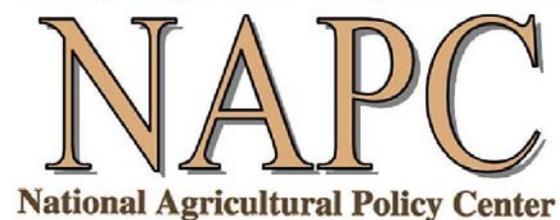


Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform



WORKING PAPER No. 8

**Implementation of the Great Arab Free
Trade Area Agreement
The Case of Syria**

**With the support of
Project GCP/SYR/006/ITA**



Food and Agriculture
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the United Nations

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Ministry of Agriculture
and Agrarian Reform

Foreword

This study was produced by the National Agricultural Policy Center (NAPC) of the Ministry of Agricultural and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) with the support of the Project GCP/SYR/006/ITA - Phase II, implemented by FAO and funded by the Italian Government. It is published as issue N.8 of the NAPC Working Papers' series, whose aim is to support the Syrian development and modernization process by enriching public availability of documentation on agricultural economic s and policy studies.

Syria is undertaking a process of reforms towards free market and international trade liberalization. The Great Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) is a millstone in this process. For this reason the implementation of the GAFTA executive programme was chosen as subject to carry out a pilot monitoring policy exercise at NAPC. The study was conducted by a task force of NAPC researchers under the supervision of Mr Manfred Metz, FAO international consultant.

The task force that conducted the study - composed by Ms. Waficca Hussni, Mrs. Hajar Baghasa, Mr. Basheer Hamwi, Mr. Isam Ismail, Mr. Mahmoud Babbili - wishes to thank Mr. Ciro Fiorillo, Project Chief Technical Advisor, and Mr. Attiah Al Hindi, Director of the NAPC, for their rewarding support that allowed this study to be completed. Similar thanks go to Mr. Pirro-Tomaso Perri for his help as on-the-job trainer through all the phases of the study.

The NAPC expresses deep gratitude to the departments and the individuals of the many institutions that welcomed the members of the task force: the Commercial Attaché of the Egyptian Embassy, the Ministry of Agricultural and Agrarian Reform, the Ministry of Economic and Trade, the Ministry of Finance, the General Custom Department, the General Peasant Federation, the State Planning Commission, the Chamber of Trade, the Chamber of Agriculture, and the many traders interviewed.

List of Acronyms

AA	Agreement of Association
AC	Agricultural Calendar
AL	Arab League
AOAD	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
APM	Agricultural Policy Monitoring
CA	Chamber of Agriculture
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CT	Chamber of Trade
EU	European Union
FTZ	Free Trade Zone
GCD	General Custom Department
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GAFTA	Great Arab Free Trade Area
GSAL	General Secretariat of Arab League
GPF	General Peasant Federation
MC	Member Country
MEFT	Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade
MF	Ministry of Finance
MAAR	Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform
MPI	monitoring Policy Impacts
NAPC	National Agricultural Policy Center
NTB	Non- tariff barriers
PP	Production Period
RoW	Rest of the World
SAT 2003	Syrian Agricultural Trade 2003
SEC	Social and Economic Council of the Arab League
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Introduction

Many countries in different parts of the world have made and are making efforts towards economic co-operation and regional integration. Within such an international drive, characterized by the growth of the importance of trade at the global level, Arab countries established the Great Arab Free Trade Area GAFTA, in order to foster cooperation relations among them, to promote regional trade integration and to enhance development.

Since 1950s Arab countries intended to achieve economical integration so to protect their resources, develop their economies, pursue common interests, foster economic growth, and benefit from the advantages of bigger markets and collective marketing of their products. However, all the GAFTA previous agreements have failed to realize the intended evolution in the intra trade for several reasons, some related to political factors, and some related to inconsistent regional concerns and the similarity of productions.

GAFTA agreement came as an advanced step intended to increase intra trade volume, Arabic and international investments, employment and in general living standards, through liberalization of trade market, by eliminating tariff and like tariff fees, as well as NTBs.

This study presents the main findings and results of a policy monitoring study undertaken by the National Agricultural Policy Center NAPC on the implementation and impacts of the GAFTA Agreement in Syria, with special focus on the implications for the agricultural sector. Monitoring of GAFTA implementation and impacts serves the main purposes to find out whether policy implementation has progressed as planned, whether the implementation of GAFTA is working towards reaching the planned objectives of enhancing trade, integration and development, and whether there are critical factors and constraints which affect the process and performance of GAFTA implementation. An early identification of such factors will enable policy makers to make necessary adjustments in policy design and implementation in time, thus increase the performance of GAFTA in reaching its objectives.

The study was carried out between October 2003 and April 2004, applying the steps and methods for policy monitoring as contained in the FAO "Manual on Monitoring Policy Impacts"¹. The planning and execution of the monitoring exercise was supported by the FAO Consultant Mr Manfred Metz.

With this study, the NAPC aims, on one side, to analyse Syrian involvement in GAFTA, on the other side, to test and apply the methodology of Monitoring Policy Impacts MPI as a system to carry out the analysis. Recover

According to the MPI methodology, the study passed through the following analytical steps: First, the objectives and tasks of the monitoring exercise were defined. Second, the Syrian trade policy (GAFTA agreement) was reviewed, by preparing the log frame matrix, linking the objectives at each level of the matrix in hierarchical order, from the overall objectives to the specific GAFTA objectives and the planned results and instruments. Third, the impact model

¹ Metz., M., A. Groetschel and N. Jost: Monitoring Policy Impacts (MPI) – A training manual, prepared for FAO and GTZ, draft, October 2002; published on FAO web-site:
internet: <http://www.fao.org/tc/Tca/RPFS/integration/documents/working%20documents/WD-47/index.htm>

was developed, on the basis of a review of the GAFTA documentation, of experts' consultations as well as stakeholders' interviews and analysis. Fourth, appropriate impact indicators were selected. Then, the research design was developed, using the comparison method (before and during implementation of the agreement), complemented by a qualitative approach of impact assessments by the stakeholders. Then, relevant data were collected, relying on NAPC, World Trade Organization WTO trade statistic and Arab Organization of Agricultural Development (AOAD) database, so to carry out the final analysis. The compilation and analysis of the data led to the results that are presented in this report.

Chapter 1 presents the process of Arab states to GAFTA, the objectives of GAFTA, and the contents of the Executive Program adopted by the Arab League for its implementation. A special section focuses on aspects of GAFTA particularly relevant in the context of Syrian agricultural trade. In the chapter, the objectives and policy measures related to GAFTA have been structured in a Logical Framework Matrix. Finally, the relevant stakeholders and their role in the GAFTA process are pointed out.

Chapter 2 presents the bilateral trade and cooperation agreements between Syria and GAFTA countries. The question is raised whether and in which respect such bilateral agreements are complementary, supportive or contradictory to GAFTA.

Chapter 3 presents the steps undertaken by Syria in implementing GAFTA and other measures aimed at facilitating foreign trade and supporting the GAFTA process. Furthermore, issues are raised that concern the overall implementation of GAFTA, such as tariff reductions applied by different member states, exemptions from the planned tariff reductions, the Agricultural Calendar AC, and typical problems and constraints which have impeded, so far, a full application of the GAFTA principles.

Chapter 4 presents the results of the assessment of the impacts of GAFTA from a Syrian perspective. For this purpose, the situation before GAFTA is taken in due account and the changes which occurred since then are examined, as well as the developments which took place in intra-GAFTA trade (agricultural and non-agricultural) are compared with those of non GAFTA trade. Special sections of chapter 4 deal with the impacts of GAFTA implementation process on Syrian trade with specific important GAFTA trading partners, the impact of the removal of the import ban, and the impacts of the Agricultural Calendar.

The final chapter 5 addresses to what extent GAFTA objectives have been reached or are likely to be attained during the further process of implementation. In this respect, two crucial questions are tried to be answered;

Is tariff and NTBs elimination alone a sufficient tool to implement a Free Trade Area?

Is Free Trade Area alone conducive to regional integration?

Furthermore conclusions are drawn with regard to factors which, so far, have impeded a full achievement of the objectives. A variety of existing non-tariff barriers NTBs have been identified to play a prominent role in this regard. The same, the lack of coordinated regulation among member countries limits the opportunity to have a socio-economic environment effectively conducive to free trade.

Chapter 1 - GAFTA: Objectives, Policy Measures and Stakeholders

During the 90s, the Syrian economy has gradually been shifted from centralized planning towards indicative planning. This fundamental shift was accompanied by corresponding changes in the overall economic and sector strategies of the Government.

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of Syrian economy. In 2002, the sector represented about more than 25% of the GDP and employed 30% of the work force. As per trade, agricultural trade contributed to 18% of Syrian total trade.

With regard to the Agricultural Development Strategy, the following objectives are set:

- Increasing the contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP;
- Increasing farmers' income and improving its stability;
- Securing self sufficiency of essential crops;
- Ensuring food security;
- Developing processing and marketing mechanisms for agricultural products to generate value added and foster exports.

The overall time span of the agricultural development strategy is split into three phases: The first phase, covering the period 2001-2003, was characterized by the restructuring of the agricultural sector. Development was to be achieved by making use of all available human, financial, and natural resources.

In the second phase, lasting 2004-2005, the agricultural development strategy is focusing on vertical development, fostering the production of competitive products in which Syria has comparative advantages, and increasing the efficiency in processing and marketing of agricultural products.

The third phase, lasting 2006-2010, and it is considered extent of the agricultural development process through enhancing its roots.

In addition to the agricultural sector reform, Syria has started a gradual reform of the trade sector too, aiming at trade liberalization. This process includes, among others, substantial institutional reforms.

In this framework, Syria joined the Great Arab Free Trade Area Agreement, which is regarded as one of the most important events within the new international movement toward trade liberalization. The GAFTA agreement is the latest of a series of agreement, started after the II World War and promoting a Pan-Arab development in the context of a free, developed, inter-related and balanced Arab economy.

1.1. Previous Agreements among Arab States

Previous to the GAFTA agreement, a number of other trade and economic cooperation agreements had been concluded and signed between Arab states, such as:

- In 1953, the Agreement on Facilitating the Trade Exchange and Transit, which laid down full customs exemption to agricultural products and 25% exemption to some industrial products;
- In 1953, the Agreement on Investments Movement and Payment Settlement;
- In 1957, the Agreement on Arab Economic Unity;
- In 1964, the Common Arab Markets Agreement, to foster gradual tariff reduction on all Arab commodities, associated with freeing the movement of products, services, capitals and persons;
- In 1981², the Agreement to Facilitate and Develop Inter-Arab Trade.

It is worth noticing that as a result of the previous agreements, no more than 7%-10% of increase in the volume of intra trade occurred (Chamber of Commerce CC, 2002). This was consequence of a combination of political reasons with the production structure of the Arab states, which does not guarantee regular supply and is very similar among the states.

1.2. Great Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) Agreement

1.2.1. The Agreement and its Background

In 1997, the Social and Economic Council of the Arab League adopted a resolution to establish GAFTA within 10 years, starting from 1 January 1998. The resolution stipulated the gradual decrease (10% each year) of custom duties and taxes of similar effect, imposed on all Arab commodities of national origin. During this implementation phase, the member countries agreed to cope with the requirements and conditions of establishing GAFTA.

However, with Decree n. 1431/2002, the Social and Economic Council SEC decided to end the transition period by 1/1/2005 instead of 31/12/2007. Accordingly, the yearly tariff reduction commitment was set at 20% on 1/1/2004 and 1/1/2005, so to guarantee the elimination of tariffs (100% reduction) by 1/1/2005.

The decision of establishing GAFTA is a response to the resolution of the Arab Summit, held in Cairo in June 1996. Such resolution commissioned the ESC of the Arab League to enforce the 1981 Agreement to Facilitate and Develop trade among Arab states, which was considered the framework with a view to establish a Pan-Arab Free Trade Area, comprising all Arab States, and suitable with their individual needs and conditions, and consistent with the provisions of WTO (www.arableague.com).

In 1997, the Economic and Social Council adopted its Resolution no. 1317, determining the Executive Program and its Timetable to Establish a Pan-Arab Free Trade Area.

Member countries, applying tariff reduction since 1998 are Syria, U.A. Emirates, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Iraq, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, Morocco, and Libya A.1.1³

Countries that joined the 1981 agreement, but are not GAFTA members are Mauritania and Sudan. Sudan is working to complete the steps to join GAFTA.

² Indeed the 1981 agreement comprises the countries that form GAFTA except Sudan and Mauritania.

³ A is referred to the annex

Recently, three countries joined the free trade area; Yemen, Sudan and the Palestinian Authority (see chapter 3 for details). However, due to their condition of least developed countries, the period in which Sudan and Yemen have to apply the GAFTA disposals spans from 2005 until 2010, while, the Palestinian Authority, due to its geopolitical situation, has been recently exempted from tariff reduction.

1.2.2. Objectives

The agreement aims at liberalizing trade among Arab member countries to be into effect with the following outcomes at the beginning of 2005:

- Increase the trade volume within member countries;
- Distribute the production among members according to comparative advantages;
- Modify the investment structure to promote the exports to the Arab markets and to develop the marketing infrastructure;
- Care about quality standards and qualifications to ensure price competition and to increase marketing share;
- Harmonize matching between production of and trade in Arab goods, particularly providing the funding facilities required for their production;
- Promote trade through monetary and banking policies (facilitate required funding and expand its base under preferential and concessional terms and conditions);
- Make complete liberalization of trade among members conducive to the creation of an economic block.

1.2.3. The Executive Program⁴

In February 1997, the SEC of the Arab league adopted the Executive Program and its related timetable to establish a Pan-Arab Free Trade Area, in accordance with the provisions of the 1981 Agreement to Facilitate and Develop Inter-Arab Trade. Under this program, Arab exchanged commodities are treated like the national commodities in the member countries in terms of rules of origin, standards and specifications, sanitary and security protection conditions, and local tax and fees.

Under the rules of this agreement, any two or more members of the agreement can agree about trade concessions earlier than what is specified in the timetable of the program.

The program is characterized by the needed flexibility to allow countries to somehow relax the call for liberalization on the agricultural aspects of the program, so that the interests of agricultural sector of each country are ensured as desired. The program also offers a 7 year transitional period to enable the MCs to cope with the changes needed in the agricultural production pattern.

A very welcomed feature of the executive program has been the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the agreement. This sector is represented, in all the discussion stages, by the union of Arab CC and Chambers of Agriculture. CA At the preparatory stage, the Chambers participated as working teams, which consisted of governmental experts to study the executive program, aiming to display the point of view of the private sector. Beside, the Union Council constituted a Trade Commission to follow up the implementation of the free trade area.

1.2.4. Principles of Exchange between Members

The principles underlining the implementation of GAFTA include that:

⁴ Executive Program of the Agreement on Facilitating and Developing Inter Arab-Trade for Establishing Pan-Arab Free Trade Area, the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League, February 19, 1997 (www.arableagueonline.org).

The parties concerned shall negotiate the gradual reduction of custom duties and taxes of similar effect imposed on imported Arab goods. The reduction shall be gradual and last a specified period by the end of which all custom duties and taxes of similar effect imposed on trade among the party-states shall be terminated.

The parties concerned hold negotiations with the aim of imposing uniform and appropriate minimum customs duties, taxes and restrictions of a similar effect on goods imported from non-Arab States, which are competitive with or alternative to Arab goods.

The parties concerned operate according to the comparative advantages existing among the productions of Arab Goods vis-à-vis competitiveness or alternatives with non-Arab goods

The following Arab goods shall be exempted from customs duties and other taxes of similar effect as well as from non-tariff import restrictions:

- Agricultural and animal products;
- Mineral and non-mineral ores;
- Semi-finished goods included in lists approved by the Council if they enter in the production of industrial goods;
- Goods produced by Arab joint ventures established within the framework of the League of Arab States or Arab organizations operating within its context.

1.2.5. Agricultural Calendar⁵

In general, in order to minimize possible adverse effects, and to facilitate the adjustment of the national production systems, during the implementation period, each member country was allowed, up to 16/09/2002, to draw up a list of exceptions to the tariff reduction program.

As regard to agricultural products, exceptions are still in place. The target of the agricultural exceptions is to allow MC to protect sensitive products during the peak harvest seasons, also leaving them with a transitional period to adjust their agricultural sector towards a production according to their comparative advantages. To this effect, each MC, every year, is entitled to establish a list of sensitive products exempted from the tariff reduction during periods of the year specified in an "agricultural calendar". This exemption cannot be used to band imports of any product, but, during the periods included in the AC, imports of the specified products are subject to the full tariff in place before GATFA implementation process started.

1.2.6. Rules of Origin

"Rules of origin" are applied in order to ensure that only the products which have been produced in Arab countries benefit from the tariff reduction. Without such rule, products imported from a third country and re-exported to a GAFTA MC, would also benefit from the tariff reduction. In this way, foreign products would enter the GAFTA area through the member countries which have the lowest customs tariffs for imports.

According to the GAFTA agreement, imported commodities of national origin should be accompanied with a certificate of origin. For commodities of foreign origin, the agreement suggests the value added concept as a term of reference to (or not to) consider them as national commodities: i.e. for manufactured products, if 40% of the value added of a product is generated in a MC, this product is considered of local origin. However, MC have been expressing various critics on the way the rules of origin are treated within the GAFTA agreement (see chapter 3)

⁵ See also chapter 3.

1.3. Stakeholders and Their Role in the GAFTA Process

Many are the stakeholders involved in the process of GAFTA implementation. This section presents their specific role in the GAFTA implementation process.

Ministry of Economy and Trade

The Ministry of Economy and Trade has an executive role. It issues the regulations to implement GAFTA, consulting with other ministries and relevant other stakeholders, such as traders. Within the Ministry, The Arab Relation and Foreign Trade Department acts as a focal point, coordinating the discussions and opinion exchanges among MC. and monitoring the implementation of the agreement, collecting related complaints (also addressed by other relevant bodies, such as the CC. and CA.) and directing them to the institutions in charge of their settlement. Furthermore, such focal point is in charge of the annual monitoring report about GAFTA implementation to be sent to the Arab league. However, up to 2003, this report has never been prepared.

State planning committee)

The State Planning Committee participated in the process of preparation for the agreement and joined all discussions that led to its approval.

Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR)

The Ministry formulates the indicative production plan, and distributes it to country governorates. Therefore, such a plan has to be adapted so that it operates according to the implementation of the GAFTA executive program. From an operative point of view, a dedicated unit within the Ministry annually participates in preparing the agricultural calendar and is involved in all committees dealing with the elimination of fees and NTBs.

Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance organizes the financial procedures to implement the agreement and decides on finance issues, providing all facilities related to trade.

Custom of Department

The Custom Department is an independent administration directly connected to the Minister of Finance. The Department checks international trade by quantity and value, and applies the procedures related to tariff reduction and NTBs removal depending on the regulations of the Ministry of Finance

Chamber of Agriculture

The Chamber of Agriculture participated in the meetings of the SEC. during the preparation of the agreement. Its role is now to follow the implementation of the GAFTA, coordinating the process of implementation among producer and traders. The Chamber of Agriculture is also entitled to control the conformity of the certificate of origin and the quality of the traded products and is entitled not to allow the shipment of goods if the needed specifications are not met. It also monitors the agreement execution on the base of the complaints it receives.

Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Trade participated in the preparatory stage discussions regarding commodities' exchange among member countries and the possible impacts deriving from GAFTA implementation. It also ratifies and approves export certificates. Furthermore, the Chamber of Trade too monitors the agreement execution on the base of the complaints it receives.

General Peasants Federation

This organization represents farmers and therefore directly reflects the changes in the agricultural and related policies and in the production pattern. However, this body did not participate in the first discussion of the agreement, causing some drawbacks on cooperative farmers and private producers. Recently, the Federation participated in monitoring the

implementation of the agreement; it participated in the discussions about the agricultural calendars between Syria and some member countries.

Traders

The role of Traders is very relevant at the implementation stages. In fact, traders control the exchange of products and most of the exchange procedures are done through them. They are the first to eventually face obstacles and form an idea about the reasons beyond the obstacles and eventual solutions.

Chapter 2 - The Link between GAFTA and Bilateral Agreements

In addition to a global movement toward building economic blocks, bilateral agreements are a common form of economic integration between nations. Indeed, Syria is involved in several bilateral agreements at international and regional level. In the specific, within the framework of the GAFTA, Syria implemented past agreements and signed new bilateral agreements in order to accelerate trade liberalization of commodities of local origin.

For the sake of completeness, the following is a list of bilateral agreements signed by Syria outside the context of the GAFTA implementation process:

- 1979 Economic and Trade Agreement with Algeria, modified according to new disposals introduced in 1997;
- 1994 Economic and Commercial Cooperation with Bahrain;
- 1991 Trade agreement with Egypt;
- 1979 and 2000 Economic Cooperation and Trade Exchange Regulation with Iraq;
- 1991 Economic and Commercial Cooperation Agreement with Kuwait;
- 1978 Economic Cooperation and Trade Exchange Regulation with Libya;
- 1972 Economic Cooperation and Trade Exchange Regulation with Morocco;
- 1990 Economic and Trade Cooperation with Qatar;
- 1972 Economic and Trade Agreement with Saudi Arabia;
- 1974 Economic and Trade Cooperation with Sudan;
- 1977 Economic and Trade Agreement with Tunisia;
- 1990 Economic and Commercial Cooperation Agreement with U.A.E.

In general, these agreements concentrate on the development of economic relations, the elimination of trade barriers, emphasizing on the importance of mutual Arab market, exchanging experiences and gradual reduction Of custom duties. However, achievements were not consistent with the expectations due to the differences in legislations and procedures, custom tariffs, quantity constraints, fees, taxes etc. Differently, the bilateral agreements (and the history behind them) we present more in details are those signed within the context of GATFA, plainly shaped to be conducive to GAFTA implementation.

2.1. Recent Bilateral Agreements within the Framework of GAFTA

2.1.1. Bilateral Agreement with Lebanon

In 1953, Syria and Lebanon signed their first bilateral agreement to facilitate trade exchange, tourism and coordinate in different fields. It included the exemption from customs duties for industrial, animal, and agricultural products of local origin. To strengthen trade, social and economic relations, in 1991, the two countries signed an agreement named “Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination”, followed, in 1992, by the agreement on Social and Economic Cooperation and Coordination, aiming at the establishment of a mutual market, freeing trade of goods, individuals and capitals.

Concerning agricultural trade, although not strictly related to trade of goods, in 1994, Syria and Lebanon signed a protocol on agricultural cooperation, aiming at facilitating experts exchange and mutual researches.

In 1998 and 1999, two meetings of the Prime Ministers of the two countries led to the decision to anticipate GAFTA disposals and apply full trade liberalization of agricultural products of local origin. Also, starting 1 January, 1999, it was agreed a 25% annual reduction of tariffs on industrial products being exchanged. Furthermore, in several meetings of mutual economic committees new procedures were agreed to regulate trade and economic relations. In 2002, a meeting of a technical committee, held in Damascus, arranged the steps conducive to the liberalization of trade in livestock and agricultural products, with the main purpose was to achieve integration in the agricultural production, quarantines and veterinary procedures, and to unify pesticides and fertilizers rules. The Ministerial Meeting of June 9, 2002 reviewed progress in implementation and decided additional liberalization commitments, including the removal of Syrian import barriers on 14 Lebanese goods, such as sea-fruits, cheese, yogurt, salt, and alcohol, which were not included in the previous liberalization process.

The above agreements led to a list of products exempted from custom tariffs to be enforced by the Custom Departments of both. Its implementation started in 2002 with 60% of the products exempted to be 100% in 2003.

2.1.2. Bilateral Agreement with Jordan

In 1975, Syria and Jordan signed their first bilateral agreement on Economic Cooperation and Regulation of Trade Exchange, aiming at developing the economic relations between the two countries and facilitating trade exchange. This agreement determined the exemption of agricultural and livestock products from custom duties and similar taxes, the establishment of a trade center, the implementation of joint projects and the creation of “follow up economic committees” in both countries. In 1994, an economic committee of such kind held a meeting to follow up the cooperation process and the methods implementing it, also forming a technical committee for setting frames, reviewing the previous agreements and drawing fruitful conclusions for both countries.

In 1999, Syria and Jordan signed a trade protocol to further develop agricultural trade and simplify the customs and boundary procedures to facilitate goods’ transportation. In the same year, the mutual Syrian and Jordanian Supreme Committee prepared an agricultural calendar pertaining preferential treatment consistent with the GAFTA disposals on agricultural calendars. In 2000, the agricultural calendar started to be operational, allowing open trade (import or export without the need of trade licenses) of given goods listed in the periods specified in the calendar itself, while limiting the quantities traded in the remaining periods⁶.

In August 2003, the Agricultural Ministers of Syria and Jordan met to discuss various cooperation issues in agriculture and the agriculture calendars for 2003 and 2004. In this occasion, the Ministers stressed the need to facilitate the trade of high quality commodities, to

⁶Regular meetings take place to guarantee the implementation of the calendar and monitor it.

better continue and further develop the commercial integration of the two countries. Syria and Jordan allow each other the import of given fruits and vegetables locally produced without customs fees and other taxes of similar effect, according to periods and quantities agreed A 2.1 & 2.2.

2.1.3. Bilateral Agreement with United Arab Emirates

In 1990, Syria and United Arab Emirates UAE signed an Economic and Commercial Cooperation Agreement. This agreement didn't lead to relevant results in terms of commercial integration between the two countries.

In 2000, Syria and UAE signed an agreement to establish a Free Trade Area. It aimed at freeing trade of all Syrian and UAE agriculture commodities and livestock of local origin from custom fees and other similar taxes, taking into consideration the agreed agricultural calendar.

The reductions on customs duties reached up to 50% on January 1, 2001, 70% on January 1, 2002 and on January 1, 2003 custom duties were fully abolished.

2.1.4. The Bilateral Agreement with Saudi Arabia.

In 1972, Syria and Saudi Arabia signed an economic and trade agreement. It stated the exemption of bilateral trade in agriculture, livestock and industrial products from custom duties according to list no. 2 and 3, referred to in the appendix of the agreement

On January 1, 2003, a Free Trade Area was established between Syria and Saudi Arabia on the basis of an agreement signed in February 2001. This agreement supports the economic and commercial relationships between the two countries through the elimination of all barriers on national exchanged goods and products and the removal of all tariffs and other taxes on agricultural products. The agreement treats the exchanged goods and products as national goods concerning rules of origin.

2.1.5. Bilateral Agreement with Egypt

In November 2000, Syria and Egypt signed an agreement to establish a Free Trade Area FTA. to facilitate trade and contributing to the expansion of the benefits within the context of the executive program of the Arab Free Trade agreement.

On the basis of this Agreement, a gradual liberalization between the two countries is taking place within a period not exceeding 1st of January 2005 according to the following procedures:

Full liberalization from custom duties and similar taxes of all the Syrian and Egyptian commodities of local origin directly exchanged between the countries, starting from January 1, 2004;

Continuation of exemptions, facilitation and advantages stipulated in the trade agreement of 1991 and specified in lists A and B of that agreement. In this regard, the Joint Committee then established has the right to revise the specifications of the two lists to achieve free trade;

Gradual reduction of custom duties and similar taxes for the commodities and products of local origin not listed in the above mentioned lists, as follows:

- 50% effective reduction from January 1, 2001 to be 100% by 1/1 2005.
- The two countries provide the necessary facilities to ease transit of goods (including transit through trucks).
- Both sides shall apply the agricultural and veterinary quarantine procedures on commodities, in accordance with regulation, and procedures in place.
- The competent parties shall make sure to undertake the exchange of products according to custom tariffs and taxes and fees in place.

2.2. GAFTA and Bilateral Agreements among MC

All bilateral agreements signed after 1997 must stay within the context of the executive program of GAFTA. In fact, the bilateral agreements are meant to accelerate GAFTA implementation and therefore the circumstance of each country should be considered to avoid harmful effects since the bilateral agreements are to be complementary with GAFTA, and other countries' interests should be taken into consideration.

In general, also according to the interviews carried out with various stakeholders, it can be argued that the bilateral agreements and GAFTA don't contradict each other, nor overlap, nor operate contrary to GAFTA disposals. Instead, positive effects are perceived. Nonetheless, bilateral agreements are seldom written taking into account the interests of all GAFTA MC. Indeed, often, only the interests of two member countries are taken into account.

Looking in detail at the bilateral agreements between Syria and Lebanon, Egypt and Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia, it is noticeable the existence of lists of goods that the countries declared not to be interested to liberalize, or lists of goods exempted from gradual liberalization. Such lists are incompatible with GAFTA dispositions, but the issue above is still unsolved.

As per the Syrian-Lebanese Social and Economic Committee Meeting in January 4, 2004, the following cases stand on the Syrian side (similar exist on the Lebanese one):

- There are products that the private sector cannot import, whilst the public sector can (tobacco, pesticides, cigarettes paper, televisions, motor bikes, gas bombs, cement, oil and butane gas);
- Products banned from import for agricultural and quarantine sanitary reasons (potato seeds);
- There are products forbidden from import for environmental reasons (used clothes, wool residues, all kind of wrests).
- There are products that cannot be imported at all, such as natural mineral water, soft drinks and concentrated juice.

Moreover, there is a problem of a long list of exemptions for products exchanged between the two countries, which work as a heavy trade barrier.

With reference to the cases in which bilateral agreements within GAFTA are felt as detrimental, some MC report the difficulty to export goods to those countries under bilateral agreements due to "unfair" competition conditions (their commodities can be subject to tariff payments, while commodities of countries under bilateral agreements are not). Furthermore, it is criticized the use to define new exemptions between two MC that subscribe a bilateral agreement; exemptions that often divert dispositions agreed within GAFTA not to mention that often bilateral agreements are somehow misleading with respect to GAFTA implementation. In fact, as an example, calendars among MC defined under bilateral agreements differ from the calendars accepted by the GAFTA SEC .table A.2.3 table.&.A.2.4

Chapter 3 - State of Implementation of GAFTA

3.1. Implementation in Syria

At the time of our survey (2003) the levels of tariffs' reduction were as follows:

- The reduction is 100% for the following countries: Lebanon, Jordan, UAE and Saudi Arabia. The reduction for the rest was 60%, except Tunisia (30%) and Morocco⁷ (40%).

As per liberalization, Syria has fulfilled its obligation and liberalized about 18 products, also complying with sanitary and others procedures. When the liberalization process began, Syrian production faced an expected aggressive competition that though was useful to foster the quality of domestic products. Furthermore, GAFTA, as a trade liberalization process, operates towards the necessary steps to be taken in the planned process of EU Association Agreement and WTO membership.

- To meet GAFTA disposals, Syria adopted a comprehensive reforming program in its trade policy. Decrees and decisions were launched, procedures and policies have been applied, legislations were modified and bilateral agreements were signed.

The program of reforms can be classified into trade policy instruments and trade agreements. Trade agreements (bilateral) have been considered in the previous chapter; therefore, here we focus on trade policy instruments. Trade policy instruments can be distinguished into four areas:

- Tariff regulations;
- Exchange rate and foreign currency regulations;
- Non- tariff regulations;
- Institutional regulations.

Since exchange rate and foreign currency regulations have no direct relationship with GAFTA implementation, we will not focus on them⁸.

With reference to the trade policy instruments under the area of tariff regulations' decrees, decree NO. 265/2001 and related following laws pertain the harmonized custom tariff system. With this decree, the former system of customs tariffs plus unified tax on imports was replaced by:

- A harmonized customs tariff, based on the neighboring country's exchange rate;

⁷ Currently Morocco is applying 80% of tariff reduction (the Morocco embassy informed the Syrian authorities in its letter No. 258 of 15/4/2004).

⁸ For an extensive presentation of the current Syrian foreign exchange policy the reader can refer to Syrian Agricultural Trade, 2003 (NAPC).

- An unified import tariff (including customs tariffs and unified tax).

This decree was amended by decree No. 266/2001, which put at 1% (inclusive of the unified tax) the harmonized customs tariff applicable to industrial raw products. Furthermore, in 2001, under legislative decree No. 15, all agricultural exports have been exempted from export taxes and fees. Finally, decree No. 1100 /2003 has abolished the need to relate any export transaction to the return on investments in an import transaction.

Pertaining the trade policy instruments under the area of non-tariff regulations, it is worth mentioning how the situation before GAFTA was:

- Import bans were applied on selected agricultural products: fruit and vegetables.
- Import of some strategic crops (wheat, sugar, and rice) was restricted to Governmental companies. Then allowed private importers to operate only under license of Governmental companies.
- For products without import bans, most agro-food imports required a certification, issued by MAAR, to prove they met sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards.
- Traders could only benefit from the revenues in foreign currencies changed by the Central Bank of Syria at the official exchange rate applied to the commodity traded.

The current situation is as follows:

- Agricultural imports from Arab countries are open.
- The non-customs tariff is being decreased.
- The ban list is being replaced with a positive list of permitted imported commodities.
- The Central Bank of Syria is still supplying private importers with foreign currency.
- The State monopoly for the import of strategic crops is being relaxed.
- The private sector can now keep all revenues from exports of fruits and vegetables in foreign currency and exchange it at the neighboring exchange rate.

3.2. Implementation by other MCs

In general, during the implementation period of GAFTA executive program, MCs have taken positive steps, issuing various regulations within the GAFTA agreement framework. For instance, in the industrial sector, MCs have cleared protection and support for their industrial products and opened their markets to competitiveness.

All MCs. except Iraq has delivered their tariff frames to the General Secretariat of Arab league GSAL which collects the national tariffs and the like tariff fees applied on 1/1/1998, according to the harmonized system, and on which the GAFTA envisaged reduction should apply. However, Syria has sent its tariff frame not according to the harmonized system as required, but according to Prokssil tariff system. In this regard, it can be mentioned that the GSAL has collected the applied Syrian fees so to make them available for other MCs, but it has reserved the chance to get the applied fees according to the HS, as soon as possible.

In 2000, the SES decided to give preferences to the least developed Arab countries which intend to join GAFTA agreement. For this reason Sudan and Yemen are allowed to start tariff and tariff like fees reduction from 1/1/2005 at an annual rate of 20% for Sudan and 16% for Yemen, under the condition that both countries should totally eliminate their tariff and the like tariff fees by 1/1/2010. Furthermore, the SEC. agreed to unburden the Palestine Authority from tariff and like tariff fees reduction because of its geopolitical circumstances.

Some MCs. have modified their tariff frame after the application of the executive program of GAFTA. In this regard, the General Secretariat declared that, according to the executive program of GAFTA, the changes which result in an increase in tariff should not be applied on MCs and tariff reduction must continue on the base of the tariffs in place on January 1, 1998. However, the changes, which result in a decrease in tariff can be practiced on member countries and the tariff reduction should be based on the new rate.

Concerning the implementation of tariff-like fees reduction, it must be noted that some countries did not entirely fulfill their commitments since there is no clear definition of such fees. Furthermore, some MCs. introduced other fees different from those that were in place when GAFTA implementation begun.

3.3. Exemptions

The SEC. had allowed some MCs (Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) several exemptions from tariff and tariff-like fees reductions, to end by 16/9/2002. The total number of exemptions allowed was 2952 commodities with the intention of the Council not to allow new exemptions after 16/9/2002, except urgent cases and under strict conditions.

The aim was to give some less competitive Arabic industries the time to be ready to face the increasing competition free trade would have brought (infant industry protection). Eligible to be exempted from tariff and tariff-like reductions, under the approval of the Supervision and Executive Committee, were goods whose local production in a free international competition could cease its sales. Nonetheless, provided that goods exempted didn't exceed 15% of total exported commodities, the allowance could only lasts for one renewable period.

When the time for exemption ended, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco informed the Council that they ceased their exemptions. However, Egypt and Tunisia did not notify the Council whether they stopped their exemptions or not. In this regard, it must be noted that some member countries still apply exemptions either under the permission of the Council or through bilateral agreement with MCs. Furthermore, MCs keep on requesting new exemptions.

3.4. Agricultural Calendars

After the resolution establishing GAFTA, the SEC. formed a ministerial committee responsible for studying the executive program of GAFTA implementation to ensure that it coped with the conditions and needs of Arab countries. One of the main tasks of this committee was to solve the issues related to seasons of agricultural production known as AC. In fact, the main agricultural countries in the Arab region viewed the liberalization of agricultural trade as a negative tool due to the many similarities among their agricultural production, leading them to compete over trade, instead of integrating.

Furthermore, MCs. in general, were stressing that negative impacts may also result from the differences, among Arab countries, in terms of production abilities, the existence of comparative advantages and the degree of agricultural development.

The executive program addressed these issues by allowing MCs to keep the custom fees applied before the GAFTA agreement on some agricultural traded products according to periods defined in a calendar (and to apply tariff reduction in the other periods), on the condition that all agricultural calendars should end by the final date to establish GAFTA.

Each MC was entitled to establish a list of maximum 10 sensitive products exempted from tariff reduction and select periods during the year in which each product could be protected, given that the sum of the protection periods wouldn't exceed 45 months. Each country is expected every year to announce its AC.

In 2001, the ESC of the Arab League, in its 68th session, decided to restrict the applicability of the agricultural calendar as follows:

- Each MC is allowed to a maximum of 7 products to be exempted from tariff reduction;
- Each product can be exempted for a maximum of 7 months per year;
- The total duration of the exemptions for all products cannot exceed 35 months.

Furthermore, the Council recommended to gradually reduce the number of crops and their periods in the calendar along the transition period.

Concerning the state of implementation of the ACs, it can be noticed that all MCs kept their enforcements. However, it is also relevant to stress that MCs amended their calendars or made different ACs without announcing the changes to other MCs., causing sound inconveniences to operators (beside acting against GAFTA disposals). In fact, traders had to face at the borders not known changes in agricultural calendars and, counting on a calendar that was not actually in place, find themselves trading goods on which they unexpectedly had to pay full tariff and like-tariff fees. As mentioned, the AC. for 2003 and 2004 between Syria and Jordan differed from the GAFTA known AC. in the listed products and protection period (2 3&2.4).

3.5. Rules of Origin

When applying the executive program, a dissent among member countries concerning the rule of origin started. As a result, the ESC drafted a framework for the application of the rules of origin to be approved by MC and executed, starting January 2002. However, MC didn't reach a consensus and partitioned into two groups. Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Syria insisted on more stringent rules of origin to protect Arabic industries from the competition of foreign commodities. On the other hand, Jordan, Lebanon and UAE. called for more moderate rules of origin. Accordingly, the first group asked for the value added generated locally to be 60%, while the second group agreed on the 40% proposed by the SEC.

