

THE EXPECTED ROLE FOR WTO AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES IN SHEEP TRADE IN SUDAN

الدور المتوقع من إتفاقية منظمة التجارة العالمية على تطبيق القياسات
الصحية في تجارة الضان في السودان

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المستخلص

تم جمع البيانات والمعلومات من محجر بيطرى بورتسودان فى البحر الاحمر من السجلات والتقارير السنوية للفترة من 1999 وحتى 2005. المعلومات الخاصة باتفاقية منظمة التجارة العالمية لتطبيق القياسات الصحية جمعت من المواقع الالكترونية لمنظمة التجارة العالمية والمواقع الفنية ذات الصلة، وذلك لمناقشة دور الاتفاقية فى تنظيم تجارة الحيوانات الحية. اظهرت النتائج انه تم ارجاع بين 4.4% الى 14.5% من صادر الضان الشهرى خلال عام 2005، وذلك لاسباب صحية يمكن ان تستعمل للتغطية على اسباب تجارية.

Abstract

Data was collected from Port Sudan veterinary quarantine in the Red Sea from the annual and monthly reports during the period from 1999 to 2005. Information about international trade agreement were collected and discussed to explain the role of The World Trade Organization (WTO) and The

Agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, in regulating livestock trade and how these measures may act as a technical barrier to sheep trade.

Results showed that about 4.4% to 14.5% from the monthly exports of sheep were rejected in the year 2005 due to sanitary measures, which may be used as a disguised restriction to trade.

Introduction

Sanitary measures and technical barriers to sheep trade in Sudan have an economic importance due to the contribution of sheep exports in Sudanese national budget. Sheep exporting sector is influenced by the global trade regulations and in particular, the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, which adopts the OIE standards as the international standards for animal and animal products trade regulations.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an International body dealing with the rules of trade between nations and covers trade in goods, services and intellectual property.

WTO was established in 1995 and its head quarters in Geneva, Switzerland. WTO` s purposes is to help trade flow, serve as forum for trade negotiations and dispute settlement for conflicting disputes between its 151 member countries(Sudan is not a member yet) .

The purpose of **SPS** Agreement is to ensure that measures established by government to protect human, animal and plant health or life are consistent with obligations prohibiting arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination on trade between countries where the same conditions prevail(FAO- related technical assistance & information, article 1998) .

The **SPS** Agreement applies to all **SPS** measures that affect international trade and are intended to:

(A) To protect animal or plant life or health within the territory of the member state from risks arising from the entry, establishment or spread of pests, diseases, disease-carrying organism or disease-causing organism;

(B) To protect human or animal life or health within the territory of the member state from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in food, beverages or feed stuff;

(C) To protect human life or health within the territory of the Member state from risks arising from diseases carried by animal, plant or products thereof, or from the entry, establishment or spread of pests;

(D) To prevent or limit other damages within the territory of the Member state from the entry, establishment or spread of pests.

The **SPS** Agreement ensure that each member should name one enquiry point which is responsible for the provision of answers to all reasonable questions from interested members.

SPS agreement has chosen the international standards of three organizations as preferred measures for adoption by **WTO** members; **FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission**, **International Plant Protection Convention** and **OIE: Office International des Epizooties**.(The agreement on application of sanitary & Phytosanitary measures, 2005)

Materials and Methods

Data Collection:

Data were collected from Port Sudan quarantine files ,which comprised of monthly reports of the year2005 for months from January to May in the year 2006, annual reports from1999 to 2005and monthly records of rejected ships from Jeddah port.

Other data were collected through direct observations of Quarantine infrastructure, location and procedures.

Data about **WTO** agreements were collected from the websites of the **WTO**, **OIE**, **WHO** and Australian Quarantine Services.

Data Analysis:

The data from quarantine files were presented in tables and diagram and percentages were calculated by hand calculations to explain the results.

