

Preface

الحمد لله رب العلمين والصلاة والسلام على سيد الأنبياء والمرسلين و على آله و أصحابه أجمعين أما بعد.

We are pleased to present another issue of Salam Academic Journal to our respected readers while it has received full recognition from the Ministry of Higher Education. The efforts of Mr. Hamidullah Muzzamil, Head of the department of Research, Compilation and translation of the MoHE, are commendable for assisting all the universities in the scope of his work to the best of his ability. In the previous government (during the Republic), we attempted to get an official registration for Salam Academic Journal, but we were unable to do so due to interference of the security agencies at that time, and our request was rejected by NDS (National Directorate of Security), but all praises be to Almighty Allah that this problem has been solved.

The happy news is that after receiving the official registration for Salam Academic Journal, the articles and researches published in this Journal will be considered valid by the Ministry of Higher Education for promotions and obtaining academic ranks by lecturers and professors in the universities. Thus, the pages of Salam Academic Journal will always be ready to publish the articles, papers and researches of respected researchers, lecturers and professors, but only on the condition that high academic standards should be observed in the articles and research papers.

Salam University is determined to pay special attention to two basic responsibilities in this stage of its work: the first one is to pay full attention to the production of knowledge, and to raise the level of academic and scientific research as this is the only way by which nations and countries can reach the highest levels of development. Religiously, Salam University feels accountable to work for the betterment of quality education due to the fact that if Muslim Ummah claims that only Muslim Ummah has a system that can bring prosperity to humanity, and that is Islam which is the last message of Allah Almighty which has been sent to humanity by Allah Almighty through Muhammad (PBUH), and if Muslim Ummah wants Other nations to accept this claim seriously and surrender to it, then the Muslim Ummah should be a head of all in all aspects of life, and does not depend on the others all the times, and this goal can be achieved when we develop in all aspects of knowledge, and be stronger than any other nation in the field of research.

The second responsibility that Salam University is committed to, is to focus on academic and scientific research on the topics that are related to the intellectual, theoretical, practical problems and demand of the society, because any research that humanity and nation don't benefit from is worth nothing, and is not considered beneficial research. We kindly ask public and private institutions to cooperate in this regard, draw our attention to the issues that they face with, and need academic research, and to use the research that is conducted by universities and institutions of higher education for solving the existing problems.

A fundamental Problem of Higher Education Institutions

After the Islamic Emirate takeover, the Ministry of Higher Education was one of the ministries that has been active, its officials has worked very hard and made many efforts to prevent the education process from delaying, and therefore the universities have continued to operate normally, but in spite of all these efforts, higher education institutions and universities in the country are facing a crisis of shortage of students. A sufficient number of students have not been introduced to some of the faculties, even classes in some fields have not been formed in large public universities due to lack of students. The basic reasons for the decline of number of students according to our point of view, are two:

First: lack of motivation to study among the youth

This means that young people generally get modern education so that they can get perfect jobs after receiving the certificates, and thus get good salaries, but after the takeover of Islamic Emarat, from the very beginning two faculties, namely faculties of Sharia and Law & Political Science, lost their importance, and both of faculties were badly affected because the graduates of these two faculties were usually working in the field of judiciary and prosecution, but after the judicial system was changed and the duties of defense lawyers and public prosecutors were restricted, and the judicial branch became exclusive to the graduates of religious schools (*Madradas*), these two faculties faced great problems. In addition, the graduates of other faculties and departments were also reduced due to the fact that no one is employed in government institutions based on competences and expertise, and those who are employed are not paid preferential salaries, and the usual salaries are very poor.

Moreover, many job opportunities have been lost due to the closure of many private institutions, as well as a series of statements by some officials against the modern education hurt the motivation of education among the youth, and because of lack of interest in education among the youth, the number of students has decreased in universities.

In fact, this dire situation reached to the extent that universities used to have a large number of participants in the entry test, despite the announcement of very high discounts in tuition fees, from last year only a small number of students are participating in the entry test, and during the enrollment and academic year this number decreases even more and more.

Second: The Poor Economic Situation of the Country

The second reason for the decrease in the number of students in private universities and higher education institutions is the economic problems of the Afghan citizens. Despite the fact that many universities and higher education institutions have reduced their tuition fees (educational expenses) very much, even deductible rates are higher than 50%, many students cannot afford even these low expenses due to the poor economic conditions. When majority of Afghans are in a situation where the basic necessities of life are not accessible, how will they dare to spend on their children's education. In addition, some of the rich people who could afford to spend on education left the country, which affected private

universities and higher education institutions very negatively and caused the decline in the students' number.

Furthermore, when girls were temporarily banned from universities and higher education institutions recently, this worsened the situation even more, and it is to the degree that some big number of higher education institutions are on the brink of closure.

What is the solution to this problem?

These problems are mostly related to the general policies of the country, which are not the responsibility of Ministry of Higher Education, and making changes in these policies is beyond the work scope of one ministry. Thus, the general belief is that this and other similar problems can be solved as a result of the special attention of the Islamic Emirate, in such a way that the young people who graduate from the institutions of higher education should be given value as they deserve it, employment in government jobs should be based on competence, and the distinction between religious and modern education that exists in the minds of some officials should be eliminated. We shouldn't consider religious specialties very important and expertise in other sciences less important since the importance of each field of knowledge in Islam is determined by the level of need for it at that time in the relevant society. If we sometimes have more experts in jurisprudence, but we don't have enough experts in agriculture, at this time preference should be given to the expertise of agriculture and livestock rather than the expertise of jurisprudence, and at this time, this will be the demand and instruction of Islam.

In addition, creating real economic development in the country is another aspect of solution to this problem. Such real economic development should be created where the economy is based on industry and production, as a result of which we can maintain the trade balance, and job opportunities are provided to citizens, which cannot be achieved only by selling raw materials. Moreover, in order to keep the value of Afghani stable, we have to depend on real economic system instead of temporary means which is receiving certain amount of dollars for sale in the common market every month in order to artificially increase the demand for Afghanis and increase the supply of dollars and maintain the price of Afghanis against the dollar, as the previous government used to do. In fact, this process was easy for the former government since it used to believe in foreign sources and did not have any determination to have independent economic system, while it is very difficult for the current government to rely on foreign countries in its financial field continuously since Islamic Emirate does not believe in external funding and claims to have an independent economic system, and believes that external financial assistance could be temporary solution for fighting poverty but it cannot be long-term solution.

Putting an end to such challenging problem requires fundamental changes, such as creating Industrialization such as industry, agriculture, mining, etc. and investing on it. In addition, focusing on the productive economy, creating factories, and production units in order to create job opportunities in the country on one hand, turn the country from a consumption market into a productive country, and maintain a balance of trade on the other hand is another logical solution.