To solve the problem, the SEC. appointed a team of experts to formulate a new draft of rules of origin with the help of the AOAD. for Mining and Industry. The experts relied on the rules of origin used by the EU with trade partners that are based on the amount of foreign inputs present in a product, rather than on the value added. Furthermore, the GSAL suggested that the experts should refer only to those sectors of production economically important for member countries, and not on productions such as fine equipments that need high technology, judging that there is no need to put rules of origin on such commodities at present.

Unfortunately, some MCs also objected the new draft of rules of origin formulated by the team of experts. Hence, the Secretariat decided to give these MCs the chance to study and specify in details the problems they saw in the framework on the rules of origin as drafted by the experts, allowing them to formulate their own proposals to solve such problems.

At present, an agreement about detailed rules of origin that satisfies MCs. has not been reached. Yet such an issue creates an obstacle to free trade among member countries, since if there is a doubt about any certificate of origin the procedure implies to either refuse the goods, or enforce the exporter to pay full tariff. In addition, the present not clearly defined/agreed regulation on the rules of origin facilitates foreign commodities to enter Arabic markets, threatening therefore national industries with the introduction of competitive goods into their markets.

3.6. Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs)

The GAFTA agreement emphasized the removal of all kinds of NTBs in the framework of the executive program of GAFTA. NTBs encompass all instruments of protection, beside import tariffs, that countries adopt to control their imports. NTBs can be of various kinds. In addition

to evident measures, like import bans, NTBs include import procedures, certificates and various regulations that, depending on the perspective you look at them, can be seen as obstacles to import. The definition of such measures that (directly or indirectly) control or limit imports pertains to several authorities; in general the Ministries of Industry, Agriculture, Health, Environment, Economy, Trade, Finance and Transportation. In fact, NTBs can result from various measures that can actually be conceived to tackle diverse policies, such as finance, economy, environment, investment, social development, etc. NTBs are sometimes in the form of widely known written regulations applied by trade agents, but could also be oral instructions that only are known to few. NTBs include as well behavioral actions such as the arbitrariness in applying instructions and specifications. In this regard, of major relevance is the case of trucks crossing borders.

According to the above definition of NTBs, all MCs. are practicing different forms of NTBs. The NTBs can be broadly classified into:

- Quantitative barriers
- Financial barriers
- Administrative Barriers
- Technical Barriers
- Arrangements and Systematic Barriers

Quantitative barriers include quota systems, import bans and import certificates.

Financial barriers include many different type of barriers:

- Exaggeration in office operations fees applied (for example, the charge to endorse a certificate in Egypt and Libya is, respectively, US\$50 and US\$100 each document, in Syria is 1.5% of the commodity value);
- Additional taxes, in general, called “services payments”, imposed after the beginning of GAFTA executive program (see annex). They are widely used for several purposes and take different names; consumption taxes, production taxes, accompanying duties, fuels differential duties, freight differential systems, financial penalties, etc. Among these fees we find:
 - high duties for Identifying specifications;
 - agricultural quarantine duties;
 - insurance substitute duties;
 - custom notification duties;
 - Fee treatment differentiation among MCs.
- Reclassification of inspected commodities in transit and consequent fee reevaluation;
- Overestimation of the credit requirements;
- High costs of laboratory analysis;
- High charges levied on trucks (for example, when entering the country, in Jordan, drivers pay 80 JD as “substitute fuel” fee, in Egypt, they pay 70 US\$⁹).

⁹ In Egypt, truck drivers also have to pay 600 US\$ as a down payment to guarantee not to unload goods inside Egypt and usually do not get it back when leaving the country. Furthermore, if trucks stay in Egypt one week more than what they are allowed at the entrance they are levied with 200 EP as a penalty. In addition, truck drivers pay 18 EP for the Egyptian number plate to be affixed on the truck upon entrance, 8.75 EP truck entry fee, 8.75 EP truck departure

Administrative barriers include the many administrative procedures carried out at the border that can cause various delays (exaggeration in trucks inspection, commodities examinations, document review). It must be noted that such administrative barriers could cause delays from few days up to several months, as in the case of Libya where some documents cannot be cleared at the border, but compulsory in Tripoli.

Technical barriers include the over application of rules pertaining sanitary or environmental specifications. Indeed, some member countries enforce that commodities should meet national standards, even if the commodities already meet international specifications. In addition, some member countries order quarantine restrictions that actually impede trade (Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Egypt).

Arrangements and Systematic Barriers comprise several kinds of actions, such as setting strict conditions for commodity sheathing and packaging (as the case in UAE, Saudi Arabia. and Kuwait). For more details see A.3.1.

3.7. The Database of Arabic Trade

The General Secretariat has established a database on Arabic trade, tariffs, exemptions and ACs. Also, it has built a database for private sector inquiries concerning economical and commercial data and information on member countries. Furthermore, the Secretariat made efforts to collect data on Arabic markets, mutual prices, production potentiality and import and export potentialities in member countries.

3.8. Unexpected Obstacles

During implementation of GAFTA, several unexpected problems emerged. The most important ones are the following:

- Unavailability of clear markets data and information and absence of knowledge about trade systems and procedures;
- Non existence of a mechanism of reimbursement for the losses caused by the missed earnings from tariff and the tariff-like fees;
- Absence of coordination among different authorities and ministries;
- Dissimilarity among MC on laws and legislations related to trade;
- Absence of a mechanism for conflict solution and penalties definition.

An additional somehow unexpected obstacle concerns the lack of a common regulation on Free Trade Zones (FTZ). Most member countries have one or more FTZs, where the production depends on imported raw materials or imported primary goods. In this regard, MCs are soundly disputing about the way of treating FTZ productions. Some member countries insist on treating them like national productions and applying tariff and the like tariff reductions, provided the existence of a certificate of origin. Differently, other member countries refuse to consider them like national commodities, being afraid of their negative impact on national industries. Recently, the secretariat general of Arab league started a study to find out a solution to this problem.

fee and 15 EP for visa. In Kuwait drivers pay 18 KD for visa and 20 KD for transit copybook. In Saudi Arabia, discharging and loading duties have to be paid, 240 and 600 SR respectively.

Chapter 4 - Monitoring the Impacts of GAFTA

Monitoring the impacts of GAFTA already at an early stage of implementation of the agreement is a very important exercise. It will help to find out whether, and to what extent, GAFTA works towards achieving the planned objectives of enhancing trade, integration and development in the MCs., and whether there are any obstacles on the way which prevent or reduce the effectiveness of GAFTA in reaching these objectives. If such obstacles exist and are identified already at an early stage of implementation, policy makers can make necessary adjustments on time to better ensure that the policy leads to the expected results.

In this chapter, the impacts of GAFTA are examined from a Syrian perspective, i.e. we will trace some effects the implementation of GAFTA has already brought about for the Syrian economy and particularly for the agricultural sector. To do this examination, a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods of impact assessment has been applied. A double-difference comparative quantitative analysis (before and during the implementation of GAFTA; GAFTA trade compared to non-GAFTA trade, changing trade patterns with important GAFTA trading partners) is complemented by an assessment of the impacts of specific policy measures introduced under GAFTA, such as the removal of the import bans and the introduction of an AC. A qualitative assessment of other factors (other than tariff-reductions and the removal of the import ban) that have determined the performance of GAFTA in reaching the intended results will be done in the following and final chapter 5.

Thus, we will in this chapter:

- Compare the trends of intra-GAFTA trade to the trade patterns with the rest of the world.
- Appraise the situation before GAFTA implementation (1996/97) and track the changes (intra GAFTA total trade, imports/exports, agricultural/non-agricultural trade, trade with main GAFTA trading partners, and trade in relevant products) which have happened during the process of GAFTA implementation¹⁰.
- Assess the impacts of specific policy measures; the removal of import bans and the AC.

An assessment on the way and to what extent other factors (NTBs, specific economic conditions and policies pursued in GAFTA MCs) have influenced the process and the performance of GAFTA implementation will be done in chapter 5.

For a deeper understanding of the analysis the reader is invited to have a look at the notes on the methodology applied.

¹⁰ This study covers the first four years (1998-2001) of GAFTA implementation.

4.1. Features and Trends of Syrian Trade since GAFTA Implementation

Table 4.1 and 4.2 present the main features of Syrian foreign trade before the GAFTA agreement came into force (1996/97) and the evolution of major trade parameters during the process of GAFTA implementation in the years from 1998 to 2001.

Table.4. 1.Trends in Syrian Trade 1996/97 – 2001 (SP billion)

Item	Year					
	Av. 1996/97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*	AAVR %
Agricultural trade	19.9	19.3	18.8	18.2	17.8	-2.7
Non agricultural trade	77.2	56.8	63.0	79.8	94.7	5.2
Total trade	97.2	76.1	81.8	98.0	112.6	3.7
Agricultural trade/ total trade (%)	21	25	23	19	16	
Non agricultural trade/ total trade (%)	79	75	77	81	84	

Data source CBS& NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated on the basis of the exchange rate before 2000

During the period from 1996/97 to 2001, total trade (imports & exports) of Syria increased by an average annual rate (AAVR) of 3.7%, from SP 97 billion to 112 billion, The increase in foreign trade was due to expanding non-agricultural trade with an average annual growth rate of 5.2%, while the agricultural trade declined by 2.7% annually. Due to this diverse development in agricultural and non-agricultural trade, the share of agricultural trade in total trade decreased from 21% to 16%, while the share of non-agricultural trade increased correspondingly from 79% to 84%.

Table 4.2 breaks down the overall trade into imports and exports. It shows a large variation of the annual trade flows, with decreasing imports and exports, and imports exceeding the exports (negative trade balance) until 1999, and vice versa during the years 2000 and 2001. This reversal of the trend and the positive trade balance in the recent years was caused by a substantial increase in overall exports (7.4% annual average increase) while the import relatively stagnated at 0.3%.

The developments of the trade flows are even more diverse when we differentiate between agricultural and non-agricultural imports and exports. There is a clear trend towards non-agricultural export growth (overall 10.4% p.a.), while the agricultural exports declined by an average of 4% annually. The development on the import side was less distinct, with a slight annual average decrease (1.3%) of agricultural imports and increase (0.6%) of non-agricultural imports.

Table 4.2. Syrian Trade Flows: Agric. and non-agric, Imports and Exports (SP billion)

Items		Year					
		Av. 1996/97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*	AAVR %
Exports	Agricultural exports	10.6	10.4	8.8	8.8	9.0	-4.0
	Non agric. exports	33.8	22.0	29.9	43.8	50.1	10.4
	Agr. exports / Total exports (%)	23,9	32,2	22,9	16,7	15,2	
	Non agr. Exports/total exports (%)	76,1	67,8	77,1	83,3	84,8	
Imports	Agricultural imports	9.3	8.8	9.9	9.3	8.8	-1.3
	Non agricultural imports	43.4	34.8	33.0	35.9	44.5	0.6
	Agr. imports / total imports	17,7	20,3	23,0	20,7	16,6	
	Non agr. Imports/total imports (%)	82,3	79,7	77,0	79,3	83,4	
Total Trade	Total exports	44.4	32.4	38.8	52.6	59.2	7.4
	Total imports	52.7	43.7	43.0	45.3	53.4	0.3
	Total trade	97.2	76.1	81.8	98.0	112.6	3.7
	Trade balance	-8.378	-11.282	-4.130	7.267	5.803	
	Total exports / Total trade (%)	46	43	47	54	53	

Data source CBS& NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated on the basis of the old exchange rate before 2000

In the following section, we will find out whether, and to what extent, these overall trends in Syrian trade are reflected in the evolution of the trade flows within the GAFTA countries.

4.2. Comparative Analysis of Developments in GAFTA and Non-GAFTA Trade

The Syrian trade with the GAFTA MCs. has evolved quite differently from the overall trade patterns presented above.

As we can see in Table 4.3, there was an overall decline of exports to GAFTA MC by 1% annually, while the imports from GAFTA MCs. increased by an average annual rate of 3.7%. The most marked change in the trade with GAFTA was an average annual increase of 6.2% in agricultural imports from GAFTA countries. The non-agricultural imports increased at half of this rate (3.1% p.a.). As regards GAFTA exports, an annual average decline in agricultural exports of 3.7% stands against an increase in non-agricultural exports of the same rate.

In spite of the substantial increase in imports and the slight decline in exports, the overall trade balance with GAFTA remained positive, though at a diminishing scale.

The divergence in the trends of GAFTA and overall trade will be further explored in the subsequent analysis.

Table 4.3. Syrian Trade with GAFTA (SP billion)

Items	Type	Year					Av. %
		Av. 1996/97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*	
GAFTA Exports	Agricultural exports	5.7	4.8	5.0	4.6	4.9	-3.7
	Non agricultural exports	3.0	3.0	2.4	3.2	3.5	3.7
GAFTA Imports	Agricultural imports	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	6.2
	Non agricultural imports	3.3	2.4	2.4	3.5	3.7	3.1
GAFTA total trade	Total exports	8.8	7.8	7.5	7.8	8.4	-1.0
	Total imports	4.0	3.3	3.3	4.6	4.7	3.7
	Total trade	12.9	11.2	10.9	12.5	13.2	0.6
	Trade balance	4.8	4.5	4.2	3.2	3.7	

Source: CBS & NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated on the basis of the old exchange rate before 2000

In general, it can be asserted that, during our reference period (1996/96 - 2001), trade with GAFTA MC has not been the engine of Syrian trade. In fact, with reference to table 4.4, Syrian trade with GAFTA stood at a 0.6% average annual growth rate, against an overall increase of Syrian trade by 3.7% yearly, leading to a decline in the share of trade with GAFTA in overall Syrian trade, from 13.3% to 11.7%. However, a further understanding of the features behind the general evidence of a Syrian trade with GAFTA lagging behind the overall Syrian trade can be grasped looking at the patterns of agricultural and non-agricultural trade.

In particular, it was non-agricultural trade with GAFTA that has been lagging behind. Both non-agricultural trade with GAFTA and total non-agricultural trade increased, allowing to compensate more than proportionally for the decrease in both GAFTA and total agricultural trade. However, a 5.3% increase in total non-agricultural trade stands against 2 points in percentage lower increase in GAFTA non-agricultural trade, causing a decrease in the share of GAFTA non-agricultural trade over total non-agricultural trade. Conversely, GAFTA agricultural trade has not been lagging behind total agricultural trade. Both have been diminishing, but the former at a lower rate, therefore allowing to an increase in the share of GAFTA agricultural trade over total agricultural trade.

Table 4.4. The Evolution of Syrian Trade with GAFTA Compared to Total Trade 1996/97-2001 (SP billions)

Items	Year					AV %
	Average 1996/97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*	
Total trade (ex+im)	97.2	76.1	81.8	98.0	112.6	3.7
GAFTA Total Trade (ex+im)	12.9	11.2	10.9	12.5	13.2	0.6
GAFTA total trade / total trade% (%)	13.3	14.7	13.3	12.8	11.7	
Total Agri Trade (ex+im)	19.9	19.3	18.8	18.1	17.8	-2.7
GAFTA Agricultural Trade (ex+im)	6.5	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	-2.4
GAFTA agr. Trade / total agr. Trade (%)	32.8	29.6	31.8	31.6	33.2	
Total Non Agr. Trade (ex+im)	77.2	56.8	63.0	79.8	94.8	5.3
GAFTA Non Agr. Trade (ex+im)	6.3	5.4	4.9	6.7	7.2	3.4
GAFTA non agr. Trade / total %non agr. Trade (%)	8.2	9.7	7.8	8.5	7.7	

Source: CBS& NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated on the basis of the old exchange rate before 2000

Let's now have a closer look at the structure and evolution of total and agricultural imports and exports, as presented in the following two tables. Table 4.5 shows the changes related to exports and imports comparing them with the Rest of the World (RoW), while table 4.6 focuses on agricultural import and exports.

In table 4.5, it is noticeable an exactly opposite development between imports and exports, within the evolution of GAFTA and non-GAFTA trade patterns. During the reporting period, imports from GAFTA increased by 3.7%, while total imports and imports from the RoW stagnated. Conversely, on the export side, the exports to GAFTA stagnated (i.e. slightly decreased), while total exports and exports to the RoW remarkably increased at an average yearly rate of 7.4% and 9.4%, respectively. The above leading to a slight increase in the share of GAFTA imports over total imports (from 7.7% to 8.8%) and a sound decrease in the share of GAFTA exports over total exports (in 2001 being at 14.2%, more than 5 percentage points lower than 1996/97).

With reference to the impacts of GAFTA executive program over Syrian trade, such opposite patterns can relate, on the import side, to the effectiveness of the removal of Syrian import bans within GAFTA, allowing more GAFTA products to enter the Syrian market. While, on the export side, can relate to still existing NTBs to Syrian exports in GAFTA MCs., or can be somehow more structural, depending on the similarities among the production structures of GAFTA MCs.

Table 4.5. Syrian Imports and Exports from/to GAFTA Compared with the Rest of the World(SP billion)

Items	Year					
	Av. 1996/97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*	AV %
GAFTA imports	4.2	3.3	3.2	4.6	4.7	3.7
Imports from the rest of the world	48.7	40.3	39.6	40.7	48.6	-0.01
Total imports	52.7	43.7	43.0	45.3	53.4	0.3
GAFTA imports / total imports (%)	7.7	7.6	7.9	10.2	8.8	
Exports to GAFTA	8.8	7.8	7.5	7.8	8.4	-0.96
Exports to the rest of the world	35.5	24.5	31.3	45.0	51.0	9.4
Total exports	44.4	32.4	38.8	52.6	59.2	7.4
GAFTA exports / total exports (%)	19.9	24.3	19.4	14.8	14.2	

Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated on the basis of the old exchange rate before 2000

With reference to agricultural trade, table 4.6 confirms the evidences presented in table 4.5. In the reference period, agricultural imports from GAFTA recorded a relatively high increase (6.2%), against a decline in both total agricultural imports and agricultural imports from the RoW. This confirms that the GAFTA executive program could have indeed triggered a mechanism that favors integration among MCs that it is quite lopsided in favor of imports. In fact, differently from the import side, within the overall decline of agricultural exports, agricultural exports to GAFTA didn't follow an opposite pattern, but decreased, although at a slightly lower rate (3.7%) than non GAFTA.

Table.4.6. Syrian Agricultural Imports/Exports from/to GAFTA & Rest of the World (RoW) (SP billion)

Items	Year					
	Av. 1996/97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*	AV %
GAFTA agricultural imports	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.961	6.2
Agricultural imports from RoW	8.5	7.9	9.0	8.3	7.8	-2.1
Total agricultural imports	9.3	8.8	9.9	9.3	8.8	-1.3
GAFTA agr. Imports / Total agr. Imports (%)	8.1	10.2	9.0	11.3	10.9	
GAFTA agr. Imports / agr. Imports from RoW (%)	8,5	11,3	9,9	12,7	12,2	
GAFTA agricultural exports	5.7	4.8	5.0	4.6	4.9	-3.7
Agricultural exports to RoW	4.8	5.6	3.8	4.1	4.1	-4.1
Total agricultural exports	10.6	10.4	8.8	8.8	9.0	-4.,0
GAFTA agr. Exports / total agr. Exports (%)	55	46	57	53	55	
GAFTA agr. Exports / agr. Exports to the RoW	120	86	134	113	122	

Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated on the basis of the old exchange rate before 2000

4.3. Changing Agricultural Trade Patterns with GAFTA MCs

As arguable from the analysis above, it is of major importance to concentrate on the patterns of agricultural trade between Syria and GAFTA MCs. In fact, with reference to table 4.4, despite an increasing trend of both Syrian total trade and Syrian trade with GAFTA MC, the relative importance of GAFTA MCs. as trade partners has been decreasing (the share of GAFTA trade over total trade decreased from 13.3% to 11.7%). Conversely, with regard to agricultural trade, a decreasing trend of both total agricultural trade and agricultural trade with GAFTA MCs., combines with a relative increase of importance of GAFTA MCs. as agricultural trade partners (the share of GAFTA agricultural trade over total agricultural trade increased from 32.8% to 33.2%)

4.3.1. Main Partner Countries in Agricultural Trade

Concerning **agricultural imports** from GAFTA (table 4.7), in 2001, five MCs. almost accounted for 95% of the total.

