

Data Quality and Meta Data (Reporting, Assessment and Indicators)

- Data quality
- Timely data

Data quality

- Standard format for capturing data i.e., customs declaration forms,
- The use of structured data extraction format (51 fields) from customs (ASYCUDA ++ extraction for EUROTRACE),
- Data extraction was based on registration and some times assessment (it was a problem while taking data based on registration of exports/imports because of a number of clearances in imports due to partial payment of taxes and partly exporting). This was a problem by CSA to record the same item more than once. Agreed to take assessment instead of registration. The problem was identified when checking totals,
- Check total imports & exports of CSA against customs totals and accept if the difference is minimum (about 2-3%), but further investigation of the cause of difference was done if rejection and/or omission appears,
- Always to take updates made by customs, i.e., HS, CPC, etc...otherwise there would be difference of the added,
- SU data was available partially but not reliable (proper care was not given to the system of recording). Recently we are able to provide data in SU because COMESA gave technical assistance for both customs and CSA.

Timely data

Need for timely data is unquestionable, otherwise trade data would be unworthy.

- For market access negotiations and trade policy purposes (at national level by policy makers and heads),
- For market research by business community and economic analysis (eg. Linking industry and trade data),

Indicators should have

Period, HS code or commodity description, Quantity (Kgs & SU if any), Value, and may also include country of origin/destination, etc...

Compilation of merchandise trade statistics data

- Compilation was on annual basis and there is a plan to do biannual, reporting,
- Produce tables to users as to their needs especially in SU (eg. TV sets, Freezers, Vehicles are the major once).

Contents of the report are:

1. Summary of trade balance on annual basis,
2. Import & Export by country & section (quantity & value),
3. Major commodity export by destination (quantity & value),
4. Trade balance by partner,
5. Quantity and value of export & import by commodity group, destination & origin,
6. Import by end-use classification,
7. Direction of export trade (quantity & value).

Thank you !!