We should solve our economic problems basically, and should not be looking forward to the mercy of others who may want to multiply our economy by zero at any time when they don't see their interests in our country anymore since all the current helps are for specific aims. For example, we import basic foodstuffs such as 50% of wheat, 80% of rice from others, which is the basic food of our countrymen, our electricity and many more necessary things, so if we do not produce these essential elements of our needs and at the same time do not have enough dollars for these imports, how will we be able to handle this situation? Hence, this situation demands the leadership of the Islamic Emirate to make serious and scientific efforts to put an end to this critical situation.

In addition, it also demands that the rule of law should be restored in the country, and self-restraint should be eliminated because for the above mentioned development, capital investment and creation of a convenient atmosphere for the investors are needed, and both of these are based on the rule of law. In addition, open trade and access to fair collaboration at the world level requires that we have relations with the world and express our opinions in every forum. Although the cruel international behavior has created obstacles before having strong relations with others, we have also created some obstacles from the inside. We have to overcome the existing obstacles, especially the ones in which there is no stepping down from the principles and unchangeable commands of Islam, and then share our case with world so that we will at least shame those people and countries who use double standards, and act cruelly.

These are all actions that are necessary for positive change of country's situation, which will help to improve the economic condition of our countrymen, and this requires political will that the leadership of the Islamic Emirate must show.

We believe that all these steps should be among the priorities of Islamic Emirate because the purpose and mission of the Islamic Emirate is to achieve the goals for which Allah Almighty sent His Last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and all the previous Prophets (peace be upon them) to protect and respect those objectives. These are the objectives which the scholars of Jurisprudence and Principle of Jurisprudence call the necessities of religion (ضروریات الدین) that could not be achieved without taking the above steps, and the above steps cannot be taken until the eligible people are not nurtured in the society, and the Afghanistan's youths are not equipped with the ornament of knowledge and education. According to the scholars of Muslim Ummah, *Maqasid* (Objectives) of Islam which should be priorities of the Islamic Emirate are summarized in the following objectives which cannot be achieved without scientific knowledge:

First: Protection and growth of Faith or religion (din)

Before talking about the protection and growth of religion, it is necessary to say that some people understand the protection of these objectives in a very poor way. They think when the punishment of apostasy is applied, religion is protected, or when the punishment of theft and robbery is implemented on thief or robber, then the protection of the property is obtained.

This is a very imperfect concept, that's why the scholars say that there are two types of means for the protection of each of these objectives: One type is positive means, and these are the means that are used for the growth and development of these objectives, and it is necessary to use these means, and the other type is negative means which are used against those who stand against these objectives and violate them, such as Sharia punishments which are considered as negative means to protect these objectives.

The meaning of protecting the religion is to convey the religion to the people through all means, to use all kinds of means to establish the belief in people's hearts, to promote the sciences related to the defense of belief, as well as to facilitate the ways of acting upon religion, and provide facilities for those who practice religion. In short, providing all the means that are necessary for the protection of religion becomes the duty of Muslims and an Islamic state as a whole which is needed for the protection of religion, whether it is material, spiritual or scientific, including nurturing experts, preparing successful preachers and Scientifically, it involves reaching such a stage that the military industry achieves such advances by which we can challenge the enemies of Islam according to the instruction of the Holy Quran, as Allah says: "Prepare against them what you 'believers' can of 'military' power and cavalry to deter Allah's enemies and your enemies as well as other enemies unknown to you but known to Allah". [Al-Anfal: 60].

Protecting religion, and developing religion become possible for a nation when it provides all the scientific and spiritual means that this responsibility demands.

Second: Protection of Life (nafs)

Protection of Life (nafs) means that all natural problems that endanger human and their lives should be overcome, including preventing natural disasters, curing diseases, providing all means for the treatment and establishing the pharmaceutical and medical industry. In addition, development of agriculture and livestock, which provides the necessary materials for the survival of human life, and meets the nutritional needs of the countrymen, and the protection of environment from pollution are necessary means for the protection of life. In fact, all these sciences and many other sciences are necessary and vital for the protection of human lives, and without these sciences, it is impossible to maintain and protect lives which is one of the fundamental objectives of Islam. Thus, it is also a religious obligation of a Muslim state, because it is the goal of Islam, and protection of the goals of Islam is the protection of Islam itself, and the protection of Islam is the main objective of Islamic Emirate.

Third: Protection of Intellect (a'ql)

For the protection of intellect (العقل) in a positive way as we stated before, the following tasks should be carried out: developing knowledge and education, opening new horizons for spreading Knowledge, providing ways for the development of intellectual sciences, developing experimental sciences and providing the best infrastructure to educate the people.

The development of knowledge and the development of intellect are for two objectives: first, the more a person progresses in knowledge and science, the more correct awareness of God Almighty increases, and the more a person's knowledge about Allah raises to a high degree, the stronger faith he

will have, the more he will know about Allah, and he/she will be more pious and righteous from everyone else, as Allah says in Qur'an: "Do you not see that Allah sends down rain from the sky with which We bring forth fruits of different colours? And in the mountains are streaks of varying shades of white, red, and raven black; just as people, living beings, and cattle are of various colours as well. Of all of Allah's servants, only the knowledgeable 'of His might' are 'truly' in awe of Him. Allah is indeed Almighty, All-Forgiving" [Fatir: 27, 28].

In these verses, issues related to agriculture, geology, biology and other modern sciences are mentioned, and later it says that only the servants of Allah who are knowledgeable fear Allah, it means that those who have these modern sciences can be more pious and righteous according the statement of the Holy Qur'an, so with the development of intellect, the strength of faith is created.

Second: any goal that is achieved as a result of growth and development of knowledge and intellect is to achieve the goal of the caliphate on earth. As a caliph of Allah on the earth, it is the responsibility of human to build and develop this earth, and to use all the universes that Allah has conquered for mankind. In fact, fulfilling this responsibility without the development and growth of intellect and knowledge, is impossible. Thus, the intellect must be preserved and developed, as well as what destroys the intellect or causes it difficulties should be prevented, and removed. Protection of intellect requires development of knowledge in different fields that helps to protect and develop intellect, and it should be one of the main objectives of an Islamic state.

Fourth: Protection of human race (nasl)

This means that a healthy and problem-free social system should be created. The maintenance of the human generation does not depend only on having children, but also the causes such as aggression of one country on another, internal wars that lead to mass destruction should be eradicated. In fact, eliminating these hindrances require political insight and better understanding. In addition, all the diseases that cause the death of the mother and child should be treated, and a disease free society should be developed, and removing all those fears which prevent the continuation of the human race, those fears for which the countries conducting the birth control programs, which the Holy Qur'an forbids, by saying: "Do not kill your children for fear of poverty". [Al-Anām: 151]. Also, prevention of morally damaging programs and providing alternatives to the society, protecting the family, training the people of the society on good morals and many other things are necessary for the protection and observance of this goal.

