

INDIVIDUAL COURSE DETAILS

Specialised Training Programme on Select WTO Issues : Agriculture, Services, TRIPS and RTAs.

A. Name of the Institute	Centre for WTO Studies
B. Name/Title of the Course	Specialised Training Programme on Select WTO Issues : Agriculture, Services, TRIPS and RTAs.
C. Course Dates with Duration in Weeks <i>[note: dates may be fixed keeping in mind festivals, holidays, weather conditions, availability of accommodations, etc. No request for change in dates, once approved/ circulated will be entertained]</i>	From 13 November 2023 to 22 November 2023 Duration: 2 Weeks
D. Eligibility Criteria for Participants 1. Educational Qualifications 2. Work Experience required, if any 3. Age Limit <i>[note: ITEC norms is 25-45 years]</i> 4. Target Group <i>[Level of participants and target ministries/departments etc. may be indicated]</i>	Minimum Educational Qualification should be Graduation. The course is aimed for middle/senior government officials working in the Trade or Commerce Ministries in developing and least developed country, with a specific interest and knowledge in the identified areas.
E. Aims & Objectives of the Course	The main objective of the course is to enhance the understanding of the participants of the legal provisions of the WTO Agreements relating to Agriculture, Services and TRIPs; the state of play of

	<p>WTO and plurilateral negotiations on these issues, important developments and members' positions on these issues; salient aspects of RTAs negotiations on these issues.</p>
<p>F. Course Contents / Syllabus <i>[please attach course details / profile in Word Format for uploading on ITEC website]</i></p>	<p>As per Annex II.B.1</p>
<p>G. Mode of evaluation of performance of the participants</p>	<p>Based on class participation. This is a Certificate course</p>

Specialized Course on Select WTO Issues: Agriculture, Services, TRIPs and RTAs

From 13 November to 22 November 2023

Background and Rationale for Training

The establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has created a complex, rules-based system wherein developing and least developed countries are faced with a number of opportunities and challenges. It becomes imperative for policy makers and negotiators to have a comprehensive understanding of these issues as well as of the parallel growth of regional trade agreements. This would support their capacity for prepared and coherent approaches to commitments in the above areas, towards effective participation in the multilateral trading system and reaping its benefits.

Among the disciplines being created and administered by the WTO, it is important to have in-depth and specialized knowledge of the nature of commitments being undertaken and the dynamics of the negotiations underway. For the purpose of the proposed training the WTO agreements and negotiations in the domains of agriculture, services, and trade related intellectual property rights will be taken up for intensive study, as well as implications of the burgeoning complexity of regional trade agreements.

The relevance of concluding successful negotiations and effective implementation can be marked in each of the identified areas. Improved market access and reduced trade distorting subsidies in the trade of agricultural goods would allow for predictability and security for both importing and exporting countries alike and a fairer market for producers. Services are the fastest growing sector in the global economy and the enormous potential for trade in services merits attention and exploration by the developing and least developed countries. Trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs) present a controversial area that hold particular interest for developing and least developing countries, especially given the implications for public health, protecting traditional knowledge and culture specific products, etc. The mushrooming of regional trade agreements in turn is also creating an increasingly intricate and overlapping network of provisions including those on agriculture, Services and IPRs etc.

Course Structure and Duration

Given the rationale for the training, the Centre has developed a capacity building programme towards enhancing the understanding of these specific issues as they come under the purview of the WTO, their context, scope and coverage, rights and obligations of member countries under the various agreements, special provisions for developing and least developed countries, and negotiating dynamics.

The training will be imparted through classroom sessions including lectures, training tools as case studies, mock negotiations and group work. The tentative programme agenda and schedule for the training is provided at Section II-B.2 of the Annex.

The duration of the training programme will be eight working days and a weekend in between. The classroom sessions and field visits will be scheduled during the course of the eight working days and a cultural visit to the Taj Mahal at Agra will be organised during the intervening weekend.