Results

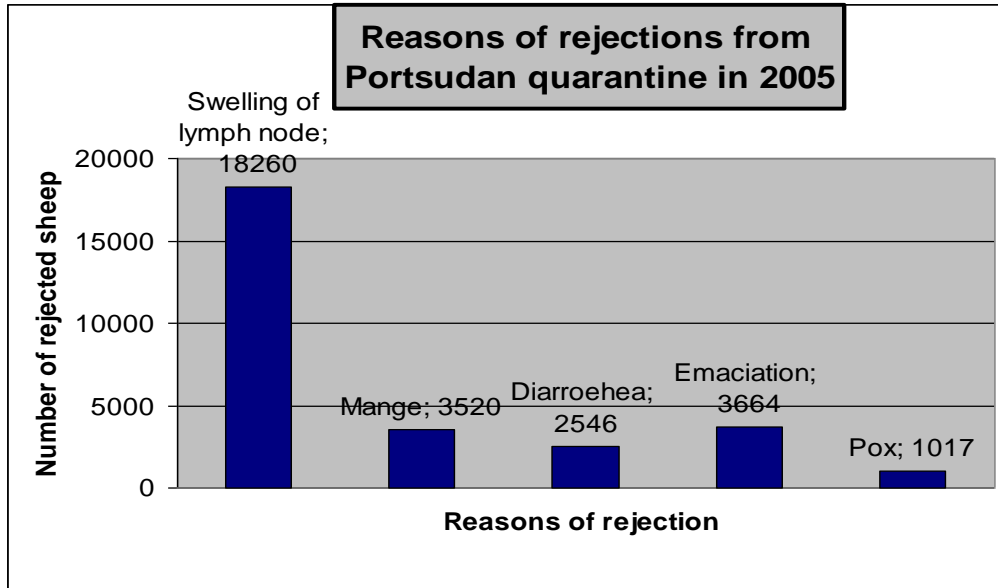


Figure (1) Diseases and conditions that led to rejection of export sheep at Port Sudan quarantine during the year 2005'

Source : Records of Port Sudan Veterinary Quarantine (2005 - 2006).

Table (1): Sheep rejection at Port Sudan quarantine in the period from 1999 to 2005:

<i>Year</i>	Sheep enter Port Sudan quarantine	Sheep died during quarantine period	Sheep taken by their owners	Sheep inspected for export	Sheep rejected for disease reasons	Percentage of rejected sheep in the inspected one
1999	1697629	12998	7127	1677504	60953	3.6%
2000	722763	3684	4018	715061	48451	6.8%
2001	*-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	1723853	7732	6343	1709778	113913	6.7%
2003	1381610	7887	5714	1368009	46298	3.4%
2004	1744164	16925	5267	1721972	45554	2.6%
2005	1370889	10582	5166	1355141	29007	2.1%

*Exportation was banned due to the outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in Saudi Arabia.

Source: Annual reports of Port Sudan Veterinary Quarantine (1999 - 2005)

Table (2): Total numbers and percentages of sheep rejection at Port Sudan Quarantine compared to Jeddah during the period from January 2005 to may 2006:

Month	Sheep enter Port Sudan quarantine	Sheep rejected from Port Sudan quarantine	Percentage of rejected sheep from Port Sudan quarantine %	Sheep exported to Jeddah port	Sheep rejected from Jeddah port	Percentage of sheep rejected from Jeddah port%
<i>Jan05</i>	330452	7167	2.5	323285	-	-
<i>Feb05</i>	33540	667	2.1	32873	3651	11.1
<i>Mar05</i>	52411	555	1.1	51856	6226	12.1
<i>Apr05</i>	67749	1499	2.2	66250	-	-
<i>May05</i>	119715	2118	1.8	117597	7580	6.4
<i>Jun05</i>	110486	3006	2.7	107480	-	-
<i>Jul05</i>	43325	3574	8.2	39751	4839	12.2
<i>Aug05</i>	33625	984	2.8	32641	4733	14.5
<i>Sep05</i>	120559	2029	1.7	118530	-	-
<i>Oct05</i>	120646	3412	2.8	117234	9545	8.1

Nov05	25451	259	1.0	25192	-	-
Dec05	312903	3737	1.2	309166	-	-
Jan06	70149	2164	3.1	67985	-	-
Feb06	119408	2013	1.7	117395	12572	10.7
Mar06	120825	3670	3.0	117155	14460	12.3
Apr06	113479	2965	2.6	110514	-	-
May06	98149	2556	2.6	95593	4240	4.4

Source: Records of Port Sudan Veterinary Quarantine (2005 - 2006).

Table (3): Sheep rejection and reasons at Jeddah port in the period from 1999 to 2005:

Year	Sheep exported to Jeddah port	Sheep rejected from Jeddah port	Percentage of rejected sheep	Major Reasons of rejection
1999	1616551	74868	4.6%	Pesudo-T.B, T.B,Vesicular Stomatitis,mange
2000	666610	33513	5.0%	Pox,mange, Brucella

2001	*-	-	-	-
2002	1595865	22391	1.4%	Pseudo-T.B, Brucella
2003	1321711	29114	2.2%	Vesicular Stomatitis, Brucella
2004	1676418	19753	1.2%	Hormones, Brucella
2005	1326134	36574	2.8%	Mange, Brucella

*Exportation was banned due to the outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in Saudi Arabia.