Fifth: Protection of Property (mal)

This means that the Muslim Ummah in general and the Muslims of Afghanistan in particular should be ahead of everyone else in the field of economy, which forms the backbone of life. Increasing the means of strong economy should be fundamental goal of an Islamic state, Poverty must be eradicated, trade, economic and financial systems must be developed, and schemes must be utilized by the help of which no project for the welfare and development of the nation face with hindrance and delay. There should be accountable institutions that prevent wasteful spending, theft and embezzlement. All the above

mentioned steps require a strong economic team and system, as a result of which this fundamental goal of Islam can be achieved.

These objectives are also the basic objectives of an Islamic state because the implementation of Islam must accomplish these objectives. If these objectives are not achieved, it means that we have not understood Islam correctly nor we have implemented it properly, and all these require knowledge and expertise, and the institutions that prepare qualified and expert people for better implementation of everything, are the universities and institutions of higher education.

Therefore, promoting the universities and supporting them is one of the responsibilities of the Islamic Emirate. Praise be to Allah, many officials insist on this, but only verbal emphasis is not enough, and practical steps must be taken that turn their verbal support into a reality, all the problems that create obstacles in front of these institutions should be eliminated, and hereby these institutions can fulfill their responsibilities alongside with the entire society.

The topics of this issue

As in the previous issues, different articles have been placed in this issue, all of which are written by the professors and lecturers of Salam University. This issue includes the following papers:

The first article titled: "Thinking is the way to faith" which has been written by pro. Dr. Muhammad Ismail Labib Balkhi (professor of Sharia Faculty of Salam University). In this research, he emphasized that thinking is a human's need and a religious obligation that many people are deprived from. The Holy Qur'an has always encouraged people to think correctly. This study has pointed out the benefits that people obtain as a result of correct thinking.

The second research, titled "Relationships of Islamic Emirate with Foreign Countries in the Light of Islamic Sharia" which is very important subject considering the current situation of Afghanistan, has been done by Prof. Dr. Misbahullah Abdul Baqi, Chancellor of Salam University. Some narrow-minded and radical people look at this concept as the matter of *Al-wala wa-l-bara* ("loyalty and disavowal", which signifies loving and hating for the sake of Allah") which is not perfect concept. On the contrary, our jurisprudential heritage, looked at them as *Al Maslahah Wal Mafsadah* (Securing benefits or interests and preventing harms). Wherever there have been benefits and interests of nation, Muslims have had relations with the people. In this research, it is also elaborated whether Islam accepts the plurality of Islamic countries or not? And if yes, then what kind of relation should be there?

The third article, titled "Islam and Theories of International Relations From problem-solving Concept to Liberating Concept" has been written by Dr. Rafiullah Atta (chancellor of Afghan International University) and Fatehullah Ahadi (Lecturer of Faculty of Law & Political Science of Salam University). In this article, the authors have tried to explain that Islam has a special strategy in international relations, and it is that Islam has such principles that if they are observed properly, the problems between nations and countries will be solved, and no problem will arise between them. On the contrary, the other concepts are based on problems-solving when take place and don't focus on preventing them.

The 4th article, titled "Studying the Use of Mortgaged Property from the Perspective of Islamic Sharia and Legal System of Afghanistan" has been written by Mr. Abdul Halim Hakimi. He has done research on a very crucial subject that so many Afghans are in much need of it. He has preferred the side of caution and has considered the use of mortgage impermissible even if it is carried out under the in the name of *Bai al wafa*.

The fifth article, titled "Difference between Promise and Contract" has been written by Dr. Rafiullah Atta (Chancellor of Afghan International University) and Mr. Ahmad Samadi (dean of Faculty of Law of Salam University). They discussed a technical legal issue, which elaborates that promise and contract are two different concepts since promise can have moral obligations but not legal obligations, while contract has legal and sharia obligations. In addition, they explained some other differences between the promise and the contract and removed any confusion in the minds of some people.

The sixth article, titled "Wrong Tafsir of the Holy Qur'an" or Misinterpretations of the Holy Qur'an" has been written by Dr. Fasihullah Abdul Baqi (Professor of Sharia Faculty of Salam University). He tried to explain the meaning, types, rulings and harms of misinterpretation of the Holy Quran. This subject is important since many deviations in Islamic concept have occurred because of this. Sinister groups have always tried to spread their false and incorrect beliefs and concepts through wrong interpretation of the Holy Quran, and even now they are trying to promote evil thoughts amongst the Muslim Ummah through this way.

In the English section, we have an article written by Dr. Khyber Khishki, titled (Market Access and Performance (MAP) Study; Technical and Governing Barriers to Trade in the Central Asian Region (CAR) (Case Study on Trade in Apricots). This is an applied research on the formal and technical barriers to trade in Central Asian countries. A commercial item (apricots) has been chosen as a sample to investigate these barriers. This subject is very important from the point of view that the removal of such barriers will make it possible to promote trade between the countries of the region. Since Afghanistan is located between Central and Southeast Asia, it can play a very important role in the trade between these two regions and even between other regions as well.

For the convenience of respected researchers, Salam Academic Journal provides research abstracts in English and Arabic languages so that researchers who don't know Pashto and Persian languages can at least be informed of the content of published research papers.

The research articles published in this issue are the result of the efforts of esteemed researchers, but none of them claims that the research is completely perfect and above criticism, or free of mistakes. In fact, it is human effort which get better as a result of reviews. Therefore, the Editorial Board of Salam Academic Journal kindly asks all respected teachers, lecturers and professors to scientifically criticize the published articles, and the pages of Salam Scientific Journal are ready to publish the critical articles of them.

The Editorial Board of Salam Academic Journal is grateful to the researchers, professors and lecturers who have spent their valuable time to carry out research and prepared the articles. We pray to

Allah Almighty to grant them more success, and request other respected professors and lecturers to produce valuable papers, and we promise -if meet the standards – that the Salam Academic Journal is ready to publish them, and thus they can play an active role in the educational development of the society.

Editorial Board of Salam Academic Journal

**Market Access and Performance (MAP) Study; Technical and Governing
Barriers to Trade in the Central Asian Region (CAR) (Case Study on Trade in
Apricots)**

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Abstract

This paper assesses non-tariff barriers to trade in the above-mentioned countries from two perspectives: the first is MAP; procedural and regulatory barriers to trade, both inside the region and with countries outside of the region; while the second perspective looks at a concrete example by focusing on the export of apricots (fresh and dried). Apricots were selected for this case study because they are produced in all of the CAR countries, although the growing conditions and volumes are different, as is their export potential.