Table 4. 7. Syrian agricultural imports from Main Member Partners of GAFTA countries, 96-97 to 2001 (millions SP)

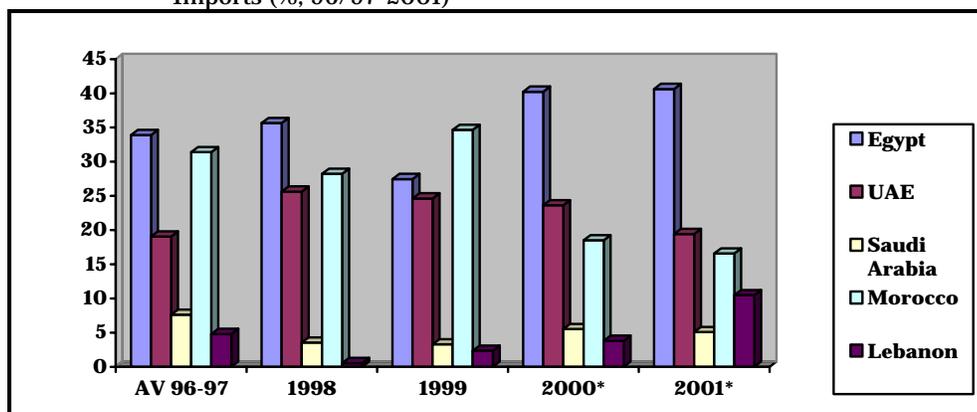
Countries	AV 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
GAFTA agr. imports	756	904	891	1,060	961
Egypt	256	322	245	426	390
United Arab Emirates	144	232	219	250	186
Saudi Arabia	58	32	29	58	49
Morocco	237	255	308	196	159
Lebanon	36	5	21	40	101
Jordan	16	39	32	33	41
Other MC	9	19	37	56	35

NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

As figure 4.1 reports, with regard to agricultural products, Egypt is the most important country (among GAFTA MCs) exporting to Syria; its contribution increased from 34%, in 1996/1997, to 41%, in 2001. The second country is UAE although its share in 2000 was the same of 96/97 (19%), after a peak of 26% in 1998. Morocco, even though its contribution decreased from 31% in 1996-1997 to 17% in 2001, recorded a remarkable share of 35% in 1999. Saudi Arabia decreased its contribution from 8% to 5%, while Jordan increased from 2% to 4%. Lebanon also increased its share from 5% to 10%

Figure 4.1. Contribution of Main Member countries in Syrian agricultural Imports (% , 96/97-2001)



Source: Table 4.7

Top 4 partners:

In 96/97: Egypt, Morocco, UAE, and Saudi Arabia;

In 2001: Egypt, UAE, Morocco, and Lebanon;

As we notice above, the rank of major agricultural products exporting MC to Syria changed before and after the agreement. In 2001, compared to 1996/97, UAE and Morocco inverted their positions, while Lebanon took the place of Saudi Arabia as fourth most important exporter.

With reference to Syrian **agricultural exports** to GAFTA (table 4.8), in 2001, six MC account for about 90% of the total.

Table 4.8. Syrian agricultural Exports to Main Member Partners of GAFTA countries, 96-97 to 2001 (SP millions)

Countries	Av. 96/97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
GAFTA ag.Exports	5,789	4,812	5,083	4,688	4,975
Egypt	244	348	344	502	778
Jordan	846	292	237	196	244
Kuwait	545	501	482	397	327
Lebanon	1,281	1,001	608	332	605
Saudi Arabia	1,723	1,898	2,444	2,363	1,990
United Arab Emirates	334	263	487	393	534
Total	4,973	4,303	4,602	4,184	4,477
Other MC.	816	509	481	504	498

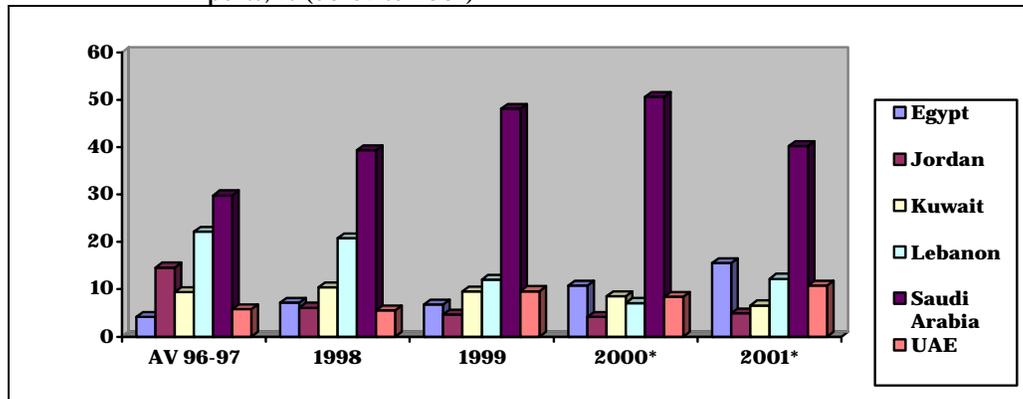
Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

In general, it is noticeable that Syrian agricultural exports to nearby MC decreased (Lebanon and Jordan), while to more distant MC increased (SA.)¹¹.

Saudi Arabia is the most important importers (among GAFTA MCs) of Syrian agricultural products; in the reference period, its contribution increased from 29.8% to 40.2%. Egypt and UAE come after, but both also increased their relative importance through time (from 4.2 % to 15.5 %, the former, and from 5.8 % to 10.8 %, the latter). Instead, Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon decreased their relative importance as importers of Syrian products (respectively from 14.6 % to 4.9 %, from 9.4 % to 6.6 % and Lebanon from 22.1% to 12.2 %).

Figure 4.2. The Share of Main GAFTA Countries in Syrian Agricultural Exports, % (96-97 to 2001)



Source: Table 4.8

Top 4 partners:

In 96/97: Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, and Kuwait;

In 2001: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, and UAE;

As we notice above, also the rank of the major Syrian agricultural products importing from MCs changed before and after the agreement. In 2001, Saudi Arabia was still the major importing MC (40% of total agr. exports), while Egypt and UAE, that in 1996/97 were not listed among the top four (15%, 10% of total agr. exports), respectively were second and four, implying that Jordan and Kuwait were no longer among the top four. Lebanon instead lowered its relevance among the four (12% of total agr. exports)

4.3.2. Changing Related to Type of Products (Raw & processed)

Syrian intra GAFTA agricultural export and imports can be classified in 26 broad groups of products. In this respect, we can observe the impact of GAFTA on the type of products exchanged with MCs. On each group, changes in quantity and value are reported and the eventual causal effects behind any change is specified (whether it can be related to the agreement itself, to changes in the prices or to any other external effect not related to GAFTA). In the appendix, the reader can find numerical details by product, over here the analysis is conducted concentrating on broad categories.

In general, it is noticeable that agricultural imports and exports concentrate on few (not more than 5) products, highlighting that the agreement itself didn't affect the main structure of agricultural trade. In other words, it is arguable that to modify the traditional exchange structure takes time.

¹¹ This may be due to the existence of some NTBs, similarities in commodity production, and presence of the same products in local market.

Imports

From A.4.3 in the referring period, we can distinguish between three types of imported products:

- Products that gradually developed in quantity:
 - cereals
 - miscellaneous edible preparation
 - oil seed& fruits & plants for Indus. & Med. & fodder
 - preparation of edible vegetables & plants & fruits
 - Preparation of meat & fish & others.
- Products that recoded noticeable increase in 2001:
 - edible vegetables & roots & tubers
 - fruits & other edible items & citrus& muskmelon coat
 - meat & edible meet offals,
 - Preparations from grains or flour or starch from grains & roots & tubers.
- Products having an erratic path:
 - Residues and Waste from Food Industry
 - Sugar & Sugar Confectionery
 - Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats

Table A.4.4 clarifies the share of each group in quantity and value and arranges them according to their importance as agricultural imports from GAFTA MC. The following table shows the main four groups share in quantity and in value.

Table 4.9. Share of Main Intra imports Groups into 2001

Main products	Share in quantity	Share in value
Cereals	46	31
Edible vegetables & roots & tubers	15	7
Residues and waste from food industry	14	3
Vegetable & animal oils & fats	10	20
Total %	85	61

The previous figures explain that 85% of imported quantities cost 61% of paid values, which means that the imports' structure, in general, is characterized by not expensive products.

The following two tables, from a different perspective, show the share of main products, distinguishing between raw and processed.

Table 4.10. The share of the main raw products of total raw groups in 2001

Main raw products	Share in quantity	Share in value
Cereals	66	64
Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	21	14
Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat	12	9
Total %	98	87

Table 4.11. The share of the main processed products of total processed groups in 2001

Main processed products	Share in quantity	Share in value
Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch from Grains & Roots & Tubers	5	9
Preparations of Meat & Fish & Others	10	26
Residues and Waste from Food Industry	46	6
Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	43	34
Total share	85	95

Exports

In A.4.5, we distinguish five types of the agricultural exported products:

- Products that developed gradually in quantity:
 - Edible Vegetable & Roots& Tubers
 - Preparations of Edible Vegetable & Plant.
- Products that recorded a noticeable increase:
 - Cotton
 - Meat &Edible Meat offals,
 - Miscellaneous& Edible Preparations,
 - Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch from Grains &Roots & Tubers
 - Products of Milling Industry & Malt and Starches
 - Residues & Waste from Food Industry
 - Vegetable & Animal Oil and Fats.
- Products that had an erratic path in quantity and in value
 - Hides
 - Live Animal
 - Tobacco
 - Wool and Hair.
- Products that decreased
 - Drinks & Liquid Alcohol & vinegar
 - Flax & Ramie
 - Live plant & products of Floriculture
 - Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Inds. & Med. & Fodder,
 - Other Animal Products.

Table A.4.6 clarifies the share of each group of exported products in quantity and value and arranges them according to their importance as agricultural exports to GAFTA MC. The following table is a summary of it built to show the share of main groups of exported products

Table 4.12. Share of Main of Intra Exports Groups into 2001

Products	Share in quantity	Share in value
Coffee & Tea & Mate and spices	2	9
Cotton	8	13
Fruits & other Edible Items & Citrus and Musk	43	27
Edible Vegetable & Roots & other Tubers	28	26
Total	81	75

From the above table we notice a structure similar to agricultural imports with 81% of exported quantities that form 75 % of total value.

If we compare the raw and processed groups we find that:

Table 4.13. Share of the main raw products of total raw groups in 2001

Main raw products	Share in quantity	Share in value
Cotton	9	15
Edible vegetable & Roots & Tubers	51	32
Fruits & other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon	33	31
Total share	93	78

Table 4.14. Share of the main processed products of total groups in 2001

Main Processed products	Share in quantity	Share in value
preparations of Edible Vegetable & Plants & Fruits	27	45
Residues & Waste from Food Industry	28	7
Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	32	28
Total share	87	80

If we compare the shares of the two groups above, we notice that their costs are similar. This means that, either there is no high level agro-industry, or that the products we supposed to be processed are actually semi processed.

Table A.4.8 shows the fluctuation of the export unit value of selected products. For example, the export unit value for cotton was 19.39 in 1996-1997 and decreased to 14.11 in 2001, a decrease by 5.23 SP/kg. This sharp decrease, through years of fluctuations, maybe due to a decrease in the international price, or to the similarity in the production structure among Arab countries that creates competition, making Syrian exports to gain lower prices in the international markets. The other products in the table face the same situation. Hence, it is arguable that Syria needs to focus on increasing the unit value of export, by giving more attention to the profitability for domestic productions in destination markets and increasing export of processed products, which have higher value added than raw agricultural goods.

4.3.3. Changing Related to New Products being Traded

In 2001, a fairly substantial increase in traded products occurred. Nevertheless, it must be noticed that in 2001 a new classification of traded products was introduced. Hence, no meaning comparison between 2000 and 2001 can be made to conclude that a boost in the number of traded products occurred. However, some new products indeed entered trade in 2001

Imports

Syrian imports' structure with member countries did not change remarkably before and after 1998 (up to 2000). A.4.9. displays the development of main intra GAFTA imported products since 1995 until 2001. The 17 products selected from all agricultural imported products formed between 82% and 93% of total agricultural imports till 2000. This illustrates that the structure of imports remained almost the same despite three years of agreement implementation. Though, in 2001, it can be noticed that these groups of products formed only 67% of total agricultural imports, which means that new products took the place of some products from the selected list or new products entered the trade exchange instead or in addition to the existing products. Tracing the list of imported products shows that, in 2001, about 103 new products came into the exchange list and 45 products went out. These new products shaped 24% of Syrian intra GAFTA agricultural imports. Out of these, the main products that indeed entered as effective new products are the following: semi-milled or wholly milled rice, either polished or not glazed, that forms 15.2% from intra agricultural imports, aubergines (egg-plants), fresh or chilled (3%), and Sweet biscuits, waffles and wafers (1%).

Exports

Table A.4.10 shows the development of main Syrian exported commodities to GAFTA from 1995 to 2001. The 19 products, which were selected from agricultural exported products, formed 88% in 1995 and 74% in 2000 of total agricultural export. In 2001, it is noticeable that, the percentage of these products went down to 67% of total agricultural exports, which means that, new products took the place of some products from the selected list, or new products entered the trade exchange instead of or in addition to the existing ones. The list of exported products clarifies that, in 2001, 256 new products entered the exchange and 102 products went out. These new products formed 22% of total agricultural exports A.4.11 while 11 % of total agricultural exports were products that got more importance after the implementation of the agreement. The main truly new products are: Fruits of the genus capsicum or genus pimento, accounting for 1.85%, oil- Cake and other solid residues, whether ground or not (4.06 %), cotton- seed oil and its fractions (3.61 %).

4.4. Impact of the Removal of NTBs

In general, when referring to trade, NTBs can be of various kinds, regulated and not regulated. In this paper we refer mainly to regulated NTBs; in the specific, on import bans. Nevertheless, some evidences that relate to not regulated NTBs (including, exaggerated trucks' inspections and commodities examinations, as well as illegal practices - bribery) can be brought to the attention of the reader. In fact, in A.4.12, we present all commodities not imported and not banned before the agreement whose imports significantly developed after the agreement. Keeping in mind that there might be several reasons for not being imported before, it cannot be excluded that a boost in the imports can be the result of the reduction or elimination of restricting procedures applied before the agreement. In 2001, out of these commodities, ground nuts represented 55%, other beans of the species vigna mungo represented 20%.

4.4.1. Impact of the Removal of Syrian Import Ban

As previously addressed in this chapter, in general, it can be argued that the removal of import bans has been fostering agricultural imports. To get more into the details of the causal relation between the removal of bans and the increase in imports, three categories of commodities can be distinguished:

- Commodities that, up to 2001, despite the elimination of the ban to their imports, have never been imported A.4.13, like birds' eggs and pistachios;
- Commodities that responded positively to the removal of the ban and have been imported at least one time after the process of implementation of the agreement started

Table A.4.14 In 2001, out of these commodities, sweat biscuits represented 96.7% of the total of this group;

- Commodities that, despite the ban, were actually imported before GAFTA implementation process started, and whose imports remarkably increased after the GAFTA agreement (table A.4.15). In 2001, out of these commodities, onions represented 68 % and other potatoes represented 28.7% of the total of this group.

4.4.2. Impacts of Import Ban by Other MCs

With reference to the exported Syrian commodities that might be subject to NTBs by MC, due to the lack of information on the MC side, we can focus on observing the trade patterns of the commodities not exported before the agreement. However, among these products, the unavailability of information doesn't allow us to distinguish those that were not exported since they were banned. Nevertheless, it is remarkable that, after the GAFTA executive program started, some products not exported before, recorded a substantial export. This might lead to the belief that NTBs on MC side indeed existed before the agreement. Nevertheless, no clear-cut evidence allows us to relate a given jump in exports just to the removal of a given NTBs, since the effects of the reduction in tariff are in place as well. Though, the following table reports on some examples of products that registered remarkable exported quantities, after having been zero before the GAFTA implementation process started.

Table.4.15. Partner Countries of GAFTA

Countries	The most important out of the selected commodities
Egypt	Vegetable fats and oils, 5089 ton Raw cotton seed oil, 1250 ton
Jordan	Beans of the species vigna mungo, 271 ton Wheat starch for industries, 274 ton
Lebanon	Concentrated preparations for forage, 184 ton Cotton thread separated raw <No 24, 160 ton
Oman	Sheep, 237 ton Lemons, 32 ton
Saudi Arabia	Beans of the species vigna mungo, 118 ton Olives, 28 ton
Kuwait	Broad beans, 47 ton Olive oil, 20 ton

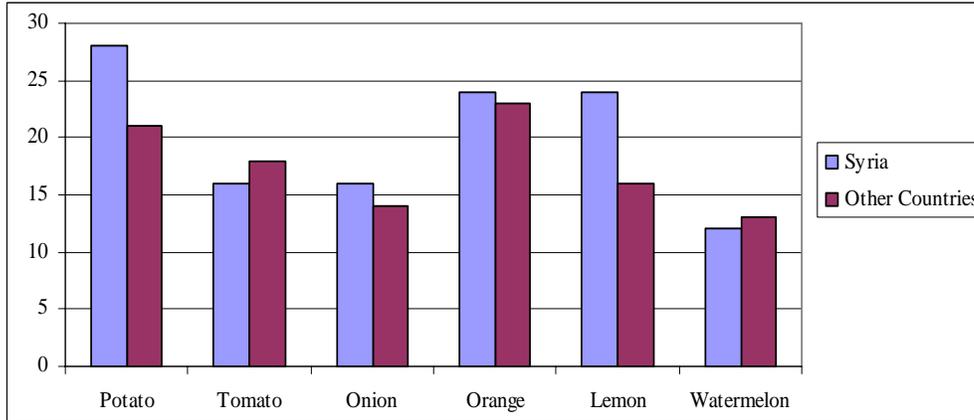
Table A.4.16 & table A.4.21 include more details concerning Syrian exports to main partner countries.

4.5. Impacts of the Agricultural Calendar

In general, it can be noticed that the agriculture calendar of most MC suspends tariff reductions during the harvest season of each crop included in the calendar (SAT 2003). As already mentioned, this significantly limits the trade creation effect expected from the agreement and is justified only as a transitional measure aiming to smooth the adjustment of national systems to the free trade environment.

As per a general comparison between Syrian calendar and other MCs calendars, the following graph compares the protection granted to some products by the Syrian agricultural calendar with the average of other GAFTA members. Duration of protection is rather similar, even that, in most cases Syria has adopted a slightly longer period, the only exceptions being tomatoes and watermelon.

