CSO Demand Bangladesh to ACT for LDCs

Is WTO’s mandate really to improve people’s lives? Or, promoting unjust corporate trade?

Seminar on WTO MC13  
18 February 2024  
CIRDAP Auditorium

LDC Graduation

- Bangladesh will graduate from LDC in 2026.
- Need Capacity building on technology, financing, import-export before the open competition
- Need a comprehensive plan to face the challenge to make the graduation sustainable
- TRIPS waiver and other LDC advantages will be lost.
AOA

- Price support, Public Stockholding are related to poor’s food security, Human Right.
- Need to increase farmers’ capacity to preserve crops (Cold Storage).
- Need to invest more → WTO rules of Subsidy
- Need to support the allies in WTO

Fisheries

- Need to build capacity of marine fishing
- Invest on Fishing efficiency: fish preservation technology in the sea, landing station
- Keep the artisanal/ individual fishers out of the ban
- Claim the industrial fishing of the developed countries responsible for overfishing
E-commerce moratorium

- LDCs and Developing countries lost revenue of 56b$ in 2017-2022
- We need to build capacity and invest to raise domestic e-commerce platform, healthy culture and security
- Protect local against the multinational ones (Uber vs. pathao, Daraz/ Alibaba vs. evaly)

TRIPS waiver & Medicine

- People’s right to access to medicine
- Claim waiver beyond graduation until sustainability
- Protect Bangladeshi pharmaceuticals to ensure low-price medicine in future
- Develop the medicine policy/ sustainable health policy: Remember SDG
Our Recommendations

• Demand implementation of the promises made in MC12 about graduation and sustainability
• Keep our position to act for the LDCs
• Protect local agriculture from subsidized food import
• Ensure justified price of crops
• Invest in Crop preservation technology: Cold Storage
• Ensure food security through availability of low price food: Support Public Stockholding in AOA

Our Recommendations

• Fight for TRIPS waiver in pharmaceuticals to ensure the people’s access to affordable medicine
• Need more investment for the capacity building of the pharmaceutical industry for the future export: Alternative possibility of the RMG
• Blame the proposed text on fisheries: as those are supporting industrial fishing and accusing small-scale fisheries sub-sector for overfishing
• Redefine the marine fishing capacity
• We need to invest more in fishing capacity building
Our Recommendations

• Explore the Blue Economy and invest on it.
• Invest on technology capacity building for e-commerce before opening the market for competition: Protect local entrepreneurs for e-commerce
• Pakistani e-commerce platform Daraz (Alibaba) is now the largest e-commerce platform in Bangladesh: We need to support a local platform to make it bigger than foreign ones before graduation
• Claim clear DFQF Access for the RMG in USA, not satisfied with 97% dodge.

Thank you