The preparation of this paper involved: (a) desk research to review the work undertaken by international organizations, donor agencies, and trade associations on Technical and Governing Barriers to Trade in the Central Asian Region (CAR) Region, including apricots, (b) the identification of 27 respondents including 18 companies, involved in export/import, and 9 export promotion organizations, private business associations, foreign countries' trade representatives and experts in the CAR region, and other countries active in the region (Russia, Turkey), and (c) telephone and online interviews using two types of questionnaires made up of 5-8 questions. The first questionnaire was focused on general procedural and regulatory barriers to trade; the second dealt specifically with procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in fresh and dried apricots

Keywords: Trade Barriers, Non-Tariff, Market Access & Performance, Technical and Governing

1. Introduction

During the last 20 years the Central Asia countries have seen significant developments in their economic relationships. Among other factors, the reduction of trade barriers by entering into free trade agreements and/or joining various economic unions has led to the rapid growth of trade volumes in this region.

The CAR region countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) are involved in trade both among themselves and with other countries of the world, where their main trading partners include (in descending order of importance) China, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Germany, France, Italy, Ukraine, India, Pakistan, Iran, UAE, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Thailand.

At the same time, procedural and legal measures regulating foreign trade in the region remain complex and sometimes impose excessive requirements on traders, thus becoming barriers to trade. Such procedural and regulatory barriers have a greater negative impact on international trade than tariffs. Procedural and regulatory barriers to international trade are the result of excessive, bureaucratic documentary requirements, legal and other non-tariff measures¹, procedures and practices, which go beyond those needed for a rational level of protection for society.

For the purposes of this paper, we looked at regulatory requirements (technical, sanitary, phytosanitary, veterinary, origin of goods, laboratory tests, quality assurance, market surveillance against counterfeit or unsafe goods, etc.), which go beyond the normal scientific requirements for such inspections, or the needs of society for the safety and protection of consumers and producers from disloyal competition and unsafe goods. These can be due to:

- a) Diverging standards that are not harmonized with international standards;
- b) Standards that are outdated and do not reflect current technologies;
- c) Technical regulations that are not proportionate to the risks that they set out to address;
- d) Conformity assessment procedures that are unnecessarily restrictive (for example, requirements to have all imports nationally tested/certified);
- e) Inadequate or lacking "quality infrastructure" (such as no testing labs, no accredited laboratories, no internationally recognized certification bodies, or
- f) Lack of expertise by business and/or the administration.

The study underlying this paper was conducted with two purposes: first, to analyze technical and governing barriers to trade in the CAR countries with a focus on the trade in apricots, as an example, and

1 -UNCTAD defines non-tariff measures (NTMs) as "policy measures, other than ordinary customs tariffs, that can potentially have an economic effect on international trade in goods, changing quantities traded, or prices or both". Some NTMs such as standards and regulations may expand trade by facilitating production and exchange of information, reducing transaction costs, guaranteeing quality and achieving the provision of public goods. Others, such as quotas or voluntary export restraints, are restrictive by design, which explains why the word "barrier" is used for them, meaning discriminatory non-tariff measures imposed by Governments to favour domestic over foreign suppliers (see Non-Tariff Measures to Trade: Economic and Policy Issues for Developing Countries, UNCTAD 2013, online: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditctab20121_en.pdf)

second, to develop some proposals/recommendations for moving forward on the regional elimination of non-tariff barriers for the Governments of these countries to consider.

2. Methodology

This paper assesses non-tariff barriers to trade in the above-mentioned countries from two perspectives: the first is MAP and procedural and regulatory barriers to trade, both inside the region and with countries outside of the region; while the second perspective looks at a concrete example by focusing on the export of apricots (fresh and dried). Apricots were selected for this case study because they are produced in all of the CAR countries, although the growing conditions and volumes are different, as is their export potential.

The preparation of this paper involved: (a) desk research to review the work undertaken by international organizations, donor agencies, and trade associations on Technical and Governing Barriers to Trade in the Central Asian Region (CAR) Region, including apricots, (b) the identification of 27 respondents including 18 companies, involved in export/import, and 9 export promotion organizations, private business associations, foreign countries' trade representatives and experts in the CAR region, and other countries active in the region (Russia, Turkey), and (c) telephone and online interviews using two types of questionnaires made up of 5-8 questions. The first questionnaire was focused on general procedural and regulatory barriers to trade; the second dealt specifically with procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in fresh and dried apricots.

The respondents in the study were as follows:

Afghanistan – 4 (all traders)

Azerbaijan – 2 (1 trader, 1 trade representative)

Kazakhstan – 2 (both experts)

Kyrgyzstan – 7 (6 traders and 1 trade representative)

Tajikistan – 6 (3 traders, 1 business association and 2 experts)

Turkmenistan – 2 (1 trader, 1 trade representative)

Uzbekistan - 2 (1 trader, 1 export support organisation)

Russia – 1 (trader)

Turkey - 1 (trader)

Total: -27

Given a limited timeframe, the study had to focus on a small number of respondents, who were not always willing to respond over the telephone to those questions that they considered to cover sensitive issues. Consequently, this paper does not provide an exhaustive analysis of non-tariff regulatory and procedural barriers in the CAR region. The findings should be interpreted as indicative, and can be used for discussions on further activities, as well as a basis for further work, in the case where the Governments

of the CAR countries decide to request further regional studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade or work in support of regional supply chains.

3. General issues related to market conditions

Half of the interviewed traders in the CAR region noted that the procedures for obtaining export documents are often protracted on purpose. Officials seem not to be in a rush, and traders feel that they artificially delay the issuance of documents, which results in many traders looking for “unofficial channels” to accelerate the process, based on paying an extra “facilitation” fee.

Intermediaries are often involved by traders in order to help them overcome documentary and procedural barriers. More than half of the interviewed traders (some of whom had worked, out of dire necessity, with these intermediaries (i.e. unofficial “brokers”)¹ indicated that the unofficial “facilitation” channels were well-organized and performed better than the official institutions.

There is definitely a need to reduce subjective decisions in the official controls of trade and to reduce face-to-face contacts during controls. The introduction of more computer-based procedures and services, and the use of digital signatures in the region would increase transparency and accountability, and greatly reduce personal contacts in the regulatory processes, thus helping to reduce the hurdles created by the need to obtain paper-based documents, signatures and seals.

Some respondents (notably exporters of apricots) also mentioned issues related to the difficulty of newcomers to obtain sales outlets/locations at bazaars (market places) in a target country, even if all the documents are in order, unless they pay unofficially to “special people”. At the same time, this is a local market access issue that goes beyond the scope of this paper.