Figure 4.3. Agricultural Calendar, Syria and others, 2002 (weeks per product)

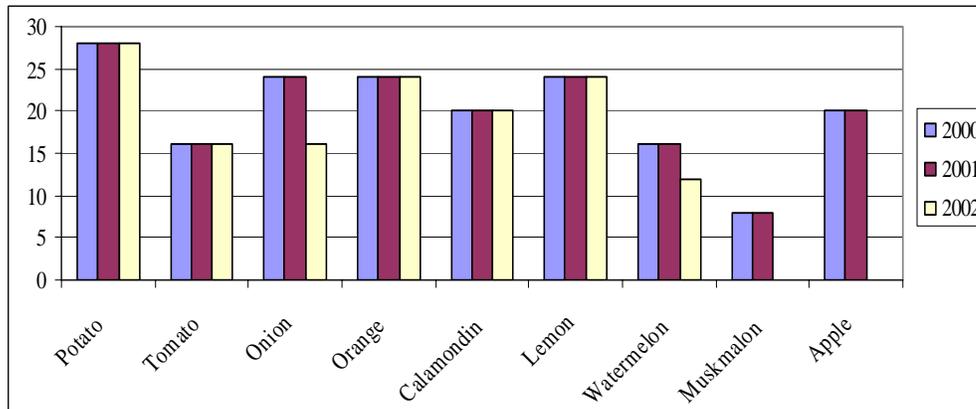


Source: GCD

4.5.1. Agricultural Calendar Applied by Syria

The following graph summarizes the calendar adopted by Syria over the period 2000-2002.

Figure 4.4. Agricultural Calendar Adopted by Syria, 2000-2002 (weeks per product)

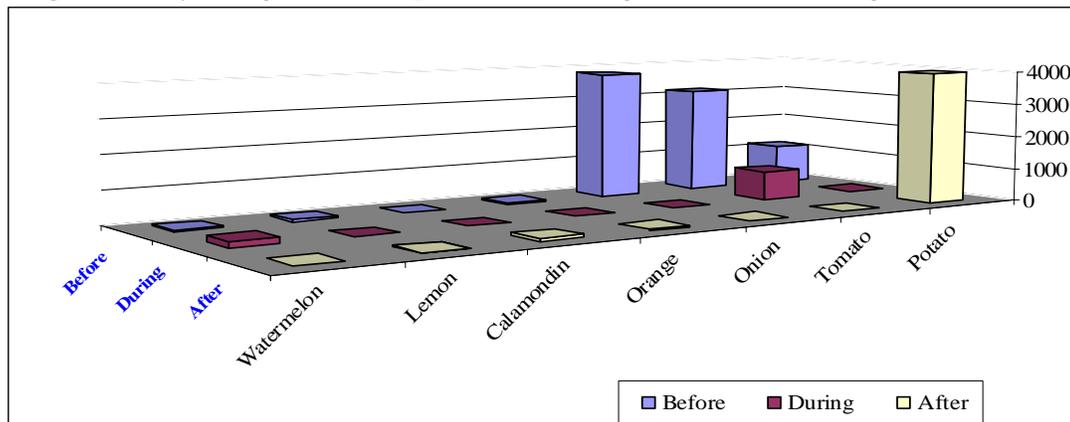


Source: GCD

Most of the products do not show any changes in terms of number of protected weeks, except onion and watermelon (respectively from 24 to 16 weeks and from 16 to 14 weeks). Moreover, apple and muskmelon were not protected in 2002.

In order to analyse the agricultural calendar as one of GAFTA NTBs, in 2002, we refer to the monthly imported quantities of the protected products inside the protection period (PP), taking as a reference the middle of the PP and comparing it to the imported quantities one month before and one month after the PP A.4.22

As presented in the graph below and as it could be expected, most of the products registered a decline in the imported quantities during the PP. Potato and onion are typical cases because they recorded the main imports quantities before or after the PP. On the other hand, tomato and watermelon represent an exception to the above. Tomato imports, during the PP (May) accounted for 875 tons, compared to 3171 tons before the protection period (February) and zero after it (July). Watermelon imports during the PP (June) accounted for 170 tons, compared to 75 tons before it (April) and zero after it (September).

Figure 4.5. Syrian Agricultural Imports before, during, and after in 2002, Agricultural Calendar

Source: GDC

As per watermelon, the above can be explained noticing that the PP covered the months from May to August, although the first two months of it, May and June, are not a production season for watermelon in Syria. Therefore, leaving space for imports of watermelon to enter the Syrian market. Instead, the PP of tomato lasts from 1/3 to 30/6 to allow protection to greenhouses' production, that arguably doesn't satisfy the demand, therefore leaving the chance that some imports of tomatoes could find the Syrian market profitable despite the need to pay a full tariff. Instead, the maximum flow of the production occurs between June and September, outside the PP, but leading to a sort of sound "self protection" due to the huge production and very low local prices.

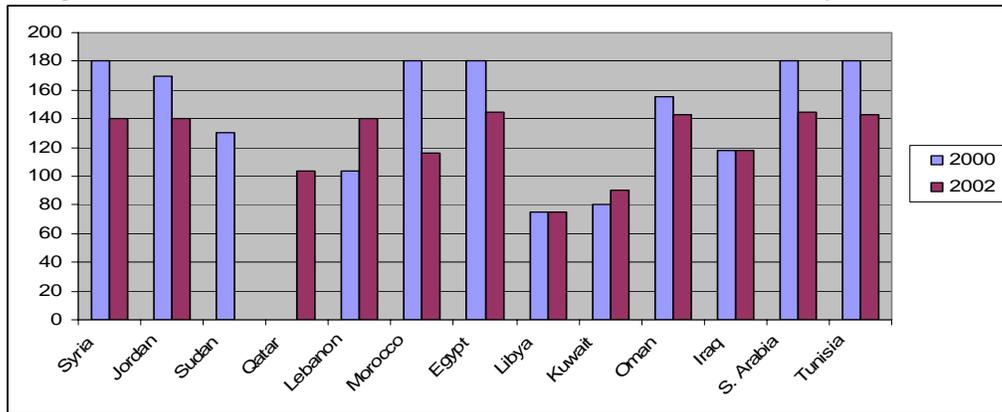
The import patterns of the rest of the Syrian products subject to the agriculture calendar in 2002 confirm the expectations related to the implementation of agricultural calendars within GAFTA and show a reduction in imports (effective protection) during the PP.

The import pattern of potatoes allows some further considerations. From A.4.22., it can be seen that potatoes confirm the expectations of a decrease in imports during the PP, but it can also be seen that potato was a very fluctuating product inside the calendar, with the maximum imported quantity right after the PP. Such a pattern can be explained by the multiple harvests potato is subject, being planted in three different seasons: spring, summer, autumn. The most important harvest is in autumn, and even if the current PP covers the three production seasons, the total production of potatoes evidently is not sufficient to comply with the entire local needs.

4.5.2. GAFTA Agriculture Calendars by County, 2000-2002 (total number of weeks).

The graph below reports the total number of protected weeks for all products in each GAFTA country, comparing 2000 with 2002. Having a look at it, we can conclude that most countries reduced the protection period, though at an uneven pace. Morocco is the MC that more than others reduced the number of weeks of protection (from 180 weeks to 116 weeks). Also Syria undertook a significant reduction (from 180 to 140 weeks). On the contrary, Lebanon and Kuwait increased the number of protected weeks, from 104 to 140 weeks and from 80 to 92 weeks, respectively. Kuwait, instead, adjusted the timing of the protection (for example, potatoes were protected from October 1 to November 30 in 2000 and from February 1 to April 30 in 2001). This type of change is quite relevant, since even if the number of weeks remains the same, the impact on trade could be different. Finally, it should be noted that Qatar only joined the GAFTA agricultural calendar in 2002.

Figure 4.6. Total Number of Protected Weeks in each GAFTAs Country, 2000&2002



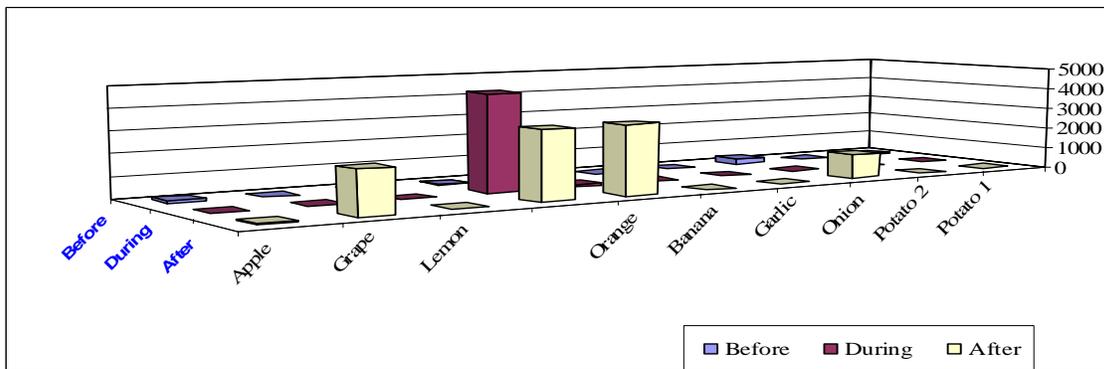
Source: General Department of Customs

Referring to other MCs agricultural calendars, we have a look at Syrian agricultural exports of selected products protected in given relevant Syrian trade partners within GAFTA: Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The same as per imports, we compare the exported quantities before, during and after the PP.

Jordanian agricultural calendar 2002

The included products and the protection periods are mentioned in A.4.23 a general look to Syrian exports to Jordan of products included in the Jordanian calendar shows that most of these commodities confirm that exports decline during the PP, except orange that increases significantly in some of the calendar months. Indeed, the middle of the Jordanian PP for oranges coincides with the Syrian production peak, suggesting that Syrian oranges in this period are very competitive in the Jordanian market. Moreover, orange is exported to Jordan even if there is a tariff because it registers profits through better prices in Jordanian markets compared to local prices.

Figure 4.7. Syrian Agricultural Exports to Jordan before, during, and after Jordanian Calendar in 2002



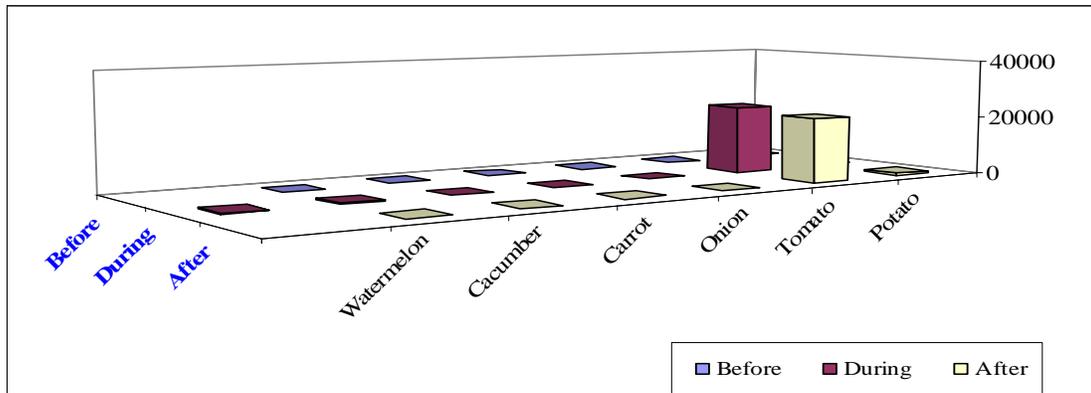
Source: GCD

Saudi Arabia agricultural calendar 2002

Saudi Arabia is considered the most important partner for Syrian agricultural exported products. The 2002 calendar includes some important Syrian agricultural exported products such as potato, tomato, and watermelon. Though, the following graph shows that tomato does not seem to work as it could be expected, since volumes of exported tomato during the Saudi Arabian calendar recorded remarkable quantities (23007 tons). Such evidence can be related to

the high prices that in any case Syrian tomatoes gain in Saudi Arabia markets, compared to local prices.

Figure 4.8. Syrian Agricultural Exports to Saudi Arabia before, during, and after Saudi, Agricultural Calendar



Source: GCD

4.6. Relation between Imports of Protected Products and Price

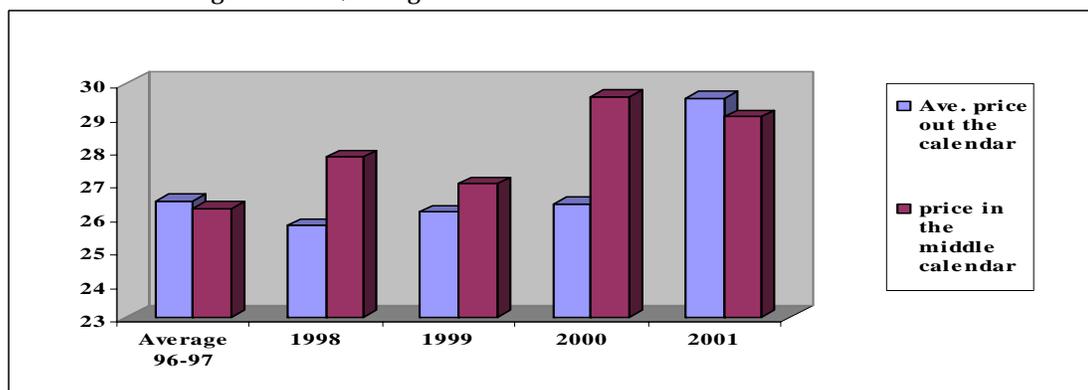
4.6.1. Syrian Calendar

In general, by studying the reaction of prices to tariff reduction & NTBs elimination we can conclude that the pricing system in Syria is not significantly influenced by GAFTA implementation or related to it.

In general, it can be argued that market prices of protected products during time of protection should increase. However, not all agricultural commodities responded to this assumption. Only apple, tomatoes, onion, and watermelon prices rose during the PP of the Syrian calendar, while lemon, potatoes, and oranges prices did not react to the calendar condition as it could be expected. In this regard, it is necessary to mention that change in prices respond to diverse causes and are influenced by many factors aside the agricultural calendar A.4.24

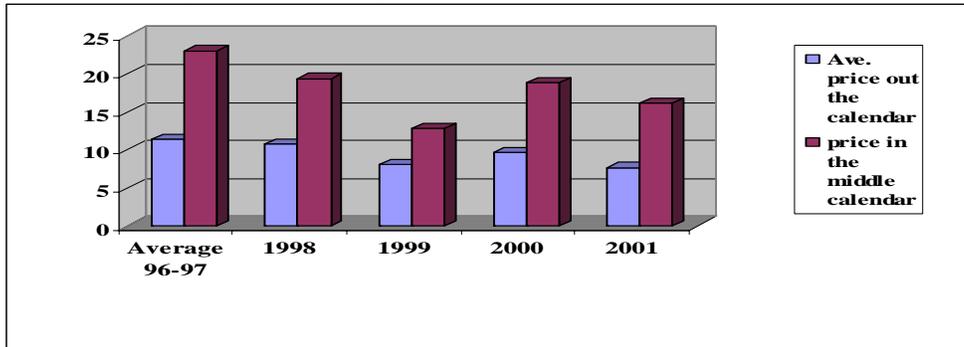
The following graph highlights the evidences of the apple market wholesale price, which increased remarkably during PP 1998-2000, comparing with prices before implementing GAFTA (aver. 1996/1997), and reports about the decrease of apple price in 2001, coinciding with the exclusion of apple from the calendar to fulfill the GAFTA commitment of gradually reducing the number of protected commodities.

Figure 4.9. Changing of Syrian Wholesale Prices of Apple out and during the Syrian Agr. Calendar, SP/kg



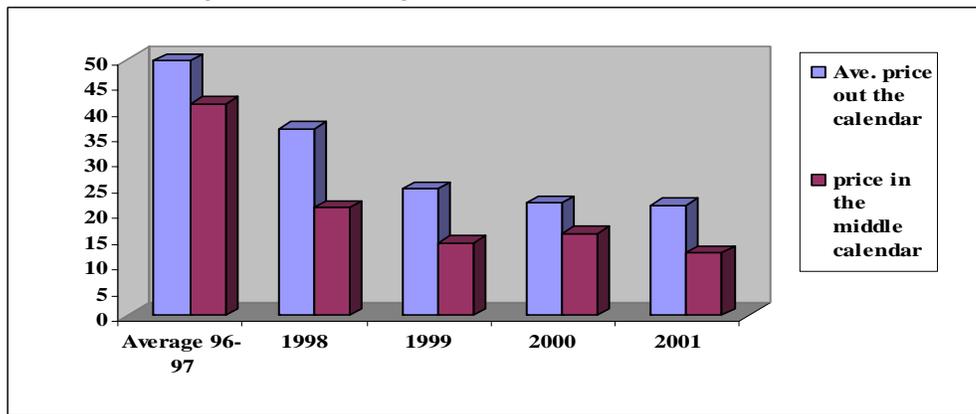
The following graph shows the reaction of tomato prices during the Syrian calendar according to expectations (the same stands for onions).

Figure 4.10. Changing of Syrian Wholesale Prices of Tomatoes out and during the Syrian Agr. Calendar, SP/kg



The following graph is an example of the products that do not work as it can be expected. The market wholesale price of lemon (as well as for potatoes and oranges) during the PP, as before GAFTA executive programme entered into force, kept on being lower than the price outside the PP.

Figure 4.11. Changing of Syrian Wholesale Prices of Lemon out and during the Syrian Agr. Calendar, SP/kg

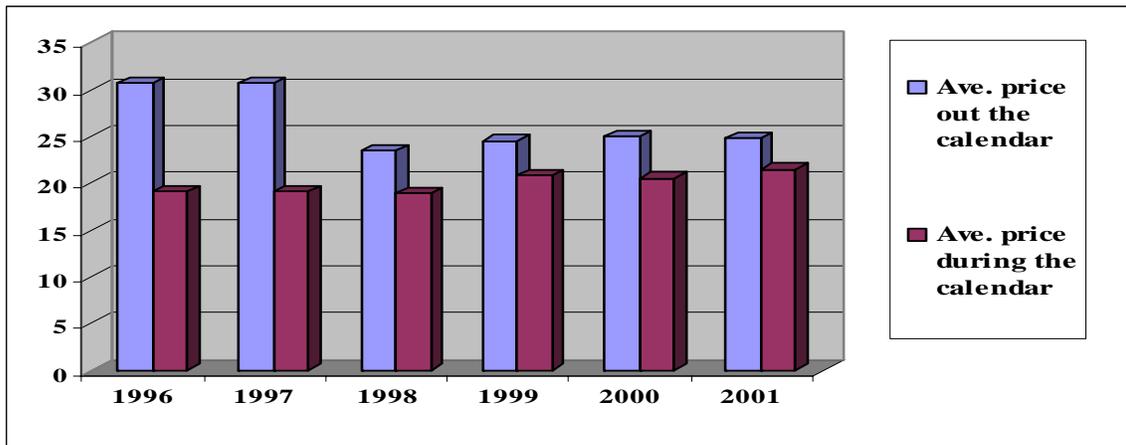


4.6.2. MCs Calendar

With regard to other MCs' calendars, in general, it could be expected that the prices of the Syrian exported agricultural products protected by other MCs' calendars should decrease during the MCs PP. To verify this assumption, we traced the changes of Syrian wholesale prices of selected products protected by MC. In line with the expectation, A.4.25 shows that Syrian grape prices decreased during the PP of the Jordanian calendar and this can be partly due to the decrease of exported quantities of grapes (and consequent higher availability in Syria). The following two graphs give an idea about this expected relation between exported quantity and prices of main products during MC calendar.

