinctive features: they incorporate a number of distinct sectors, and the behavioral equations of the model deal with the response of industries and consumers to changes in relative prices (Adams et al., 1998). This development is explained by the capability of CGE models to provide an elaborate and realistic representation of the economy, including the linkages between all agents, sectors and other economies (Brockmeier, 1996) AGE analysis also provides a valuable tool for putting things in an economy-wide perspective (Hertel, 1999). The general equilibrium framework contains all commodities, factor markets together with decision-making agents who respond to price signals and are internally consistent 7 through capturing the many important feedback effects. Therefore, conceptually, these models can explicitly capture all the economy-wide interactions and inter-sectoral linkages. Hence, these models are very useful for analyzing the changes in sectoral output, product prices, factor usage, and factor prices as well as changes in national welfare measures consequent to changes in trade regimes. CGE evaluations typically work with theoretical models, and allow for more interaction among endogenous variables in that they can capture the numerous complex relationships between variables of policy interest in the model economy.

3. Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivity analysis for AGE models is critical for establishing the robustness and obtaining the acceptance of model results. Although AGE models have become important tools of analysis in the quantitative evaluation of trade policy, the solutions obtained from these models are conditional on many assumptions. Among many assumptions, one set of assumptions-the values of model parameters such as elasticities-are amenable to "sensitivity analysis." Evaluation of the robustness of the model results can also help to increase the credibility of the conclusions of the study. In the GTAP model, the substitutability among imported commodities from different sources is determined by the Armington elasticity of substitution parameter called ESUBM. According

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to the Armington assumption, each country has some degree of market power over its products and can influence its terms of trade because that goods from different sources are treated as imperfect 19 substitutes. Hence, to reduce Pakistan's market power, it is necessary to increase the substitutability among imports from different origins because the terms trade effects largely depend on the import-import substitution elasticities (McDougall et al., 1998). This kind of experiment could also be interpreted as a form of conditional systematic sensitivity analysis (CSSA). Under the CSSA; each parameter is separately perturbed from its central value conditional on all the other parameters remaining at their central values. The robustness of the model results is then revealed by comparison of the simulation results with the central case. Thus, three additional experiments are undertaken under the sensitivity analysis to reduced Pakistan's market power by increasing the values of ESUBM to capture the effect of possibly different adjustment capacities as a small country. Though this will affect all countries/regions' market power in the model, it will have most effect on the small countries like Pakistan. The first experiment under the sensitivity analysis (Experiment 4) deals with the unilateral trade liberalization scenario. (15 percent uniform import tariff). The second experiment (Experiment 5) related to the regional trade liberalization (SAFTA by itself) and the third one (Experiment 6) conducted under the unilateral trade liberalization with combination of regional trade liberalization (SAFTA cum 15 percent uniform import tariff). To make these experiments manageable, two separate experiments are conducted under the Experiments 4, 5 and 6 respectively. Thus, under the first experiment, the parameter ESUBM was perturbed from its central value and then increased its value by 50 per cent in the first three scenarios-Experiments 4-1, 5-1 and 6-1 respectively. Under the second experiment, the value of ESUBM was doubled (100 percent increase) for the other three scenarios-Experiments 4-2, 5-2, and 6-2 respectively. With these six scenarios, it was assumed that all other parameters (except ESUBM) in the model remain at their central values.

