

DIGITAL TRADE INTEGRATION: ROLE OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Case of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka



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Research Objectives



- Expedite digital trade among SMEs through SSTC
- Inclusive regional and free trade agreements to enable digital trade integration
- Optimize inter-operability among public and private sector for digital uptake
- Challenges and opportunities for developing economies to learn and boost SSTC

Research Methodology



Use of mixed –methods approach

- a. Evaluate the existing gaps (definitional and classification)
- b. Application of SSTC in other countries
- c. Examine treatment of digital trade integration in trade agreements
- d. Survey of digital sector firms from all three countries

Review of Trade Agreements

- Harmonization of standards
- Simplification of banking procedures
- Digital trade platforms
- Data protection, localization, transfer and sharing
- Online consumer protection
- E-commerce and digital payment
- Digital trade in domestic policies



Pandemic Induced Risks to Digital Trade



Infrastructure
and connectivity
gap

Restrictions of
electronic
transactions

Cyber security

Lack of
awareness of
digital trade

Discriminatory
regulatory
framework

Lack of
innovative
financing

Travel
constraints for
service providers

**Recommendations for
Reforms in Domestic
Policies**

Initiate tripartite working group

Improving digital eco-system

Ensure digital inclusion

Women-in-trade are neglected

Country specific research to unfold the potential of
SSTC

Financing of digital trade start-ups

Adoption of digital technologies at borders

Challenges in Bilateral and Regional Trade

Securing electronic payment services

Adopting electronic authentication

Digital logistic mechanism

Electronic measures for trade-related data and documents

Recommendations for SSC and SSTC

Collaboration in
data infrastructure

Capacity-building
programmes in IT
and ICT

Local and trade
taxes levied on
digital sector

Special financial
mechanism

Cross-border
investment
cooperation

Development of
digital/trade
occupation
taxonomy



THANK YOU