Source: Annual reports of Port Sudan Veterinary Quarantine (1999 - 2005).

Discussion

According to the records of Port Sudan quarantine; 62.9% from the whole rejection of the year 2005 was due to swelling of lymph nodes. This reason for rejection was unspecific

as no tests were performed to identify the problem that may be due to pseudo-tuberculosis or tuberculosis or morel disease or any other one. All these diseases have vaccines and they can easily be controlled using veterinary administration policies.

Emaciation was the second reason for rejection, which accounted for 12.6% of the rejection in 2005. The question is, for which disease or nutritional reasons?

The third reason was mange, with a percentage of 12.1 for 2005 rejection. Diarrhoea represented about 8.7% in the 2005 rejection for which no diagnosis for the causative agent was made. The last reason for rejection was pox disease with a percentage of 3.5 of the total rejection. This low percentage could be due to the regular vaccination of sheep pox applied by the Sudanese veterinary administration.

The importing country's veterinary administration requires four certificates: Veterinary health certificate for live animals, Certificate of origin and existence, Certificate of Foot and Mouth disease examination and Certificate of Brucella test.

Brucellosis is a very important reason for rejection by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

This requires the Brucella test for the whole stock of exported animals.

The test is done in the central veterinary research laboratories in Khartoum or in the veterinary research laboratories of the Red Sea state.

The samples are taken to the lab from the Quarantine of Elkadro to the laboratories in Soba where a serum agglutination test (Rose Bengal) is done and all positive results are excluded from Quarantine, but in the random test of Brucella (also rose Bengal) that done in Jeddah there are still positive results which lead to rejection of the whole shipment from Jeddah. So a test

with high specificity may be needed for exported sheep in Sudanese laboratories.

The veterinary administration of Saudi Arabia rejected about 4.4% to 14.5% from the monthly exports of Sudanese sheep in year 2005, and it reached 5% of the annual exports of the year 2000. But also there is no rejection in the month of December and January of year 2005 and 2006 and that was because of the Pilgrimage season and hence the need for more sheep to ElHaddi. This procedure could be an indicator for using sanitary measures as a disguised restriction for trade.

The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures regulates this point as it comes in Article (2) of the Agreement (Members shall ensure that their sanitary and Phytosanitary measures do not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between members where identical or similar conditions prevail, including between their own territory and that of other member Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures shall not be applied in a manner which would constitute a disguised restriction on international trade).

That mean if Sudan(the exporting country) and Saudi Arabia(the importing country) are both members of the WTO, then if the diseases that led to rejection are already endemic in Saudi Arabia, or Saudi Arabia is exporting sheep from a country which have similar health conditions as Sudan; the Kingdom should accept the sheep of Sudan.

The expected role of the SPS agreement in sheep trade sector if Sudan joins the WTO:

Sudan needs to enhance the veterinary services, inspection and quarantine systems, so as to join the WTO and to meet the international standards of animals and animal products markets. Or otherwise Sudan may lose great chance in international markets of animal sector due to the high competition and qualified products joining the WTO may assist in livestock trade improvement through the special treatment that the SPS agreement offers to developing countries. "Members agree to facilitate the provision of technical

assistance to other members, especially developing country members, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organization.

Such assistance may be in the areas of processing technologies, research and infrastructure, including the establishment of national regulatory bodies, and may take the form of advice, credits, donations and grants, including for the purpose of seeking technical expertise, training and equipment to allow such countries to adjust to and comply with SPS measures necessary to achieve the appropriate level of SPS protection in their export markets". (SPS agreement, Article 9.1)

Also the SPS agreement offers an extra period for developing countries after joining the WTO to comply with the international standards gradually; "The least developed country members may delay application of the provision of this agreement for a period of five years following the date of entry into force of the WTO with respect to their SPS measures, other developing country members may delay application of the provision of this agreement for two years following the date of entry into force of the WTO" (SPS agreement, Article 14).

Recommendations:

- 1- Improvement of the quarantines infrastructure, environment and bio security and the skills of quarantine personnel.
- 2- Identification and control of the specific problems and diseases that lead to rejection of sheep by importing country using more specific laboratory tests to ensure the freedom from diseases.
- 3- Search for alternative and new markets for Sudanese sheep.
- 4- Discuss and solve the real problems that lead to rejection with the importing countries authorities.
- 5- Develop the sheep production sector through extension and disease control policies.

- 6- Regulate the local livestock markets, and shorten the series of mediators between the real producers and the exporting companies, so as to raise the economical status of producers, and encourage them to increase their production.

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