According to studies by UNOPS² and ESCAP³, since 2004 the foreign trade turnover of Afghanistan with Central Asian countries has been growing, with the exception of 2009 (due to the generalized trade contraction in the aftermath of the global financial crisis). Nevertheless, officially recorded trade between Afghanistan and its Central Asian partners remains very limited. According to UNCTAD’s UNCOMTRADE and UNECE data (see annex II), Afghanistan’s exports to the CAR countries constituted only 7.40% of Afghanistan’s total exports and imports from the CAR countries only 8.05% of Afghanistan’s total imports. “Dry ports” (17 in Afghanistan), are connected among themselves and with Central Asia by railroads, and play an important role in trade. Three dry ports connect Afghanistan with Tajikistan, two with Turkmenistan, and one with Uzbekistan; and trade has been increasing between Afghanistan and

1- These intermediaries should not be confused with legitimate customs brokers who assist companies in fulfilling their legal obligations by taking care for formalities related to customs clearance.

2- Abuse of Legal Trade to Organize Trafficking in Opiates in West and Central Asia, UN ODC report, October 2012

3- Afghanistan and Central Asia: Strengthening trade and economic ties, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 2014, online: <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Afghanistan%20and%20Central%20Asia-Strengthening%20Trade%20and%20Economic%20Ties.pdf>

these three countries since 2007. The long-term plan is to build a railroad across Afghanistan to the Indian Ocean ports. The rye and wheat imported to Afghanistan from Kazakhstan, using this dry-port system, increased by 96.5% in the first quarter of 2015, compared to the same period in 2014.¹

In the other direction, the yield of crops in Afghanistan depends very much on the climate, while Afghanistan's water irrigation system was almost destroyed during the civil war.

The current infrastructure also lacks warehouses with chilling equipment and transportation services. One kg of grapes currently costs less than \$0.5 in Afghanistan, while in the Gulf countries it reaches \$5.0 per kg. Expanding exports to international markets would significantly increase the profits of Afghan agricultural producers.

In April 2015 Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan reported reaching the final stage of negotiations of a trade agreement which will simplify transit between the countries. Such a "transport corridor" is likely to decrease barriers, help increase the volume of regional trade and enhance foreign investments.

Turkmenistan has maintained a positive trade balance for many years, and its trade surplus has grown since the early 2000s. The country has a very small share in global agricultural trade. Turkmenistan has not yet applied to accede to the WTO, does not belong to any regional trade agreement, and its economy remains relatively isolated. Foreign trade is *de facto* controlled by the State. There is an obligation to register all wholesale and export-import contracts with the State Raw Material and Commodity Exchange. A company representative should be present in person for the registration.

4. Apricots case study

As mentioned above, apricots (fresh and dried) were selected for a case study because apricots are produced in all CAR countries. The weather conditions and volumes of trade are very different. However, cross-border trade in apricots is visible across the region, and a review of trade in apricots can serve the purpose of this paper in highlighting barriers to trade.

We have identified: three countries as key producers of apricots (Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan); two countries (Afghanistan and Azerbaijan) which produce and export less than the first three countries, and we have described separately Kazakhstan, which has become a hub for re-exporting apricots to Russia, and Turkmenistan, where apricots are grown in small quantities, and are mainly imported.

5. Impact of identified Technical and Governing barriers on supply chains in the region

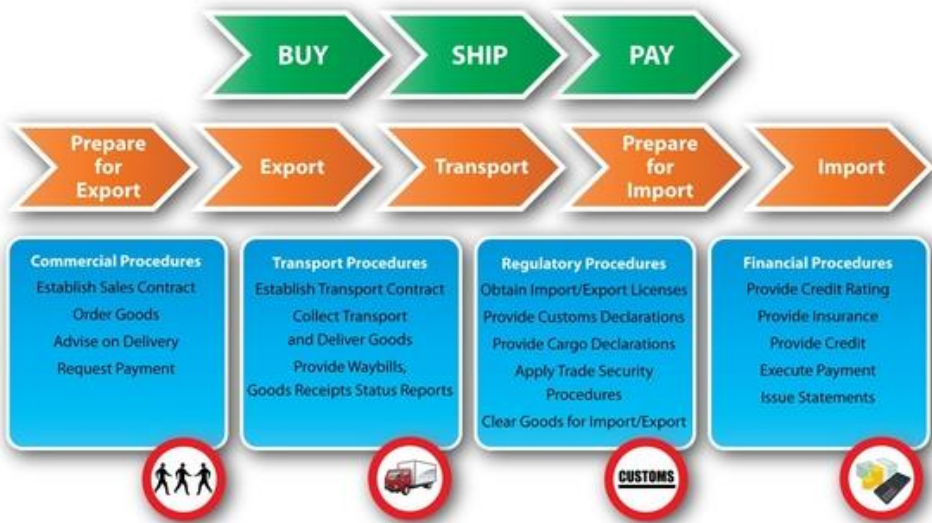
The CAR countries have the potential to export agricultural and textile products on much higher levels than they currently do. Yet in order to do this, they have to create an enabling environment for the development of international supply chains, including for perishable goods, such as fruits and vegetables, which require fast delivery and special transportation conditions. Cross-border supply chains in Central

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Asia, which encompass a large number of participants from the seller to the buyer, add a great deal of complexity to the process.

The main problem indicated in the study was the lack of coherence between different national requirements as well as the lack of cooperation and coordination between various actors involved in the supply chains of the region: starting from the producers and traders, and including transporters, regulatory agencies, and trade financing institutions and agents. Traders in apricots noted that they face problems already in establishing contracts and finding their place in the markets of importing countries (issues that are not the focus of this paper, but which constitute an integral part of the supply chains for the goods we are looking at). They do not have serious problems with obtaining certificates and licenses, but face obstacles at the stage of Customs clearance, which indicates a lack of coordination and transparent collaboration among regulatory agencies. In addition, even if exporters of dried apricots may not have serious problems in obtaining certificates at home, these certificates are not recognized in some target countries for export (e.g in Western Europe) thus reducing the possibilities for export diversification.

Figure 1: The International Supply Chain as defined by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business UNCEFACT Supply Chain Reference Model



The information available to the author of this paper identified several measures that limit the expansion of cross-border supply chains. These are limitations both to the efficient interaction between various participants in the process, and to the fast movement of goods.

Partly due to the fragmentation of the regional market after the independence of the CAR countries, which introduced new borders and multiple new layers of regulations and costs (in particular for goods

transit), they have been largely excluded from global and regional value chains. A country can develop when new value chains develop, and they are linked through cross-border supply chains. Countries that manage to integrate into such international supply chains stand much better chances to reap the benefits of modernization, technological development and prosperity. Globalization has offered new opportunities. Transport and communication links crossing Central Asia could positively affect the services sector, as well as local agribusiness, minerals and textile industries, which are traditionally the sectors where many CAR countries have a competitive advantage.

Becoming a transit region between Europe, South and East Asia, Russia and the Middle East is an obvious opportunity. Yet the challenge is how to integrate the Central Asian economies into international supply chains or create new, regional ones; and how to add value through increased production, provision of services and logistics along these supply chains. These issues can be partly addressed through trade facilitation and regulatory harmonization along supply chains; yet these have to be elements of a concerted effort involving all participants in these supply chains.