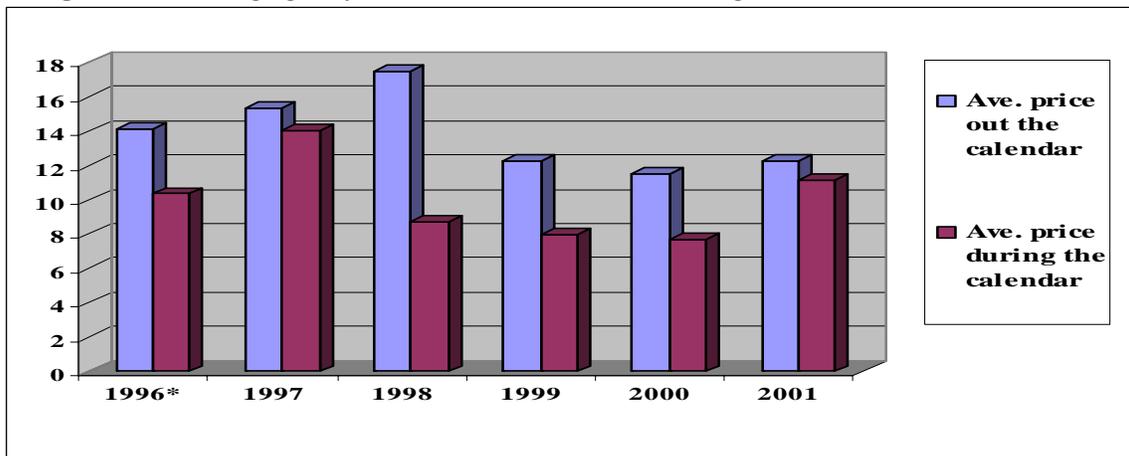
1. Syrian wholesale grape price reaction to Jordanian calendar

Figure 4.12. Changing of Syrian Wholesale Grape Prices before during and after Jordan Calendar.



2. Syrian wholesale tomatoes price reaction to Saudi Arabia calendar

Figure 4.13. Changing of Syrian Tomatoes Prices before during and after Saudi Arabia Calendar.



Chapter 5 -Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Two Main Questions

On the base of the evidences emerged in our study, the following two questions can be posed:

- Is tariff and NTBs elimination alone a sufficient tool to implement a Free Trade Area?
- Is Free Trade Area alone conducive to regional integration?

A straight answer to both of the questions cannot be given. Nevertheless, especially in the case of GAFTA, it is the case to relax the need for clear-cut answers to better understand what stays behind the questions posed.

This chapter displays the results of the overall impacts of implementing the policy instruments of GAFTA (Tariff and NTBs) on Syrian (agricultural) trade during the selected period. In this respect, the following table presents the relevant numerical figures that we will refer to.

Table.5 1. The comparison between Syrian total, agricultural trade with GAFTA and with the World (SP million)

Items	With GAFTA			With the world		
	Before GAFTA, 96/97	After GAFTA 2001*	AAVR, 96/97-2001	Before GAFTA, 96/97	After GAFTA 2001*	AAVR, 96/97-2001
Total Trade	12,911	13,209	0.6	97,218	112,615	3.7
GAFTA / world	13.3	11.7				
Agricultural Trade	6,545	5,936	-2.4	19,953	17,870	-2.7
GAFTA / world	32.8	33.2				
Exports	8,821	8,487	-1.0	44,420	59,209	7.4
GAFTA / world	19.9	14.3				
Agricultural Exports	5,789	4,975	-3.7	10,617	9,024	-4.0
GAFTA / world	54.5	55.1				
Imports	4,089	4,722	3.7	52,798	53,406	0.3
GAFTA / world	7.7	8.8				
Agricultural Imports	756	961	6.2	9,336	8,846	-1.3
GAFTA / world	8.1	10.9				

NAPC database

The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

In short, the prior table shows that Syrian total trade and trade with GAFTA MC increased, although the latter less than the former and, actually, at a very low average annual growth rate. Instead, both total agricultural trade and agricultural trade with GAFTA MC decreased. Although, somehow conversely with respect to overall trade, GAFTA agricultural trade decreased less than total agricultural trade. Disaggregating in exports and imports, the above table shows that while total exports increased, exports to GAFTA MC decreased. Differently, imports from GAFTA MC increased, while total imports stagnated. Furthermore, looking at agricultural exports and imports, agricultural exports decreased both in total and GAFTA trade, while agricultural imports decreased as total, but increased from GAFTA MC.

On the base of the evidences collected above, it can be stated that the overall impact of the GAFTA agreement, in its expectation of fostering trade among Arab states, has been limited to a quite low average annual growth (0.6%), especially if we compare this figure to a rather remarkable average annual increase in total trade (3.7%). However, it must be recalled that the time span of our analysis only covers the first four years of the GAFTA implementation program, at the end of which only 40% of the reduction in tariffs and tariff-like fees was in place. Consequently, during this initial period, no major trade enhancing effects could have been expected.

Contrary to such general considerations, imports from GAFTA MC present a substantial increase (3.7%), above all in the agricultural related figures (6.2%). Such trends could be related to the implementation in Syria of the GAFTA executive program. Indeed, the relevance of the increase in Syrian imports from GAFTA MC fits the evolution of the international trade policy of the country. Such a policy changed from a rather protectionist approach into a progressing liberalization drive, especially with regard to the products of GAFTA MC. The increase in imports from GAFTA MC countries, against total imports and agricultural imports, respectively, stagnating and lowering, is even more remarkable if we recall (chapter 4 table.4 5&4.6) that world imports excluding GAFTA MC (imports from the RoW) either stagnate, as total imports, or, in their agricultural values, decrease more than world imports, therefore, making the increase at GAFTA level very relevant and arguably related to internal GAFTA factors (the liberalization process due to the implementation of the GAFTA executive program). Indeed, Syria opened to foreign (GAFTA) trade sectors and shares of the local market that were previously not existing (import bans) or not profitably accessible (high import tariffs).

Different is the situation on the export side. After four years of implementation of the GAFTA executive program, exports to GAFTA decreased by 1%, against a sound 7% increase of exports to the world market, that, though, it could reasonably be argued, is due to the pattern of oil exports, that notably are addressed to non GAFTA MCs (in fact, exports to the RoW even increased at 9.4% average annual rate). Of more concern are the agricultural exports to GAFTA that decreased at 4.4% average annual rate, although being in line with the trend of agricultural exports to the world (-4%). Indeed, again recalling figures presented in (chapter 4 table.4 6), the share of agricultural export to GAFTA over total agricultural exports, through a slightly erratic path, were in 2001 at the same level of 1996/97¹⁷. Such a situation, stagnating in relative terms and decreasing in absolute terms, could be explained by the persistence, within GAFTA MC, of many NTBs whose elimination didn't accompany the reduction of fees and the elimination of bans. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that, in a liberalising market, Syrian products must gain shares and sectors only counting on their competitiveness¹⁸.

¹⁷ The same stands for the share of agricultural exports to GAFTA over agricultural exports to the RoW.

¹⁸ The Syrian Chamber of Trade claims that Syria has no comparative advantage in any product traded with GAFTA MC.

5.2. Major Constraints to Implementing GAFTA and Realizing its Objectives

With reference to the two questions posed at the beginning of the chapter, some major constraints to the implementation of the GAFTA executive programme can be addressed: the many exemption to the implementation of the program; its many unclear procedures; the absence of detailed and agreed rules of origin; the diverse legislations that MC apply. In one word, the many NTBs, beside import ban, that exist among MC. In this respect, even the agricultural calendar, considered as an instrument of equity in the move to free trade, has been addressed as a tool playing a role of NTB (let alone the problem of non transparent application of its features¹⁹).

Stakeholders claim that the reduction till elimination of tariffs and NTBs is not enough to establish a free trade area. We can make a step forward and say that such reductions are a necessary but not sufficient tool. For a creation of a Pan-Arab FTA a sound harmonization towards co-ordination among related national laws should be in place. In this respect, it must be stressed that there is a profound interrelation between harmonization (and transparent application) of laws and NTBs elimination. It is the lack of harmonized and transparent regulations that allows stated and non stated (“customary”) NTBs to stand. Indeed, as economic literature suggests, countries as GAFTA MC need more than tariff and NTBs reduction to elimination and the emphasis needs also to be placed on co-ordinated regulations and policies.

On this base, the creation of appropriate production structures would allow the full advantages of a FTA as GAFTA to spread. Furthermore, such a harmonization of regulations behind tariffs and NTBs elimination would represent a proper ground to move towards regional integration.

As mentioned above when answering straightly to the second question, FTA alone cannot be conducive to regional integration. Nevertheless, it is a needed condition to which the free movement of capitals and individuals have to be added; free movement that as well cannot be realized without co-ordinated and transparent regulations. Though, our second question brings about further considerations of more general nature. In accordance with economic literature, stakeholders address a peaceful environment, a condition that is not at state in the GAFTA area, as a general precondition to agreements on free trade that want to be conducive to regional integration.

Furthermore,, it needs to be mentioned that various stakeholders generally perceive that GAFTA MC often pursue national interests, rather than regional ones, when signing bilateral agreements (within GAFTA or outside GAFTA) or when aiming at WTO accession or at association agreements with other trading/economics blocks (i.e. EU)²⁰.

5.3. Recommendations for Policy Adjustments

Summing up, to properly address the answers to the questions posed at the beginning of the chapter, the following recommendations can be put forward in order to foster the GAFTA implementation performance in the next years, also pointing out the factors which have prevented Syria and the other member countries from taking full advantage of GAFTA so far:

- Harmonize better the economic policies in MC;
- Address the negative effect of tariff reduction; Arab countries economies (except gulf countries) depend on fees and taxes to finance their budgets. The enhancement in economic relations among Arab countries ought to compensate the finance disadvantage.

¹⁹ See chapter 3 and 4.

²⁰ In this regard, it should be recalled that bilateral agreements between GAFTA MCs are claimed to cause negative effects on other MCs.

This can be done through increasing the level of investments and encouraging multilateral transactions.

- Make NTBs explicit and transparent, working toward elimination;
- Define clear and agreed rules of origin;
- Link better the domestic financial markets with the world financial markets;
- Promote research toward specialization of production according to comparative advantages;
- MCs should operate in order to ensure in the region the free movement of goods, capitals, and persons under a peaceful environment;
- Strengthen regional market information services;
- Diversify Arab production and improve quality standards.
- Promote public awareness on GAFTA;
- Plan to turn GAFTA into a customs union.
- Trace the impacts of GAFTA on agricultural trade further down the impact chain, up to the impacts on agricultural markets, production and income.
- Extend the monitoring of GAFTA implementation and impacts also on other MCs.

Methodological Annexes

Notes on Methodology Applied

According to the MPI methodology, the study passed through the following analytical steps: paper

- 1) First, we defined the objectives and tasks of the monitoring exercise.
- 2) Second, we reviewed the Syrian trade policy (GAFTA agreement), by preparing the log frame matrix and links between objectives at each level of the matrix in hierarchical order from the overall objectives to the specific GAFTA objectives and the planned results and instruments.
- 3) Third, we developed the impact model on the basis of a review of the GAFTA documentation, of experts' consultations as well as stakeholders' interviews and analysis.
- 4) Forth, appropriate impact indicators were selected.
- 5) Then, the research design was developed, using the comparison method (before and during implementation of the agreement), complemented by a qualitative approach of impact assessments by the stakeholders.
- 6) Then, we collected the relevant data, relying on NAPC, World Trade Organization (WTO) trade statistic and Arab Organization of Agricultural Development (AOAD) database,
- 7) so to carry out the final analysis.
- 8) The compilation and analysis of the data led to the results that are presented in this report.

Logframe Approach

In this context, we built the logframe matrix for Agriculture Policy Monitoring applied to GAFTA so to take into account the main objectives of Syrian trade policy and its specification with regard to the GAFTA agreement. The logframe matrix allows to organize in one single set the links between objectives and policies, identifying the instruments needed to achieve these objectives, and monitor the process of implementation, with the possibility for policy makers to eventually intervene to adjust these processes.

The logframe matrix shows the different objectives of a policy in three levels plus a fourth level on the instruments to fulfill the strategy pertaining to the third level objectives (see table 2). With regard to GAFTA, the first level embodies the overall objectives of Syrian trade policy, which turn into improving living standards. This objective can be fulfilled by enhancing economic growth, which is (the second objective in the logframe). Thereby, it is necessary to take into account all sectors and especially the agricultural one, since this one is among the most important in the Syrian economy. The third objective is to attain international integration. This objective would go parallel with the enhancement of economic growth through international liberalization.

The second and the third level of the logframe, respectively, reflect the objectives of Syrian trade policy and the overall objectives of GAFTA agreement (including agricultural objectives). In specific, the second level, serves the enhancement of Arab economies through increasing the volume of trade (exports+imports) in value and in quantity, and improving the share of intra

trade on total trade. To these we add a mention to the increase in export earnings. Increasing export earnings as objective is not mentioned clearly in the agreement, but it is one of Syrian trade policy objectives, and integration of Arab economies is conducive to perform this objective.

The third level of the matrix goes toward further refinements in addressing GAFTA objectives relating to the agricultural sector. At this level, as objectives, we mention the increase of the volume of agricultural trade in general and the volume of agricultural trade within member countries in particular, as well as the specialization of the agricultural production depending on comparative advantages.

The last level includes the instruments used as tools in the context of the agreement to achieve the objectives. These instruments are gradual tariff and NTBs reduction and elimination. Tariffs are to be reduced by an annual percentage until the end of the implementation period. NTBs include, in addition to all restrictions applied by member countries, the agricultural calendar, which plays as a NTB, through the implementation period by protecting sensitive products.

The previous connection of objectives, strategies and instruments serves as a map to clear the way of choosing the suitable instruments to achieve the objectives. In other words, this way of joining general and specific objectives places selected instruments in an experimental state to decide if they are good or not in reaching the objectives. The following table clarifies Logframe Matrix for Agricultural Trade Policies GAFTA.

Table A.1. Agricultural Policy Monitoring (APM). Logframe Matrix for Agricultural Trade Policies GAFTA

	Strategy	Indicators	Source of verification	Assumptions/Risks
Overall trade policy objectives	1) Improve living standards 2) Enhance economic growth (including enhance agricultural sector development and growth) 3) Enhance international integration	1) GDP growth rate (and Ag GDP); 2) GDP/Capita growth rate (and Ag GDP); 3) Income/capita (Ag) 4) Human Development Indicators	1) C.B.S 2) FAOSTAT data. 3) World bank HDI	1) Continuity of economic reform process; 2) Objectives inconsistency; 3) Unavailability of figures
Specific GAFTA objectives	1) Integration of Arab Economies; 1.a) Increase the volume/value of trade; 1.b) Improve the share of intra (GAFTA) trade/Total trade. 2) Increase export earning.	1) Trade volume/value trends (exports, imports) among member countries; 2) Comparison of 1 with respect to trade trends with other partners; 3) Foreign exchange earnings; 4) Intra (GAFTA) trade/total trade trends.	1) MET 2) Customs department 3) CBS 4) NAPC	1) Possible negative impacts of A.A with EU in the preliminary phase 2) AA could support the GAFTA through cumulating rules of origin; 3) Contrast in implementation between GAFTA and WTO.
Specific AFTA objectives within agriculture	1) Increase the volume/value of Agr Trade 2) Increase the volume/value of Agr Trade with member countries 3) Specialization according to comparative advantages; 4) Improve the share of Agr. Intra trade in GDP.	1) Ag trade volume/value trends (exports, imports) among member countries; 2) Intra (GAFTA) Agr Trade/Agr Total Trade trends; 3) Production, productivity and export trends of products with comparative advantages..	1) MA 2) NAPC 3) FAOSTAT data.	1) Implementation of agreement by the other GAFTA countries according to plan 2) Exemptions 3) Choosing products have no real comparative advantages; 4) Contrast between bilateral agreements and GAFTA; 5) Identification of products with comparative advantages. 6) Figures availability
Instruments within agriculture	1) Gradual tariff reduction and elimination; 2) Elimination of NTBs.	Actual steps of implementation of 1) Tariff reduction 2) Removal of NTBs In Syria and other member countries	1) MET; 2) Customs department 3) Chamber of Agriculture. 4) Importers/exporters (gvm. and private);	1) Actual implementation of tariff reduction and NTBs by member countries;

On each level of the matrix, it is necessary to focus on what kind of indicators we need and what are our sources of information we have so to guarantee as much as possible that we have suitable indicators and accurate data to report real results. Besides, each level includes our expectation on the assumption/risks which could affect directly or indirectly on the policy implementation.

Development of impact model

Procedures of improvement the policy impact structure depended on the theoretical basis in one side and on the help of expert's discussion. As we notice below, in this model we trace all possible impacts as a result of applying the tariff and NTBs reduction during 1998-2001. The next step in this work is to go deeper in this model to know at which step we have possibility to evaluate the impact numerically in the context of time and data availability. At the end of this work, we simplify the model in a way to trace the direct impacts on GDP and trade, with some comparison aiming to get if there are relations between trade policy and the wholesale prices and production for selected products.

Table A.2. Monitoring GAFTA: Trade Policy Instruments, Impact Hypotheses and Impact Indicators

GAFTA Instruments	Impact Hypotheses	Impact Indicators
1) Tariff reduction		<i>(Data from years before and during GAFTA implementation)</i>
1.1 in Syria	1.1.1 Increase of imports from GAFTA MC, compared to imports from RoW	Value of imports from GAFTA and RoW.
	1.1.2 Rate of increase of imports from GAFTA > rate of increase of imports from rest of the world	% of intra-imports in imports from the rest of the world (RoW)
	1.1.3 Increase vol. & value of intra agric. imports from GAFTA	Vol. & value of agric. intra imports
	1.1.4 Rate of increase of agric. imports from GAFTA > increase of agric. imports from the rest of the world	% of intra agric. Imports in agric. Imports from the RoW
	1.1.5 Rate of increase of intra non-agric. imports > rate of increase of agric. Intra imports, due to starting from higher tariff rates for non-agric. products	% of intra agric. Imports in total intra imports, Tariff structure (agric./non-agric.)
1.2 by the other Member Countries	1.2.1 Increased exports to GAFTA, compared to exports to RoW	Exports to GAFTA MCs and to RoW.
	1.2.2 Rat of increased of exports to GAFTA > rate of increase of exports to RoW	% of intra exports / exports to RoW (plus exports to selected important MCs)
	1.2.3 Increased vol. and value of intra agric. Exports to GAFTA	Vol. and value of agric. Intra exports
	1.2.4 Rate of increase of agric. Exports to GAFTA > rate of increase of agric. Exports to RoW	% of intra agric. Exports / agric. Exports to the RoW
	(1.2.5 Rate of increase non-agric. intra exports > rate of increase of intra agric. Exports, due to starting from higher tariff rates for non-agric. exports in MCs)	% of intra agric. Exports / total intra exports Tariff structure in MC
1.3 Agric. Calendar		
1.3.1 Calendar applied by Syria	1.3.1.1 Decrease of imports of protected products during the time of protection 1.3.1.2 Market prices of protected products increase during time of protection	Volume and value of imports of selected products before, during and after the period of protection Market prices of protected products
1.3.2 Calendar applied by MC	1.3.2.1 Decrease of exports of products protected by member countries during time of protection	Volume and value of exports of selected products before, during and after the period of protection

AFTA Instruments	Impact Hypotheses	Impact Indicators
2. Removal of NTBs		
2.1. Removal of import ban by Syria	Because of removal of import ban, the value and volume of imports from MCs, and the number of imported items have substantially increased	Value and volume of imports, number of imported items
2.2 Exemptions	The effects of GAFTA do not apply to those products which are protected	List of exemptions
2.3 Removal of import ban by MCs	Because of removal of import ban, the value and volume of Syrian exports to GAFTA MCs, and the number of exported items have substantially increased	Value and volume of exports, number of exported items
3. Overall impacts of GAFTA on Syrian trade		
3.1. Effects on trade volume and trade pattern within GAFTA	Question to answer: Have the imports and exports increased, which have increased more, what is the net effect for Syria?	Comparison of value and no. of items of imports from MCs with value and no. of items of exports to MCs, make further comparison with
3.2. Effects on Syrian trade (volume and pattern) with GAFTA compared to trade with RoW	Question to answer: Is there a significant change in trade volume and trade pattern under GAFTA in comparison with RoW?	Compare data from above (3.1) with the same set of data (imports/exports to/from) the RoW.
3.3 Constraints for trade expansion within GAFTA	If no significant increase in trade volume / pattern within GAFTA is detected: Indicate likely reasons.	E.g. Other still prevailing (regulated and non-regulated) NTBs,
3.4 Further impacts	Question to answer: What are the likely further impacts of GAFTA on the Syrian Economy?	Consider: Possible impacts on Agric. and overall GDP, agric. production, market prices, consumer benefits, etc.