Eligibility for Participation

The programme is intended for senior and middle level Government officials working in the Trade or Commerce Ministries in developing and least developed country, with a specific interest and knowledge in the identified areas.

Faculty and Pedagogy

Experts and Resource Persons specialising in the identified components of the trade discourse would conduct the classroom sessions. These include faculty of the Centre for WTO Studies and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, senior officials of the Department of Commerce, Government of India, as well as representatives from international institutions.

The pedagogy for the programme will include lectures, discussions and panel presentations as well as case studies and group work to provide participants with opportunities to develop their skills. Indian trade negotiators at the WTO will also be invited to provide their insights and stimulate discussion in these sessions.

Medium of Instruction

The medium of instruction will be English and no translation will be available.

Organisation of Training Programme

It is proposed that the Centre organise the training programme in collaboration with the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Tentative Programme
“Specialized Course on Select WTO Issues: Agriculture, Services, TRIPs and RTAs”

From 13 November to 22 November 2023

Day 1, Classroom	
Monday,	
0930-10:00 hrs	<i>Registration</i>
10:00 -1030 hrs	<i>Introduction and General Briefing</i>
1030-1115 hrs	<i>Inaugural Session</i> Welcome Remarks Inaugural Address Vote of Thanks
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Group Photograph & Tea/ Coffee</i>
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 1</i> An Overview of WTO Agreements: Their Coverage and Scope
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 2</i> Introduction to WTO Agreement on Agriculture: Key concepts
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 3</i> Introduction to WTO Agreement on Agriculture: Main provisions
Day 2, Classroom	
Tuesday,	
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 4</i> Agreement on Agriculture: Recent developments at WTO
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 5</i> Agriculture issues in FTAs
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>
1400 onwards	<i>Delhi Sightseeing (Visit to Qutub Minar and Delhi Haat)</i>
Day 3, Classroom	
Wednesday	
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 6</i> General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 7</i> Understanding GATS Schedule and

	General Principles & Guidelines on Scheduling services commitments (S/L/92) Practical illustration of scheduling with examples of various sectors	
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 8</i> Practical Exercise on Scheduling GATS commitments	
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 9</i> Practical Exercise on Scheduling GATS commitments	
Day 4, Classroom		
Thursday,		
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 10</i> Services: Recent developments at WTO	
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 11</i> Services issues in FTAs: Changing the GATS architecture	
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 12</i> Other Services issues in FTAs	
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 13</i> Provisions on e-commerce in FTAs	
Day 5, Classroom		
Friday,		
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 14</i> Introduction to Intellectual Property Rights	
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>	
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 15</i> Introduction to Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS): Key provisions (1)	
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 16</i> Introduction to Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS): Key provisions (2)	
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 17</i> Does strong protection of IPRs promote innovation	
Day 6, Agra Visit to Taj Mahal and Agra Fort		
Saturday,		
Day 7, Holiday		
Sunday,		
Day 8, Classroom		
Monday,		
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 18</i> TRIPS: Developments at WTO	

1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 19</i> TRIPS: Developments at WIPO	
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 20</i> Provisions on IPR protection in FTAs (1)	
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 21</i> Provisions on IPR protection in FTAs (2)	
Day 9, Classroom		
Tuesday,		
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 22</i> Geographical Indications: Issues of interest for developing countries	
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Session 23</i> TRIPS and CBD Linkage	
1245-1400 hrs	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400-1515 hrs	<i>Session 24</i> TRIPS and access to affordable medicines	
1515-1530 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1530-1645 hrs	<i>Session 25</i> TRIPS: Key concerns of Civil Society	
Day 10, Classroom		
Wednesday,		
1000-1115 hrs	<i>Session 26</i> IPR protection in a digital environment	
1115-1130 hrs	<i>Tea/ Coffee</i>	
1130-1245 hrs	<i>Closing Session</i> Collation of Lessons from the Indian Experience and Feedback from participants Address by MEA Valedictory Address by Department of Commerce Distribution of Certificates	
1245 hrs onwards	<i>Lunch</i>	