Currently, many "intermediaries" make money on the inefficiency of these supply chains by "facilitating" business processes; thus helping businesses, and particularly SMEs to deal with problems due to overly complex procedures. The prolonged time for issuing of documents, delays at the borders (often until perishable goods really perish), requirements to submit the same data or even documents more than once, and requests for additional documents, as indicated by the study, point to inefficient supply chains. The causes of these inefficiencies may be many: a simple lack of maturity of supply chains, a lack of skilled regulatory agencies' staff, or a conscious activity aimed at extracting rents from trade. The results are the same: reduced competitiveness and reduced economic diversification.

Expanding already developed channels of exportation, market diversification, and leveraging niche markets for organic, ecological produce by local producers as well as exporting to Europe, the USA and Japan (all discussed by respondents) may become real opportunities, but for this to happen these ideas would need development and the producers and exporters would need to become better integrated into cross-border supply chains.

The result of inefficient supply chains is essentially the same everywhere: transaction costs increase, and traders ask higher prices at the market to recoup them; however, high prices directly affect their competitiveness. This is probably why agricultural produce from China or South America is offered at lower prices in Moscow than produce from Central Asia, despite the distance and logistics. A food embargo introduced in mid-2014 and extended by the Russian government until mid-2016 has created a surprise opportunity for Central Asian producers, but it seems that they are missing this opportunity to increase exports to countries where barriers to trade are lower.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

6.1 Conclusions

The results of the study indicated that issues exist in various aspects of the clearance of goods, yet the respondents noted that a significant portion of the problems, notably in the case study of exports of apricots, are related to the process of Customs clearance, as well as to problems related to the lack of recognition of laboratory testing results in the target countries and/or the use of outdated standardization systems.

Half of the interviewed traders in the CAR countries claim that public officials delay the issuing of export-related documents artificially, creating additional complexity, and making traders look for “unofficial channels”, i.e. intermediaries who are able to accelerate the process for an extra fee of up to 30-40% of the value of the goods. The widespread use of these “unofficial channels”, which facilitate the movement of goods, indicates that trade and regulatory procedures are both not simple and not properly implemented.

There is a problem with the still high rate of subjective decisions included in regulatory agency controls in Central Asia. One of the possibilities for addressing this issue is to increase the use of electronic procedures and documents which could limit face-to-face contact between traders and officials, and reduce the scope for subjective decisions and potential abuse.

The problems reported by the traders point to the insufficient development of national regulations and procedures, following international rules, and guiding international trade in the region. The CAR countries are the region that is least integrated in the global rules-based trading system – more than half of the CAR countries are not yet members of the WTO. Even if, as indicated by the respondents, problems persist in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which are already members of WTO, the EEU, or both, the problems are primarily related to the inefficient implementation of international standards and agreements, while accession to the global trading system and its rules can help improve the situation.

Delays at the borders persist, and there is a multiplicity of reasons, as indicated by the respondents. Even if no more Customs controls are required at borders between members of the Eurasian Economic Union, traders still report border delays caused by those control agencies that are still active at the border. Inter-agency coordination is typically low in the region, and it is “normal” to ask traders to physically submit the same data to different state agencies located in different places.

The problems with delays at the borders, as well as with arbitrary controls (as indicated in the responses) should be dealt with by automation and also by focusing on risk-based selective controls. Judging from the character of problems indicated by traders, risk management systems, regular cooperation among national control agencies, as well as organized cross-border cooperation (e.g. by establishing bilateral committees to oversee the organization of joint controls at border-crossing points)

are weak or missing. There is a lack of coordination and cooperation among the participants in supply chains.

There are a number of different issues in the CAR countries linked to obtaining certificates (phytosanitary, of origin, of conformity etc.), testing of produce and recognition of certificates in the countries to which the goods are exported.

Problems with transit and difficulties in access to trade financing were at the top of the “problem list” of three quarters of the study respondents. With the accession of Pakistan (from January 2015) and possibly China to the TIR Convention, Central Asia will see an increase in its role as a transit region. The TIR Convention and other instruments facilitating transit will become increasingly important not only for Central Asian exports and imports, but also for trade flows transiting the region. The CAR countries need to adapt to these changes. Renegotiating the legal basis for transit trade with Pakistan and China may become a priority. Concrete remarks made by respondents indicate that an old tendency of independent local political entities taking independent action in order to extract an excessive rent from transit trade in the region may be coming back, even if this is contrary to the long term interests of the countries and peoples in this crossroad of trade routes. The implementation of international rules and standards regulating and facilitating transit is the way to move forward. These instruments include: the mentioned TIR Convention; the 1982 UNECE International *Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods*; the GATT article V; the new WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; regional and bilateral transit agreements (such as the trilateral agreement on transit trade among Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan); the ECO transit transport framework agreement; bilateral agreements on harmonizing border-crossing procedures and exchange of information, etc. It is very important that a “spaghetti bowl” of agreements be avoided (as this would hinder rather than facilitate transit), and an overarching solution be sought for the region. The TIR Convention may serve as a good basis, even if other solutions are explored.

Even in such a simple supply chain as the production, drying and export of apricots, basically concentrated in one trans-border region (the Fergana Valley), where exports are concentrated on a large importer (Russia) with some attempts at diversification, one can observe the key problems facing supply chain formation and functioning in the CAR countries. Dynamic changes in trading and transit regimes – e.g. the establishment of the EEU, different documentary requirements, different levels of taxation in the different countries, and the imposition of some measures by Uzbekistan in response to these changes – may become impediments to trade.

The reduction and gradual elimination of trade barriers, trade and transport facilitation, the harmonization of the regulatory frameworks, and the implementation of common (UNECE) agricultural quality standards would bring trade costs down. At the same time, since these are cross-border, region-wide issues, only joint efforts between the CAR countries can have a significant impact on achieving these aims.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1. Recommendations stemming from the study

The conclusions of the study and desk study provided above lead to the following recommendations which the CAR Member States and Working Group on Trade may wish to consider.

The Governments of the CAR countries, the CAR Project Working Group on Trade, supporting international organizations and development partners should collaborate in order to:

1. Support the integration of CAR countries into the universal rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO (in compliance with sustainable development goal 17.10), so that the implementation of international rules strengthens the capacity of these countries to increase transparency and trade cooperation. Implementing the WTO Agreements on technical, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on trade facilitation will significantly improve the business climate in the region. Regional action on these issues has been on the agenda of CAR for years, and it is important that international development partners support this work.

2. Strengthen regional cooperation in trade facilitation, notably by the development of a regional CAR trade facilitation strategy, addressing identified procedural barriers to trade; creating and establishing interaction among national mechanisms for trade facilitation, such as national public-private, interagency trade facilitation bodies (in compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and UNECE trade facilitation recommendations 4 and 40) and/or Single Window facilities.

