Data Quality and Meta Data

❖ Data quality

❖ Timely data

Data quality

- [ ] Standard format for capturing data i.e., customs declaration forms, designed by customs for national use,
- [ ] The use of structured data extraction format has 51 fields,
  - formats used were ASYCUDA $^{++}$ extraction for EUROTRACE, excel and now text,
  - COMESA assisted all this,
- [ ] Check total import & export values of CSA against customs totals and accept if the difference is very minimum if not the same (about 2-3%), but further investigation of the cause of difference was done if rejection and omission appears,
- [ ] Always we take updates made by customs, i.e., HS, CPC, offices, etc...otherwise there would be difference of the added,
- [ ] The problem of unit values based on quality, brand, country of made and other standards have no boundary for classifying them in different HSs and as a result would have big differences in the unit values of the same commodity in different months.

Problem of Data Extraction

☐ Data extraction was based on
  - registration and assessment (the problem was 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 shipping for exports). This was a problem by CSA to record the same item more than once.
  - SU data was available partially and not reliable (proper care was not given while recording).

☐ Solution to the problems
  - Agreed to take assessment instead of registration. The problem was identified when checking totals,
  - Recently we are able to provide data in SU because COMESA gave technical assistance for both customs and CSA.

Timel y daTa

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

- 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 i.e. as an input for various studies to identify the gap between what is demanded and imported plus locally manufactured. Further more to know input needs for processing by factories and what not),

Indicators should have

Period (day, month and year), HS code and/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 was a plan to do biannual, (instead there is a quarterly indicator report beginning end of 2010 first quarter),
- ☐ Produce tables to users as to their needs especially in SU (eg. TV sets, Freezers, Vehicles, ... etc).

Contents of the annual 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).

Contents of the quarterly report are

1. Trade balance,

2. Value and Net weights of major Export & Import commodities,

3. Import by end-use classification,

4. Major export commodity by destination (value)

5. Major origins of import commodity (value).

Data dissemination

➢ Mostly dissemination to data users is upon request. It is in hard copies (publications) and electronic media when requests are bigger.

Thank you *!!!*