A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods of impact assessment has been applied. A double-difference comparative quantitative analysis (before and during the implementation of GAFTA; GAFTA trade compared to non-GAFTA trade, changing trade patterns with important GAFTA trading partners) was complemented by an assessment of the impacts of specific policy measures introduced under GAFTA, such as the removal of the import ban and the introduction of an Agricultural Calendar as a temporary protection measure for selected agricultural products. This quantitative analysis is followed by a qualitative assessment of other factors (other than tariff-reductions and the removal of the import ban) that have determined the performance of GAFTA in reaching the intended results.

Statistical Annexes

Table A.1.1. The Attitude of Arab Countries toward the Implementation of GAFTA

No.	Country	Inform custom vent	* Put the structure of the tariff	* Application of origin rules	* Agro-calenda r	* exception
1	Jordan	March 9, 998	*	*	*	*
2	U.A. Emirates	March 14, 98	*	*	No	No
3	Bahrain	February 10,99	*	*	*	*
4	Tunisia	February 6, 98	*	*	*	*
5	Saudi Arabia	March 2,98	*	*	*	No
6	Syria	Sept. 1, 98	*	*	*	*
7	Iraq	March 4,98	*	*	*	*
8	Oman	May 9,98	*	*	*	No
9	Qatar	July 1,98	*	*	No	No
10	Kuwait	Jan. 1,98	*	*	No	No
11	Lebanon	Dec.1,98	*	*	*	*
12	Libya	Dec.1,98	*	*	*	-
13	Egypt	Fab. 11,98	*	*	*	*
14	Morocco	Jan. 13, 98	*	*	*	*
15	Palestine Authority	Implement between 2005-2010	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
16	Sudan	Reduction of tariff since 2005-2010 by 20%	Reposed the structure of tariff in 1997			
17	Yemen	Reduction of tariff since 2005-2010 by 20%	Join the 1981 agreement in 2002			
18	Algeria	Undergoing an economic reform				
19	Djibouti	-	-	-	-	-
20	Mauritania	-	-	-	-	-
21	Somalia	-	-	-	-	-
22	Comoros Island	-	-	-	-	-

Notes :

1-Shadowed countries are not members in AFTA

2-(*) means that the country did not implement the gradual decrease of 10% of custom duties and taxes of similar effect.

3-* means that the country took the procedure

Table A.2.1. Syria allows the import of the following fruits and vegetables produced in Jordan without customs fees and other taxes of similar effect, according to the period and quantities agreed

Product	Period	Quantities agreed Upon/Ton
Egg plant	1/11-30/4	18000
Green pepper	1/11-30/4	8000
Haricot	1/11-30/4	6000
Squash	1/11-30/4	6000
Water Melon	1/11-30/4	10000
Musk Melon	1/10-31/12	4000
Grapes	1/5-30/6	2000
Dry Onion	1/1-30/4	4000
Garlic	1/3-1/4	2000
Strawberry	1/1-28/2	Open
Potato	1/3-30/4	Open
Asparagus	During the year	Open

Table A.2.2. Jordan allows the import of the following fruits and vegetables produced in Syria without license, customs fees and other taxes of similar effect according to the period and quantities agreed

Product	Period	Quantities agreed Upon/Ton
Navel Orange	1/2-30/4	8000
Shammouti Orange	1/3-31/5	16000
Valencia Orange	15/4-31/7	8000
Lemon	15/3-31/7	2000
Grapes	1/10-31/12	8000
Apple	1/2-31/5	10000
Pear	1/8-31/1	3000
Cherry	1/6-30/9	3000
Apricot	15/6-15/7	2000
Pistachio	15/8-15/10	Open
Kaki	1/9-31/1	Open
Okra	During the year	Open
Peas	1/8-1/9	Open
Potato	1/9-31/10	Open
Dry Onion	1/9-31/10	5000
Garlic	15/8-31/10	Open

Source: Syrian and Jordanian agricultural calendar minute meeting 2003-2004

Note: All the vegetables and fruits out of the calendar are subjected to AFTA executive program.

Table A.2.3. Contradictions between GAFTA and Bilateral Calendar for 2003-2004 Syrian Calendars (Bilateral and GAFTA)

No.	Products	Bilateral Agricultural Calendar	GAFTA Calendar
1	Egg plant	1/11-30/4	
2	Green pepper	1/11-30/4	
3	Haricot	1/11-30/4	
4	Squash	1/11-30/4	
5	Water Melon	1/11-30/4	
6	Musk Melon	1/10-31/12 , 1/4-15/6	1/5-30/6
7	Grapes	1/5-30/6	
8	Dry Onion	1/1-30/4	1/4-31/5 , 1/9-30/10
9	Garlic	1/3-1/4	
10	Strawberry	1/1-28/2	
11	Potato	1/3-30/4	1/5-30/9 , 1/12/-28/2
12	Asparagus	During the year	
13	Tomato		1/3-30/6
14	Orange		1/10-31/3
15	Lemon		1/10-31/3
16	Clementine		1/10-28/2

Table A.2.4. Contradiction between the Bilateral Calendar and GAFTA for 2003-2004.Jordan Calendars (Bilateral and GAFTA)

No.	Products	Bilateral Agricultural Calendar	GAFTA Calendar
1	Navel Orange	1/2-30/4	
2	Shammouti orange	1/3- 31/5	
3	Valencia Orange	15/4-31/7	
4	Lemon	15/3-31/7	1/11 - 31/3
5	Grapes	1/10-31/12	1/ 8 - 30 / 9
6	Apple	1/2-31/5	1/9 -31/12
7	Pear	1/8-31/1	
8	Cherry	1/6-30/9	
9	Apricot	15/6-15/7	
10	pistachio	15/8-15/10	
11	Kaki	1/9-31/1	
12	Okra	During the year	
13	Peas	1/8-1/9	
14	Potato	1/9-31/10	1/11 -31/12, 1/2 - 31/5
15	Dry Onion	1/9-31/10	15/6 -15/10
16	Garlic	15/8-31/10	1/5 - 30/8
17	peaches		1/8-30-9
18	almond		1/11-31/1
19	Orange		1/12-31/3

Table A.3.1. Fees that applied out of tariffs in intra GAFTA trade for some member countries

Kind of fees	Amount of fees	Remarks
Substitute for transit services	In Syria, 02%-05% of commodity price. In Egypt, 201+60 pound. In Kuwait, 20 dinar.	
Substitute for accompanying trucks	In Syria, 33-58 US\$ according to distances for each truck	
Substitute for supporting fuel	In Syria, 85-113 US\$ for each truck full or empty according to distance. In Jordan, 80 dinar. In Egypt 70 US\$.	In Syria, the law stated that for each Syrian truck 6 US\$, for each Turkish truck 105 US\$, for each truck from Jordan to Lebanon 80 US\$, for each Libyan truck 57 US\$.
Fee for balance	In Syria, 5.5 US\$	
Fee for municipality	In Syria, 1 US\$	
Sanitary services	In Syria, 0.5-1 US\$ according to quantity for agricultural products. In Kuwait, 10 dinar.	
Agricultural fees	In Syria, 1-1.5-4 US\$ for each ton of pesticides	
Stamp fee	In Syria, 1.5 US\$. In Kuwait, 105 dinar.	In Kuwait, only for non Gulf countries
Subsidiary fee	In Syria, 6 US\$	
Public fee	In Syria, 0.2 US\$	
Local fee	In Syria, 0.6 US\$	
Efforts fee	In Syria, 4.4 US\$	
Porter wage	In Syria, 0.3 US\$. In Saudi Arabia, 50+30 rial. In Egypt 30 pound.	

Continued

Kind of fees	Amount of fees	Remarks
United fee on import	In Syria, 1% of commodity price for commodities that free of tariff	This fee is a substitute of 7 kinds of fees, those were national defence, port fee, schools fee, national consumption fee, marin transition, statistic fee, and import certificate fee.
consumption expenditure fee	In Syria, 1.5% of imported commodity value	Commodities with 1% tariff are exempted from this fee
Consular fee	In Syria, 10 US\$ for each certificate that has no prices, 1.5% for certificates with prices in condition that fee not less than 16 US\$. In Egypt, 250 Egyptian pound. In Kuwait, 10 dinar. And in Saudi Arabia, 100 rial.	IN Syria, in case certificates were not endorsed from Syrian embassies in exported countries a fine is imposed equal to 50% of consular fee.
Supplement fee on vegetable oils	0.3 US\$ for each kilo gramme oil	
Inspection fee	In Kuwait, 30 dinar.	
Track entry certificate	In Egypt, 18 pound.	
Track entry fee	In Egypt, 8.75 pound.	
Track exit fee	In Egypt, 8.75 pound	
Visa fee	In Kuwait, 18 dinar. In Egypt, 15 pound	
Custom statement	In Saudi Arabia, 310+304 rial. In Kuwait, 5 dinar. In Jordan, 119 dinar.	
Substitute for commitment	in Kuwait, 105 dinar	In case there is not a certificate of origin or invoice.
Substitute for factor wage	In Egypt, 100 US\$.	
Substitute for insurance	In Jordan, 88.900+5 dinar. In Egypt, 88.80 pound.	
Discharge and reload fee	In Saudi Arabia, 240+610 rial.	
Other fees	In Syria, their percentages are not specific. In Jordan, 12.500+8.500 dinar.	In Syria, they include; fee on alcohol, fee on flammable substances and sugar, exit fee, roads maintaining fee, fee on cotton, and agriculture production fee.

Table A.4.1. Volume and Value of Main Syrian Intra Agricultural Imports, Row and processed

Products	(tons)	Years				
	SP million	Aver 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
Commodities are mostly raw	Quantity	52666	81529	55942	106311	167688
	Value	305	340	240	476	461
Commodities are mostly processed	Quantity	38967	34146	59063	43064	71293
	Value	445	528	624	563	496
Others products not included in these groups	Quantity	1368	5473	4140	3987	1051
	Value	6	36	28	21	4
Groups total	Quantity	93001	121149	119145	153363	240032
	Value	756	904	891	1060	961
Share of Volume and Value of Main Syrian Intra Agricultural Imports, Row and processed						
Products	(tons)	Years				
	SP million	Aver 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
Commodities are mostly raw	Quantity	57	67	47	69	70
	Value	40	38	27	45	48
Commodities are mostly processed	Quantity	42	28	50	28	30
	Value	59	58	70	53	52
Others products not included in these groups	Quantity	1	5	3	3	0
	Value	1	4	3	2	0
Groups total	Quantity	100	100	100	100	100
	Value	100	100	100	100	100

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

Table A.4.2. Volume and Value of Main Syrian Intra Agricultural Exports, Raw and Processed

Products	(tons)	Years				
	SP million	AV 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
Commodities are mostly raw	Quantity	865484	409132	440230	489237	512516
	Value	5340	4310	4637	4223	4257
Commodities are mostly processed	Quantity	43056	69682	51352	74511	97560
	Value	441	496	441	437	677
Others products not included in these groups	Quantity	2548	2119	1653	3259	2653
	Value	8	6	4	27	41
Groups total	Quantity	911088	480933	493235	567007	612730
	Value	5789	4812	5083	4688	4975
Share of Main Syrian Intra Agricultural Exports, Raw and Processed						
Products	(tons)	Years				
	SP million	AV 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
Commodities are mostly raw	Quantity	95	85	89	86	84
	Value	92	90	91	90	86
Commodities are mostly processed	Quantity	5	14	10	13	16
	Value	8	10	9	9	14
Others products not included in these groups	Quantity	0	0	0	1	0
	Value	0	0	0	1	1
Groups total	Quantity	100	100	100	100	100
	Value	100	100	100	100	100

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

Table A.4.3. Volume and Value of Syrian Agricultural Imports from GAFTA member countries by group of products

Products	(tons)	Years					
	SP million	Aver 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*	AV
Cereals	Quantity	42130	74037	50732	92077	110011	27
	Value	216	287	197	344	294	8
Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	Quantity	0	20	157	60	52	327
	Value	0	1	4	1.3	1	303
Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices	Quantity	90	782	205	120	173	18
	Value	2	10	3	12	21	71
Cotton	Quantity	31	53	73	292	175	54
	Value	2	3	3	8	1	-10
Drinks & Liquid Alcohols & Vinegar	Quantity	43	6	428	20	447	80
	Value	2	0	3	1	2	3
Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	Quantity	58	20	170	2638	35393	
	Value	0	0	2	25	67	253
Fish & Crustaceans & Molluscan	Quantity	12	6	9	9	18	11
	Value	1	1	1	1	3	24
Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat	Quantity	8377	3711	2617	7759	19750	24
	Value	48	13	8	39	42	-3
Flax and Ramie	Quantity	89	55	53	43	88	0
	Value	1	1	1	0	1	-7
Hides (except Fur)	Quantity	560	2174	1103	1272	346	-11
	Value	4	15	9	11	2	-14
Live Animals	Quantity	24	10	6	6	14	-12
	Value	8	2	2	1	2	-30
Live Plants & Products of Floriculture	Quantity	5	19	43	38	15	34
	Value	2	0	0	1	0	-48
Meat & Edible Meat Offals	Quantity	0	0	0	0	150	
	Value	0	0	0	0	1.2	
Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey	Quantity	157	83	1	0.07	20	-40
	Value	4	1	0.03	0.00	0.4	-46
Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	Quantity	269	375	260	453	557	20
	Value	23	21	23	29	25	2
Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Inds. & Med. & Fodder	Quantity	388	170	773	484	1143	31
	Value	3	1	9	9	9	30
Other Animal Products	Quantity	0	16	166	185	2	144
	Value	0	1	7	8	0	82

Continued

Products	(tons)	Years					
	SP million	Aver 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*	AV
Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch from Grains & Roots & Tubers	Quantity	48	19	349	929	3722	197
	Value	1	0	10	23	47	165
Preparations of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits	Quantity	0	0	34	318	928	
	Value	0	0	1	9	13	
Preparations of Meat & Fish & Others	Quantity	2492	2463	3056	4019	6855	29
	Value	230	248	302	196	129	-13
Products of Milling Industry & Malt & Starches	Quantity	0	10	25	510	1100	
	Value	0	0	0	4	2	
Residues and Waste from Food Industry	Quantity	8272	5458	24829	3145	32564	41
	Value	8	6	15	2	32	41
Sugar & Sugar Confectionery	Quantity	7836	1	91	174	715	-45
	Value	32	0	4	10	31	-1
Tobacco	Quantity	244	56	0	288	405	14
	Value	10	3	0	12	20	19
Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	Quantity	19996	25787	29825	33428	24334	5
	Value	147	251	260	287	212	10
Wool & Hair	Quantity	514	343	0	1110	3	-73
	Value	3	3	0	6	0	-63
Groups total	Quantity	91633	115676	115005	149375	238981	27
	Value	750	868	863	1039	957	6
Others products not included in these groups	Quantity	1368	5473	4140	3987	1051	-6
	Value	6	36	28	21	4	-10
Total agricultural imports	Quantity	93001	121149	119145	153363	240032	27
	Value	756	904	891	1060	961	6

Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

Table A.4.4. Share of Volume and Value of Syrian Agricultural Import from GAFTA member countries by groups of products

Products	(tons)	Years				
	SP million	Aver 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
cereals	Quantity	45	61	43	60	46
	Value	29	32	22	32	31
Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	Quantity	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices	Quantity	0	1	0	0	0
	Value	0	1	0	1	2
Cotton	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	1	0
Drinks & Liquid Alcohols & Vinegar	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	Quantity	0	0	0	2	15
	Value	0	0	0	2	7
Fish & Crustaceans & Molluscan	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat	Quantity	9	3	2	5	8
	Value	6	1	1	4	4
Flax and Ramie	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Hides (except Fur)	Quantity	1	2	1	1	0
	Value	1	2	1	1	0
Live Animals	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	1	0	0	0	0
Live Plants & Products of Floriculture	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Meat & Edible Meat Offals	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	1	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	3	2	3	3	3

Continued

Products	(tons)	Years				
	SP million	Av. 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Inds. & Med. & Fodder	Quantity	0	0	1	0	0
	Value	0	0	1	1	1
Other Animal Products	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	1	1	0
Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch from Grains & Roots & Tubers	Quantity	0	0	0	1	2
	Value	0	0	1	2	5
Preparations of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits	Quantity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4
	Value	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.4
Preparations of Meat & Fish & Others	Quantity	3	2	3	3	3
	Value	30	27	34	18	13
Products of Milling Industry & Malt & Starches	Quantity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5
	Value	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
Residues and Waste from Food Industry	Quantity	9	5	21	2	14
	Value	1	1	2	0	3
Sugar & Sugar Confectionery	Quantity	8	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3
	Value	4	0.0	0.4	1	3
Tobacco	Quantity	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
	Value	1	0	0	1	2
Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	Quantity	22	21	25	22	10
	Value	20	28	29	27	22
Wool & Hair	Quantity	1	0.3	0.0	1	0.0
	Value	0.4	0.3	0.0	1	0.0
Groups total	Quantity	99	95	97	97	100
	Value	99	96	97	98	100
Others products not included in these groups	Quantity	1	5	3	3	0.4
	Value	1	4	3	2	0.4
Total agricultural trade	Quantity	100	100	100	100	100
	Value	100	100	100	100	100

Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

Table A.4.5. Volume and Value of Syrian Agricultural Exports by Group of Products