4. Simulation Results

Experiment-1: Reduction of Import Tariffs to 15 percent

The first experiment considered the Pakistan's reduction of import tariffs to 15 percent under the unilateral trade liberalization. The impact of this scenario on regional welfare and the resulting percentage changes in sectoral output and trade are reported in Table 9 and 10 respectively. Accordingly, if Pakistan (LKA) reduces its import tariffs to 15 percent unilaterally on a global basis to maintain a uniform external tariff rate, Pakistan experiences a welfare gain around US\$ 20 201 million (1.53 percent of the GDP). Under this scenario, Pakistan's volume of imports rises by 3.3 percent while its volume of exports falls slightly by 0.3 percent reflecting the fact that the pressure to increase imports is stronger than the increase in demand for Pakistan's exports by unilateral liberalization. However, as a result of the composite export price increase by 1.1 percent, Pakistan experiences a small improvement in the terms-of-trade of 1.5 percent and the real GDP by 0.8 percent. The welfare gains or losses for other regions are quite varied under this simulation. However, since Pakistan is a small country, the impact of Pakistan's unilateral reduction of import tariffs to 15 percent will not affect other region's real GDP or terms-of-trade significantly. As shown in Table 9, the 15 percent uniform tariff will adversely affect most of the sectoral output in Pakistan because of the increased competition for import competing industries. As shown in panel (a) of Table 9, the most affected industry is the transport equipment (TREQ) sector (18 percent), followed by machinery and equipment (MAEQ) sector (16 percent). It is noteworthy that these sectors expand significantly under the regional liberalization scenarios, particularly under the SAFTA scenario. The textiles (TEXT) sector (8 percent), processed food (PROF) sector (8 percent), mining and quarrying (MINQ) sector (8 percent), other manufactures (OTHM) sector (5 percent), and agriculture (AGRI) sector (1 percent) also report a decrease in output. However, there is a considerable increase in the wearing apparel (WEAP) sector (21 percent) and marginal increases in both the petroleum and coal products (PECP) sectors (2 percent), and the services (SERC) sector (1 percent). Similarly, as can be seen from panel (b) of Table 9, export sales also decline considerably in almost all the sectors except petroleum products (25 percent) and wearing apparel (21 percent). The largest decline in export sales occurs in machinery and equipment (22 percent) followed by transport equipment (19 percent), processed food (16 percent) and services (15 percent). As shown in panel (c) of Table 9, Pakistan's sectoral imports expand mainly in processed food (26 21 percent), wearing apparel (20 percent), and textiles (19 percent) while imports contract mainly in agriculture (9 percent), services (7 percent) and petroleum products (5 percent) under this policy reform. Accordingly, the results suggest that a reduction of import tariffs to 15 percent will increase Sri Lanka's welfare and terms-of-trade as well. Although one might expect that the reduction of import tariffs would increase the domestic output and therefore increase export sales, this policy reform would adversely affect Pakistan's domestic output in most of the sectors because of foreign competition. A similar impact can be seen in export sales too.

5. Conclusions

The regional Block trade is gaining importance in the World. The simulation results presented and analyzed here demonstrate the importance of experimental designs, and the usefulness of the global CGE modeling framework for examining the impacts of the different types of trade policy reforms for Pakistan. Although, the GTAP model cannot capture the dynamic effects of trade liberalization, it is a useful tool for generating comparative static results for a variety of trade reform scenarios. It also identifies the industries that will expand, and those that will contract, and the size of these changes as a result of various trade liberalization scenarios. The results suggest that Pakistan would experience the highest welfare gain under the combined policy reform of the SAFTA cum 15 percent uniform external tariffs while the SAFTA on its own gives the second highest welfare gains. SAFTA allows the participating countries to achieve larger economies of scale in production, attain specialization, increase competitiveness and diversify their export basket, thus assisting domestic economic reform. Therefore, harmonizing economic policies among neighboring countries must receive higher priority in the policy making process. Although, simulation results are highly sensitive to the underlying data and assumptions regarding the reference scenarios, the results clearly provide an assessment of the implications of SAFTA.

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Table 1. Key Economic Indicators data for SAARC countries-2005-06

Country	Mid Year Population	Population in Growth rate	GDP US\$ Mn	GNP Per capita US\$	Literacy rate	Life expectancy	Crude birth rate per(000)	Crude death rate exports	Exports US\$ Mn	Imports US\$
Pakistan	148.8	1.92	93,908	600	48.7	63	36	36	13,375	17,954
Bhutan	0.8	2.5	657	760	47.0	63	35	9	n.a	n.a
Bangladesh	135.2	1.3	585,68	440	41.1	63	29	8	6,608	11,276
India	1,086.0	1.6	686,08	620	61.0	63	24	8	71,763	94051
Maldev	0.3	1.5	719	24,10	97.2	67	36	6	122	
Nepal	24.7	2.2	6,685	250	48.6	62	33	10	756	1,869
Sri lanaka	19.5	1.1	19,224	1,010	92.1	74	16	7	5,757	8000

Note: ADB key economic indicators -2005-06

Table 2. Gross National Product of Pakistan

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S.No	Sectors/Sub-sectors	1999-00	2000-01	2001-2002	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Α.	Agricultural sector	923609	945301	968291`	1059316	1164751	1314234	1382660	1608522
	1.Crops	467879	456258	449993	500370117	538208	651774	666727	1608522
	1.1.Major crops	342200	325579	316857	370117	411836	497556	496841	579996
	1.2.Minor crops	125679	130679	133136	130450	126372	154218	169886	191835
	2.Livestock	417120	446058	476310	512976	578218	621170	678033	794987
	3.Fishries	15163	16546	16377	16625	16728	17490	22230	243559
	4. Forestry	23447	26439	25611	29148	31597	23800	15670	17345
В.	Industrial Sector	830865	942263	989349	1083914	1416986	1659285	1939160	2203490
A+B	Commodity producing Sectors	1754474	1887564	1957640	2143230	2581737	2973519	3321820	3812012
С	Services Sector	1807546	2035680	2188527	2390988	2668790	3149049	3807356	4414507
D	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	3562020	3923244	4146167	4534218	5250527	6122568	7129176	8226519
E.	Net Factor Income from Abroad	- 47956	-54482	23665	151812	124478	134461	149901	160738
F.	Gross National Product(GNP)	3514064	3868762	4169832	4686030	5375005	6257029	7279077	8387257
G.	Population in Million	137.53	140.36	143.17	146.75	149.65	152.53	155.37	158.17
Н.	Per capita Income (Rs.)	25551	27563	29125	31933	35917	41022	46850	53027