3. Support the public and private sectors in the region in establishing an enabling environment for the development of cross-border supply chains – in particular by helping them to identify regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and possible ways for them to be eliminated. The national trade facilitation bodies mentioned above may also wish to concentrate on overcoming the lack of coordination and cooperation among various actors along the supply chains (for example as indicated in the apricot supply chains case study).

4. Explore the possibilities and demand for a more in-depth regional study on non-tariff barriers to trade.

5. Attract international donors to support the elimination of specific, concrete obstacles.

A few examples from the study on apricots include:

- a. Building high-quality laboratories in the region for tests, the results of which would be recognized in new more lucrative export markets;

- b. Helping producers, traders and experts from the CAR countries participate in the development of international agricultural quality standards.

6. Assist CAR countries in the implementation of international trade facilitation and regulatory standards and the harmonization of standards with neighbouring regions, thus contributing to the countries' integration into international supply chains.

7. Further develop CAR as a platform for building regional cooperation between the leaders from governments and businesses in the region in a concerted effort to eliminate trade barriers. Political will and support from the private sector for regional cooperation in trade are necessary, and this requires the establishment of increased trust between all parties. ports and even longer distances to the main international markets, so the absence of cooperation diminishes even further their chances for development.

6.2.2 Recommended measures for building regional supply chains

The formation of efficient cross-border supply chains is a key element in the development of prosperous regions today (for example Europe and East Asia). The lack of maturity of such supply chains in Central Asia is a clear sign of the lack of regional cooperation, and the responses to this study underline this problem.

There should be a conscious effort on the behalf of Governments and international development partners, including in the framework of CAR, to provide an enabling environment for the efficient functioning supply chains in the region. In this context:

- Governments in the region should work towards establishing political and economic cooperation at the regional level, which would make possible cooperation and coordination between the various participants in cross-border supply chains.
- Facilitating supply chains should be one of the objectives of removing procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in the region, so that the movement of goods is not impeded by excessive measures.
- The CAR governing body on trade and transport may collaborate to encourage transport corridors, on the basis of multilateral and bilateral agreements, crossing the region north-south (Russia - Central Asia - Afghanistan - Iran and Pakistan) or east-west (China - Central Asia - the Caucasus or Russia - Europe). Trade facilitation and the harmonization of regulatory standards should become a key component of the work on these corridors.
- Governments should: build trust, public-private partnerships, and collaboration with the business community, including foreign enterprises involved in cross-border trade: this should include conducting regular meetings and establishing dialogues on issues that impede international trade including; establishing the right conditions for timely and accurate information exchange on changes in trade regimes minimizing the impact of new measures on trade through improved design and procedures for their introduction; giving time for businesses to comment on or suggest changes to draft laws and relevant regulatory documents; giving time to traders to manage changes in business processes that reflect legal amendments; maintaining a stable financial policy;

and, in general, simplifying trade procedures and regulations and working to eliminate the need for intermediaries to “facilitate” international trade.

- Assistance should concentrate on the enhancement of rules as the basis of the trading system in the region. In this sense, CAR could help countries accede to, or use better, membership in the WTO in order to implement better global rules, standards and best practices for trade. Assistance would also be needed in order to implement regional and sectorial instruments (conventions, agreements, standards and recommendations) in the area of trade facilitation, standardization of certificates, licenses and other trade and transport documents, and related procedures. The countries should further develop the legal basis for regional free trade, and combine their forces in the implementation of WTO agreements, notably the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. In 2015 Tajikistan made steps to ratify this Agreement, and Kazakhstan has to ratify it as part of the package for its accession to the WTO. The WTO encourages the Central Asian countries to seize the benefits that the Trade Facilitation Agreement offers, including in the area of “freedom of transit” which is especially important for land-locked countries.
- Governments of the CAR countries may wish to implement measures to:
 - a. Improve coordination among control agencies at the border, reducing the number of checks and delays. Implementing e-government services; submitting paper documents only once; and a transition to paperless document exchange (without requirements for stamps and submission in person) would help.
 - b. Install videocameras around border crossing points, and prohibit control agency staff from accepting cash payments from anyone crossing the border.
 - c. Develop and introduce internal, publicly available, standards for control agency staff, stipulating a concrete benchmark time (in hours) for checking vehicles crossing the border. Such a measure can be based on Time Release Studies and business process analyses.
 - d. Support the improvement of certain services such as: the guarding of cargo; cheap leasing/donation of second-hand refrigerator trucks to transport companies, training for exporters on how to use L/C, as well as business planning and filling in documents for bank loans upgrading warehouse facilities to respond to the concerns of traders.
 - e. Abolish legal requirements, if any, for advance payments for goods to be exported, and leave this to contractual relationships between the seller and the buyer.
- Invite international development partners to consider technical assistance projects on:
 - a. Providing equipment for testing laboratories in the CAR countries, which would be accredited by relevant international organizations, and located in places convenient for traders. Training of relevant staff and study visits may be included in the package;
 - b. Improving relevant legislation for the reduction of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.

- c. Improving export and import statistics in the region, so that these statistics are as accurate and as broadly available as possible

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Abstracts in English Language

Meditation the Way Toward Faith

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ismail Labib Balkhi

Abstract

Since thinking is very important, scholars considered it worship and they deemed it as an effective way of amending the perception, belief, worldview, and behavior of human beings, so it can be considered the path to faith.

This research titled "Thinking the Way to Faith", includes the following topics :

First, the literal and idiomatic meanings of "tafakkur", its importance and virtue, and then the essence of thinking are discussed .

Next, the types of thinking and its classification into acceptable and unacceptable, and its aspects are discussed in detail. Moreover, the methods of the Holy Qur'an about calling to thinking, and its obstacles are explained .

Then, the benefits and effects of thinking, which are one of the important aspects of this subject, are studied in detail. Finally, the paper is concluded by mentioning the outcomes of the research.

The Relations of an Islamic Emirate with Other Countries in the Light of Islamic Sharia

Dr. Misbahullah Abdul Baqi

Abstract

In this article, first of all, the importance and necessity of foreign relations are discussed in the light of Islamic Sharia, and it is made clear that it should be studied based on the rule of *Maslahah-Mafsadah* (Securing benefits or interests and preventing harms), and it is not the matter of *Al-wala wa-l-bara* ("loyalty and disavowal", which signifies loving and hating for the sake of Allah), on the basis of which the theological views of *Takfir* (excommunication from Islam of one Muslim by another) are boosted. In the current circumstances, there are two types of countries that an Islamic country can establish ties with: non-Islamic countries and Islamic countries. Relations with non-Islamic countries have been discussed in the previous Jurisprudential books because at that time there were not several Islamic countries, and all Muslims were living under the flag of one caliphate. In this article, it is discussed that the plurality of Islamic countries

should be accepted as a reality so that people in each territory create an administration to organize their affairs because Islam does not accept disorder and chaos, but none of the leaders of these countries has the status of Muslims' caliph, and relations with these Islamic countries should be established according to the same principles based on which Islamic countries establish relations with non-Islamic countries. However, there are only two additional principles for relations between Islamic countries, which are Islamic brotherhood, and the principle of love and friendship between Muslims.

