
World Food Programme and Agriculture Export Restrictions

Exploring the World Food Programme's Experience During the 2008 Food Crisis and the Way Forward to MC 11

CONCLUSIONS

A multilateral agreement "not to impose export prohibitions or restrictions on foodstuff purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme" would have sizable benefits as it would:

- Prevent the imposition of additional commodity, transport and transaction costs on food assistance for humanitarian purposes;
- Allow to reach more vulnerable people with food assistance;
- Ensure timely delivery when food is needed the most, but hardest to access;
- Minimize food losses;
- Enable economies of scale as purchases could be optimized and transport corridors and port congestions avoided;
- Help ensure stable food supply to the most vulnerable;
- Stretch the taxpayers' money;
- At times, literally save lives.

The impact on volumes traded and market prices would be marginal.