Source: http://www.statpak.gov.pk/depts/fbs/statistics/national_accounts/table12.pdf

Table 3. Regional Aggregation 10 Regions of the Model

Aggregated Regions	GTAP Region
1. Pakistan	Pakistan
2. India (IND)	India
3. Rest of South Asia	Bangladesh
	Bhutan
	Maldives
	Nepal
	Sri Lanka
4. European Union	United Kingdom
	Germany
	Denmark
	Sweden
	Finland
	Rest of European Union
5. North American Free Trade Area	
NAFTA	USA
	Canada
	Mexico
6. Association of South East Asian Nations	Indonesia
ASEAN-5	Malaysia
	Philippines
	Singapore
	Thailand
7. Rest of Asia	Hong Kong
	Korea
	Taiwan
	China
8. Japan (JPN)	Japan

Table 4. Commodity Aggregation: 10 Sector Model

Aggregated Regions	GTAP Region
1. Agriculture Forestry	Paddy rice (pdr)
and Fisheries (AGRI)	Wheat (wht)
	Cereal grains nec(gro)(v_f)
	Vegetable, Fruits, nuts
	Oil seed (osd)
	Sugar cane, sugar beet (c_b)
	Plant based fibres (pfb)
	Crops (nec)
	Raw milk (rmk)
	Wool (wol)
	Forestry (for)
	Fisheries (fis)
2. Mining and Quarrying (MING)	Coal (co)
	Oil (ol)
	Gas(gas)
	Minerals (min)
3. Proceed Food (PROF)	Vegetable oil(voil)
	Dairy products (mil)
	Sugar cane (sgr)
	Food products nec (ofd)
	Beverages and tobacco products (b_t)
4. Textile (TEXT)	Textile (tex)
5. Petroleum and Coal Products (PECP)	Petroleum and coal product (p_c)
6. Services (SERC)	Electricity (ely)
	Gas, manufacture (gdt)
	Water (wt)

Table 5. Experiment-1 15% uniform Import Tariffs Estimated Welfare Trade Effect

Region	EV-US\$Mil.	%GDP	Of	TOT	Volume	Volume	Of	Import	DTBAL
			QGDP		of Exports	of Imports	Export Price	Price	US\$mil.
					Exports	Imports	Price		
ASEAN	4.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.78
EU	-88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.0
IND	-0.76	0.00	0.,00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.6
JPN	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.0
PAK	231.87	1.44	0.84	1.50	0.76	1.60	1.08	0.01	-123.90
LKA	13.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-6.90
MIE	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3.89
NAFTA	-33.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.90
ROW	-45.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.54

Table 6. Experiment-1 15% uniform Import Tariffs

Estimated Percentage Changes in Regional output in agricultural trade liberalization

SECTORS	ASEAN	EU	IND	JPN	PAK	LKA	NAFTA	ROW
(A)Industry								
Out Put								
AGRI	-0.00	0.02	0.02	0.002	-9.0	0.00	0.01	0.00
MINQ	-0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00	-8.90	0.00	0.01	0.00
PROF	0.02	0.01	001	0.02	-7.65	0.00	0.02	0.01
TEXT	-0.06	0.01	0.00	0.00	-9.10	0.03	0.02	0.02
PECP	-0.12	0.02	-0.10	0.00	30.2	-0.09	-0.07	0.06
MAEQ	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	-13.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
ОТНМ	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	-5.90	00	00	0.00
SERC	-0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.80	0.00	-0.00	0.00
B-Aggregate Exports								
AGRI	-0.00	0.02	0.02	0.002	-8.90	0.00	0.01	0.00
MINQ	-0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00	-8.54	0.00	0.01	0.00
PROF	0.02	0.01	001	0.02	-17.90	0.00	0.02	0.01
TEXT	-0.06	0.01	0.00	0.00	-6.78	0.03	0.02	0.02
PECP	-0.12	0.02	-0.10	0.00	34.20	-0.09	-0.07	0.06
MAEQ	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	13.8	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHM	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	-11.75	00	00	0.00