Kew words: Dar al-Islam (territory of Islam), Dar al-Harb (territory of war), Dar al-Kufr (house of disbelief), foreign relations, Plurality of Islamic countries.

Islam and Theories of International Relations

From problem-solving Concept to Liberating Concept

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Abstract

As a universal religion, Islam looks at the issues of international relations from a different perspective in comparison to other approaches in the field of international relations. Islam considers the field of international relations as a way to maintaining stability and international security in line with the integration of the international community; a concept that you can observe in Islam's emphasis on the unity of Islamic societies. What is important from the point of view of Islam is not to maintain the current ongoing situation based on security policies in accordance with common and internationally accepted strategies, but in accordance with a normative-rule-based approach and based on the road map to the advancement of entire mankind.

This research aims to study the position and importance of Islam's liberating approach (which prevent problems from arising) to political phenomena and concepts, instead of their superficial and problem-solving view in a dialectical concept .

The importance of this research can be stated in the point that Islam has its own unique theory about international relations, which is the best solutions to get rid of problems in international relations in any situation .

This research answers the question that; Does Islam as a universal and comprehensive religion, have any solutions for international relations? The type of research in this article is analytical-descriptive.

Keywords: Islam, international relations, liberation, problem solving, Islamic society

Studying the Use of Mortgaged Property from the Perspective of Islamic Sharia and Legal System of Afghanistan

Assistant Prof. Abdul Halim Hakimi

Abstract

The mortgage contract is one of the contracts that is very widely used in our society today, and the majority of people are at a crossroads regarding the permissibility and impermissibility of utilizing mortgaged property, and they have many questions that they want to be answered. In this research, matters related to the mortgage contract, the legitimacy of the mortgage, the elements of the mortgage, the conditions of the mortgage, the types of mortgage, how to use the mortgaged property, the views of the jurists of four major schools of jurisprudence regarding the permissibility and impermissibility of using the mortgaged property are discussed, based on a library method of research. The research ends with a conclusion and a list of references.

Keywords: mortgage contract, mortgage legitimacy, how to use mortgaged property, Islamic Jurisprudence, law.

Differences between Promise and Contract

Assistant Prof. Rafiullah Ata

Proofreading: Mr. Ahmad Samadi, Dean of Law & Political Science Faculty

Abstract

As we know, words such as promise and contract are often mentioned as synonyms, and it is often thought that promise is the same as contract. In fact, it is hard for unprofessional persons to differentiate between these two mentioned concepts, but from the legal and professional point of views, there are many differences between these two terms. This research focuses on elaborating these differences from the point of view of Islamic Sharia and legal perspective. Actually, these two concepts are different in many ways such as in terms of the deadline, the obligation, the preface for the other, the parties and some other aspects. Thus, the differences between these two terms are studied in detail.

The importance of this research lies in the fact that no research has been done on this topic yet in the national languages, and in Arabic language, the material about the topic is scattered and concise, and no special research has been done in this regard. In addition, it is very important subject since it is the need of people and these concepts are considered one of the daily affairs of current era.

Our purpose from doing this research is to study the differences between promise and contract, and to know what concepts promise and contract represent.

In this research, the usual methods, especially the library method are used. Finally, the research ends with discussion and conclusion, which will provide the reader with a better understanding of the subject.

Wrong Exegesis of the Holy Qur'an

Meanings, Concept, Background, Causes, Fields and Dire Consequences

Dr. Fasihullah Abdulbaqi

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Abstract

On one hand, the unfamiliarity of some Muslims with the spirit of the Holy Quran and their lack of knowledge and understanding, and on the other hand, due to hatred and conspiracies of the enemies of Islam towards Islam, misinterpretations have been added to our exegetical heritage, which are definitely contrary to the real and accurate exegesis of the Holy Quran, and contradicting the spirit and teachings of the Holy Quran, and such interpretations are still existing in our *Tafsir* books. Unfortunately, this evil and offensive movement still exists today in different forms and work very hard by using all its means to achieve their sinister objectives.

In this article, I attempted to discuss and study the essential topics related to this phenomenon, which is called incorrect interpretation of the Holy Qur'an (Or Wrong Exegesis Of the Holy Qur'an) so that every Muslim gets aware of misinterpretation of Holy Qur'an and be saved from its harmful effects, the correct, and real interpretation of the Qur'an be protected, the evil conspiracies of the enemies against the Holy Qur'an be uncovered, and so that the entire Muslim Ummah and all humanity benefit from the correct and accurate instructions and teachings of the Holy Quran and reach the ultimate goal which is the establishment of a pure Quranic system on earth.

In order to achieve the aforementioned goals, this research is divided into the following topics :

- Meaning and concept of Wrong Exegesis of Qur'an
- The starting time of Wrong Exegesis of Qur'an in the field of interpretation of Qur'an.
- Dire consequences of misinterpretation;
- Types of misinterpretation;
- Israeliyat;
- Stray groups and sects;
- scientific interpretation of the Holy Quran;
- The Interpretation of Contemporary Secularists.

Market Access and Performance (MAP) Study; Technical and Governing Barriers to Trade in the Central Asian Region (CAR) (Case Study on Trade in Apricots)

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Abstract

This paper assesses non-tariff barriers to trade in the above-mentioned countries from two perspectives: the first is MAP; procedural and regulatory barriers to trade, both inside the region and with countries outside of the region; while the second perspective looks at a concrete example by focusing on the export of apricots (fresh and dried). Apricots were selected for this case study because they are produced in all of the CAR countries, although the growing conditions and volumes are different, as is their export potential.

The preparation of this paper involved: (a) desk research to review the work undertaken by international organizations, donor agencies, and trade associations on Technical and Governing Barriers to Trade in the Central Asian Region (CAR) Region, including apricots, (b) the identification of 27 respondents including 18 companies, involved in export/import, and 9 export promotion organizations, private business associations, foreign countries' trade representatives and experts in the CAR region, and other countries active in the region (Russia, Turkey), and (c) telephone and online interviews using two types of questionnaires made up of 5-8 questions. The first questionnaire was focused on general procedural and regulatory barriers to trade; the second dealt specifically with procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in fresh and dried apricots

Keywords: Trade Barriers, Non-Tariff, Market Access & Performance, Technical and Governing