SECTORS	ASEAN	EU	IND	JPN	PAK	LKA	NAFTA	ROW
(A)Industry Out Put								
AGRI	0.00	0.00	00	0.00	-9.50	-6.90	-0.43	-0.04
MINQ	-0.0	0.01	0.02	0.00	-1.90	0.00	0.01	-0.00
PROF	0.02	0.01	001	0.02	23.60	0.00	0.02	-001
TEXT	-0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	19.0	0.03	0.02	-0.02
PECP	-0.01	0.02	-0.10	0.00	20.0	-0.09	-0.07	-0.06
MAEQ	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	-6.90	0.00	0.00	-0.00
ОТНМ	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	4.0	00	00	-0.00
SERC	-0.00	0.00	0	0.00	-7.90	0.00	-0.00	-0.00

Table 8. Combined Trade Policy SAFTA cum 15% Uniform Import Tariffs
Estimated Welfare and Trade Effects

Region	EV-US\$Mil. Percentage Changes	%GDP	Of QGDP	ТОТ	Volume of Exports	Volume of Imports	Of Export Price	Import Price	DTBAL US\$mil.
ASEAN	-134.87	-0.02	0.00	0.03	-0.08	0.1	0.03	-0.02	90.0
EU	-737	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	896.0
IND	-0.76	0.00	0.,00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1098.00
JPN	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	473.00
PAK	566.90	4.45	0.89	6.89	-0.44	9.8	7.8	0.29	-367.90
LKA	-113.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	167.60
MIE	-511.7	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	234.80
NAFTA	-133.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	356.90
ROW	-109.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4555.23

Table 9. Sensivity Analysis Estimated Percentage Change in Pakistan's Output & in Agriculture Trade Liberalization

15% Uniform Import Tariff

SAFTA cum 15% Uniform Tariff

	Central	50%	100%	Central	50%	100%	Central	50%	100%
	Scenario	Increase	Increase	Scenario	Increase	Increase	Scenario	Increase	Increase
		In	In		In	In		In	In
		ESUBM	ESUBM		ESUBM	ESUBM		ESUBM	ESUBM
(a) Industry Output									
AGRI	-0.98	-1.33	-1.89	-3.1	3.88	5.66	2.45	3.39	5.66
MINQ	-8.56	-8.89	-13.01	-8.98	-12.40	-18.88	-16.93	-23.04	-34.90
PROF	0-8.56	-7.78	-8.67	-2.56	-3.44	-14.36	-18.88	-9.45	-8.56
TEXT	-6.76	-6.67	-7.78	-2.56	-3.62	-7.90	-10.0	-12.4	-14.8
PECP	1.78	1.78	2.56	1.08	-21.94	-39.0	4.5	-2.59	-15.80
MAEQ	-16.97	-23.66	-28.6	4.45	-2.56	4.7	4.7	-2.33	-13.5
TREQ	-17.08	-19.75	-21.0	81.6	131.6	207.6	50.7	81.3	120.4

Table 10. Sensitivity Analysis, Estimated percentage change in Pakistan's output and Trade
15% Uniform Import Tariff
SAFTA SAFTA cum 15% Uniform Tariff
(b) Aggregate Exports

	Central	50%	100%	Central	50%	100%	Central	50%	100%
	Scenario	Increase	Increase	Scenario	Increase	Increase	Scenario	Increase	Increase
		In	In		In	In		In	In
		ESUBM	ESUBM		ESUBM	ESUBM		ESUBM	ESUBM
AGRI	-7.9	-11.23	-12.41	33.12	-54.12	67.89	22.5	54.0	50.89
MINQ	-8.53	-12.34	-14.45	-9.89	-17.03	-23.54	-18.45	-26.56	-45.78
PROF	-17.45	-23.56	-28.97	8.89	25.27	71.4	-5.78	2.56	29.63
TEXT	-6.79	-10.78	-14.67	-14.78	23.44	27.05	6.4	12.43	16.67
PECP	23.56	43.56	56.6	-0.76	-1.65	-2.3	22.4	41.90	68.90
MAEQ	-17.09	-27.78	-34.6	-26.78	70.1	12.50	56.9	67.2	43.8
TREQ	-18.9	-27.8	-34.7	65.6	67.9	78.6	52.6	71.0	65.0

© Aggregate Imports

AGRI	-7.89	-9.8	-6.78	32.7	-49.0	-71.0	20.9	37.9	58.7
MINQ	-1.56	-3.78	-3.54	2.34	6.54	8.76	0.67	2.89	6.43
PROF	23.6	27.90	34.5	41.0	31.0	19.11	31.8	40.8	50.89
TEXT	30.8	23.6	30.1	-3.03	-12.5	-14.98	12.6	2.6	4.12
PECP	-5.18	-7.56	-8.67	0.78	0.88	0.65	-4.78	8.8	11.3
MAEQ	3.04	4.64	5.78	7.90	8.89	7.14	7.98	8.66	11.3
TREQ	4.69	5.45	6.00	12.66	17.10	23.90	22.0	16.8	18.04