Products	(tons)	Years					
	SP million	AV 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*	AV
Cereals	Quantity	515361	48797	0	56	20	-92.1
	Value	970	116	0	0	0	-88.4
Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	Quantity	637	600	515	1113	1664	27.1
	Value	7	6	8	17	28	40.2
Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices	Quantity	5296	4911	6140	8007	13996	27.5
	Value	75	75	243	139	425	54.1
Cotton	Quantity	16266	11982	7484	24559	46030	29.7
	Value	315	181	109	426	650	19.9
Drinks & Liquid Alcohols & Vinegar	Quantity	1596	1292	1794	532	734	-17.7
	Value	11	6	10	3	4	-21.7
Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	Quantity	216616	202758	214503	252201	261036	4.8
	Value	1527	2182	1691	1224	1341	-3.2
Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat	Quantity	90330	104534	176537	152300	171054	17.3
	Value	1392	993	1661	1094	1305	-1.6
Flax and Ramie	Quantity			6	0	1	
	Value			0		0	
Hides (except Fur)	Quantity	31	7	0	122	38	5.6
	Value	1	0	0	1	1	9.3
Live Animals	Quantity	13068	25566	26106	42442	10909	-4.4
	Value	812	568	623	1136	342	-19.4
Live Plants & Products of Floriculture	Quantity	1034	1719	1338	1014	1596	11.5
	Value	98	84	126	42	56	-13.0
*Meat & Edible Meat Offals	Quantity		85	26	28	79	
	Value		0	0	2	2	
Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey	Quantity	3521	2914	1184	4540	3120	-3.0
	Value	65	46	35	71	69	1.3
Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	Quantity	77	140	350	466	1039	91.7
	Value	1	2	11	6	22	114.4
Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Inds. & Med. & Fodder	Quantity	2214	4436	3910	2358	3246	10.0
	Value	35	46	84	53	42	5.0
Other Animal Products	Quantity	159	303	347	171	123	-6.1
	Value	7	9	9	14	9	7.5

Continued

Products	(tons) SP million	Years					
		AV 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*	AV
Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch from Grains & Roots & Tubers	Quantity	1044	1223	1398	1290	2526	24.7
	Value	10	14	18	17	27	27.2
Preparations of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits	Quantity	20389	19280	17310	20940	25990	6.3
	Value	280	291	230	236	308	2.4
Preparations of Meat & Fish & Others	Quantity	14	21	21	33	15	1.3
	Value	0	0	0	0	0	-9.3
Products of Milling Industry & Malt & Starches	Quantity	138	84	7	1128	2603	108.5
	Value	1	1	0	4	7	72.1
Residues and Waste from Food Industry	Quantity	13188	35694	15508	22581	27614	20.3
	Value	19	40	22	36	49	27.6
Sugar & Sugar Confectionery	Quantity	2840	9071	1375	11478	4534	12.4
	Value	27	21	16	34	45	13.8
Tobacco	Quantity	1588	0	2416	905	1127	-8.21
	Value	42	0	53	20	14	-23.7
Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	Quantity	3131	2277	13075	14950	30842	77.2
	Value	85	114	125	84	187	21.9
Wool & Hair	Quantity		1118	231	534	140	
	Value		10	3	2	0	
Groups Total	Quantity	908541	478814	491582	563748	610076	-9.48
	Value	5780	4806	5079	4660	4,934	-3.88
Other products not included in these groups	Quantity	2548	2119	1653	3259	2653	1.02
	Value	8	6	4	27	41	49.3
Total agricultural exports	Quantity	911,088	480,933	493,235	567,007	612,730	-9.44
	Value	5,789	4,812	5,083	4,688	4,975	-3.72

Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

Table A.4.6. Share of Volume and Value of Syrian Agricultural Exports by Group of Products

Products	(tons)	Years				
	SP million	AV 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
Cereals	Quantity	57	10	0	0	0
	Value	17	2	0	0	0
Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	1
Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices	Quantity	1	1	1	1	2
	Value	1	2	5	3	9
Cotton	Quantity	2	2	2	4	8
	Value	5	4	2	9	13
Drinks & Liquid Alcohols & Vinegar	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	Quantity	24	42	43	44	43
	Value	26	45	33	26	27
Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat	Quantity	10	22	36	27	28
	Value	24	21	33	23	26
Flax and Ramie	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0.00	0
Hides (except Fur)	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Live Animals	Quantity	1	5	5	7	2
	Value	14	12	12	24	7
Live Plants & Products of Floriculture	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	2	2	2	1	1
*Meat & Edible Meat Offals	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0.0	0	0	0	0
Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey	Quantity	0	1	0	1	1
	Value	1	1	1	2	1
Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Inds. & Med. & Fodder	Quantity	0	1	1	0	1
	Value	1	1	2	1	1
Other Animal Products	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0

Continued

Products	tons	Years				
	SP million	AV 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch from Grains & Roots & Tubers	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	1
Preparations of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits	Quantity	2	4	4	4	4
	Value	5	6	5	5	6
Preparations of Meat & Fish & Others	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Products of Milling Industry & Malt & Starches	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Residues and Waste from Food Industry	Quantity	1	7	3	4	5
	Value	0	1	0	1	1
Sugar & Sugar Confectionery	Quantity	0	2	0	2	1
	Value	0	0	0	1	1
Tobacco	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	1	0	1	0	0
Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	Quantity	0	0	3	3	5
	Value	1	2	2	2	4
Wool & Hair	Quantity	0	0	0	0	0
	Value	0	0	0	0	0
Groups Total	Quantity	100	100	100	99	100
	Value	100	100	100	99	99
Other products not included in these groups	Quantity	0	0	0	1	0
	Value	0	0	0	1	1
Total agricultural exports	Quantity	100	100	100	100	100
	Value	100	100	100	100	100

Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

Table A.4.7. Changes of Import Unit Value for selected products, SP/kg

Products	Aver 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
cereals	5.1	3.9	3.9	3.7	2.7
Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	7.4	11.8	8.8	9.3	1.9
Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat	5.7	3.5	3.1	5.0	2.1
Total raw agricultural imports	5.8	4.2	4.3	4.5	2.7
Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch from Grains & Roots & Tubers	19.9	11.1	28.6	24.3	12.7
Preparations of Meat & Fish & Others	92.4	100.8	98.9	48.7	18.8
Residues and Waste from Food Industry	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.5	1.0
Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	7.4	9.7	8.7	8.6	8.7
Total agricultural trade	8.1	7.5	7.5	6.9	4.0

Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

Table A.4.8. Changes of Exports Unite Value of the selected Products, SP/kg

Products	1996-1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Cotton	19.34	15.13	14.55	17.36	14.11
Edible vegetable & Roots & Tubers	7.05	10.76	7.88	4.85	5.14
Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon	15.41	9.50	9.41	7.18	7.63
Total raw agricultural exports	10.00	10.51	8.68	6.39	6.89
Preparations of Edible Vegetable & Plants & Fruits	13.74	15.11	13.29	11.26	11.84
Residues & Wastes from Food Industry	1.41	1.11	1.43	1.58	1.78
Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	27.02	50.09	9.55	5.64	6.07
Total Agricultural Processed exports	10.44	7.77	8.21	6.08	6.44

Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

Table A.4.9. Development of import for Main Syrian commodities from GAFTA Member Countries

Items	1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%
Shelled Rice (10/6/b)	54660	60	49384	45	34875	45	74037	61	50732	43	92027	60	73574	31
Raw Sugar for Refining (17/1/a/1)	0	0	14000	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Hydrogenated Oil (15/12/b)	3554	4	10504	10	263	0	1364	1	1771	1	570	0	1766	1
Other Dates (8/1/a/2)	0	0	9406	9	5789	8	1643	1	790	1	4416	3	3708	2
Plant Origin Margarine (15/13/b)	6421	7	8788	8	13815	18	21761	18	23681	20	30125	20	19088	8
Bananas, including plantains, fresh or dried	0	0	0	0	607	1	1811	1	1730	1	2212	1	7344	3
Tomatoes, fresh or chilled.	0.2	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3976	2
Aubergines (egg-plants), fresh or chilled.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7158	3
Cakes & Residues of Olive & other Oil Refinery Residues (23/4)	602	1	5713	5	10703	14	5326	4	24485	21	2977	2	27432	11.4
Sesame Seeds (12/1/h)	601	1	150	0	0	0	0	0	314	0	0	0	728	0.3
Fatty Acids for Industry (15/10/a/1)	3554	4	769	1	1718	2	5322	4	3920	3	3920	3	1020	0.4
Other potatoes, fresh or chilled.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4588	2
Fruits & Kernels of Guinea Palm (12/1/c)	0	0	0	0	215	0	151	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon & Sardines & Tuna (16/4/a)	2732	3	2021	2	2874	4	2463	2	3054	3	4019	3	6855	3
Maize & Soya Bean & Sunflower Oil (15/7/I)	2953	3	2545	2	2283	3	2263	2	2908	2	2295	1	0	0
Cucumbers and gherkins, fresh or chilled.	1	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2629	1
Flours, meals and pellets, of meat or meat offal; greaves	104	0	0	0	128	0	132	0	344	0	88	0	2056	1
%		82		95		95		96		95		93		67
Total agricultural quantities	91403	100	108920	100	77081	100	121149	100	119145	100	153363	100	240032	100

Source: NAPC database

Table A.4.10. The Development of Main Syrian Exported commodities to GAFTA Member Countries

Item	1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%
Barley (10/3)	555085	58	556495	53	296764	38	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheat & Mixture of Wheat & Rye (10/1)	32832	3	99740	10	77663	10	48751	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tomato (7/1/d)	72616	8	82378	8	107486	14	101102	21	123303	25	170635	30	162530	27
Other Lentils (7/5/d/2)	11897	1	55958	5	44830	6	5701	1	3538	1	2106	0	4037	1
Other Potato (7/1/g/2)	39952	4	27467	3	8295	1	10542	2	15346	3	8276	1	7645	1
Sheep (1/4/a)	21512	2	17694	2	6119	1	25370	5	25988	5	42255	7	10890	2
Raw Cotton (55/1)	21631	2	16119	2	14929	2	11485	2	6201	1	9321	2	33160	5
Fresh Grapes (8/4/a)	21261	2	12654	1	20038	3	19511	4	38626	8	21062	4	30372	5
Cakes & Residues of Olive & other Oil Refinery Residues (23/4)	473	0	8491	1	17509	2	35190	7	12350	3	22509	4	25670	4
Apple (8/6/a)	5726	1	3697	0	6167	1	17359	4	24516	5	15200	3	17299	3
Other Vegetables & Plants (7/1/u/2)	14573	2	12691	1	17699	2	20911	4	21125	4	28894	5	7454	1
Oranges (8/2/a)	5946	1	5124	0	2249	0	3698	1	19668	4	23624	4	21958	4
Pears (8/6/b)	4923	1	3074	0	5630	1	3810	1	19199	4	7458	1	11815	2
Musk Melon (8/9/c)	9296	1	9829	1	16992	2	10975	2	18102	4	17234	3	14619	2
Mandarin (8/2/b)	7712	1	5345	0.5	5060	1	8831	2	16755	3	12722	2	18092	3
Seeds of cumin (0909.30.00)	5519	1	2669	0.3	3899	1	2653	1	2992	1	6286	1	11154	2
Water Melon (8/9/b)	2582	0.3	3722	0	5879	1	7857	2	4923	1.0	12137	2	11242	2
Pistachios, In shell (0802.50.10) Sum of Exports Quantity (Kg)	3861	0	10209	1	11914	2	5600	1	4615	1	3669	1	10256	2
Apricot and its products	12041	1	17481	2	9290	1	14533	3	13948	3	16977	3	13531	2
Total share of main products		88		91		87		74		75		74.1		67.2
Others		12		9		13		26		25		26		33
Total agricultural exports	962078	100	1045567	100	776610	100	480933	100	493235	100	567007	100	612730	100

Source: NAPC database

Comment: 24% of exported products are for products enter the trade exchange in 2001

Table A.4.11. Total intra agricultural exports for products introduced to the trade exchange in 2001, kg

Items	Year							%
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	
Carrots and turnips (0706.10.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	4487249	0.74
Fruits of the genus capsicum or of the genus pimenta, fresh or chilled (0709.60.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	11279382	1.85
Oil-cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soya-bean oil (2304.00.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	10545810	1.73
Oil-cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of vegetable fats or oils, of cotton seeds (2306.10.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	14185527	2.33
Other Carrots, turnips, salad beetroot, salsify, celeriac, radishes and similar edible roots, fresh or chilled (0706.90.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	8044004	1.32
Other Cotton-seed oil and its fractions (1512.29.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	22000000	3.61
Other Lettuce (0705.19.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	10145994	1.66
Other Raw Cotton-seed oil Crude and its fractions (1512.21.90)	0	0	0	0	0	0	5548406	0.91
Raw cotton yarn, (other than sewing thread), containing 85% or more by weight of cotton, not put up for retail sale, single of uncombed fibers, measuring 714.29 decitex or more (not exceeding 14 metric number) (5205.11.10)	0	0	0	0	0	0	5280442	0.87
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	91516814	15.00
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	44380755	7.27
Total intra agricultural exports for products introduced to the trade exchange in 2001							146787337	22.28

Source: NAPC database

Table A.4.12. Imported commodities that were zero before GAFTA

Sum of Imports Quantity (tons) English Name(H.S)	Year						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated (0901.11.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.5	53.2	0.0	0.0
Cotton Threads Separated Raw Over No. 40 (55/5/a/2/b)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.2	42.8	0.0
Cotton waste (including yarn waste and garnetted stock) (5202.00.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	166.2	72.4	267.3	0.0
Flour, meal and powder of potatoes (1105.10.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	50.0	100.0
Fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta, dried or crushed or ground (0904.20.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	15.5	0.0
Ground-nuts, not roasted or otherwise cooked, shelled, whether or not broken (1202.20.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	434.1	374.0	386.0
Other Beans of the species Vigna mungo (L.) Hepper or Vigna radiata (L.) Wilczek (0713.31.90)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	150.0	2572.8	143.0
Other fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, otherwise prepared or preserved, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or spirit (2008.99.90)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.4	18.7	22.4
Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% vol or higher (2207.10.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	103.7	0.0	26.4

Source: NAPC database

Table A.4.13. Imports Quantity (Kg) for Commodities that were banned from Import before GAFTA in Syria

Sum of Imports Quantity (Kg)	Year						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Birds eggs, in shell, fresh, preserved or cooked (0407.00.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts (Castanea spp.) (0802.40.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cut flowers and flower buds of a kind suitable for bouquets or for ornamental purposes (0603.00.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dried okra (0712.90.10)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ground-nut oil and its fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified (1508.00.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mushroom and truffles prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid (2001.90.40)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other beer made from malt (2203.00.90)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Birds' eggs (0408.99.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pistachios, In shell (0802.50.10)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds of anise or badian (0909.10.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snuff (2403.99.20)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tobacco, not stemmed/stripped (Leaf tobacco) (2401.10.10)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watermelon seeds (yellow or red seeds with green shell) (1212.99.20)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: NAPC database

Table A.4.14. Imports Quantity (Kg) for Commodities that were banned from Import before GAFTA in Syria

Sum of Imports Quantity (Kg)	Year						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Bulgur wheat (1904.30.00)	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Cut flowers and flower buds of a kind suitable for bouquets or for ornamental purposes, Fresh (0603.10.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	497
Fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta, dried or crushed or ground (0904.20.00)	0	0	0	0	15350	15500	0
Grapes, dried	0		0	0	0	0	24300
Grapes, fresh (0806.10.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	32270
Ground-nuts, not roasted or otherwise cooked, in shell (1202.10.00)	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Linseed oil and its fractions (1515.11.00)	0	0	0	24000	0	0	0
Meal of wheat (1103.11.10)	0	0	0	0	1	0	40
Molasses resulting from the extraction or refining of sugar (1703.00.00)	0	0	0	0	850	0	0
Other cereal groats, meal and pellets (1103.19.90)	0	0	0	0	40	460000	0
Sakini seeds (white seeds) and squash seeds (1212.99.40)	0	0	0	19050	0	0	0
Sweet biscuits; waffles and wafers (1905.30.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2420222
Vinegar and substitutes for vinegar obtained from acetic acid (2209.00.00)	0	0	0	0	84	972	25000

Table A.4.15. Imports Quantity (Kg) for Commodities that were banned from Import before GAFTA in Syria

Sum of Imports Quantity (Kg)	Year							
	1995	1996	1997	Avr.95-97	1998	1999	2000	2001
Beer made from malt, in containers of a capacity of less than 1 liter (2203.00.10)	44325	0	2050	15458	0	0	0	16632
Chewing tobacco (2403.99.10)	63051	310906	176454	183470	55511	0	288172	318895
Live poultry, that is to say, Fowls of the species gallus domesticus, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys and Guinea fowls (0105.00.00)	30381	10742	19227	20117	9865	6000	5750	0
Chocolate, plates and blocks (resulting from mold) weighing 1 kg each but not exceeding 2 kg (1806.32.10)	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	0
Milk of a fat content, by weight, not exceeding 1% (0401.10.00)	100	0	0	33	0	0	0	0
Mineral waters and aerated waters, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured (2202.10.00)	23667	0	0	7889	0	238	0	0
Mineral waters and aerated waters, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter nor flavoured (2201.10.00)	0	0	25	8	0	302482	0	25200
Natural Honey (0409.00.00)	0	31837	4025	11954	3002	3	0	0
Onions, fresh or chilled (0703.10.10)	295	75	0	123	0	0	0	10899213
Other bread, pastry, cakes, biscuits and other bakers/' wares, whether or not containing cocoa (1905.90.90)	28	0	50	26	0	202170	635341	51636
Other fixed vegetable fats and oils (including jojoba oil) and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified. (1515.90.90)	0	0	17112	5704	0	80	10	0

Continued

Sum of Imports Quantity (Kg)	Year							
	1995	1996	1997	Avr.95-97	1998	1999	2000	2001
Other Potatoes, fresh or chilled (0701.90.00)	1270	0	0	423	0	0	0	4588467
Other prepared foods obtained by the swelling or roasting of cereals or cereal products (1904.90.90)	0	0	15000	5000	637	0	36521	66736
Palm oil crude of a degree of acidity of 20% and higher (1511.10.10)	0	0	33440	11147	0	0	0	0
Pasta, whether or not cooked or stuffed (with meat or other substances) or otherwise prepared	0	0	90	30	0	32241	91513	0
Prepared of bovine animals (1602.50.00)	0	0	55	18	0	0	0	0
Sesame oil and its fractions (1515.50.00)	0	0	75	25	0	190	21547	14400
Sugar beet (1212.91.00)	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sugar confectionery (including white chocolate), not containing cocoa (1704.00.00)	234	106	50	130	1020	89803	173855	0
Sweet biscuits (1905.31.00)	70	1	0	24	3528	114778	124241	0
Tomato juice (2009.50.00)	60	0	0	20	0	0	0	576
Tomato paste (2002.90.20)	2016	0	5	674	0	182	272	12047
Tombak (2401.10.20)	48873	20	0	16298	0	0	0	0
Total	214372	353687	267665	278575	73563	748167	1377222	15993802

Source: NAPC database

Table A.4.16. Imports Quantity (Kg) for Commodities that were banned from Import before GAFTA in Syria

Egypt Exports Quantity (tons)	Year						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Cotton linters (1404.20.00)	0	0	0	0	105	0	837
Cotton waste (including yarn waste and garnetted stock) (5202.00.00)	0	0	0	83.0	0.0	583.7	0.0
Cucumbers and gherkins, fresh or chilled. (0707.00.00)	0	0	0	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.0
Date, In packings of 1 kg or less (0804.10.10)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0
Grape, pomegranate, locust bean and similar molasses (2007.99.20)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0
Green beans (0708.90.10)	0	0	0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Ground-nuts, not roasted or otherwise cooked, shelled, whether or not broken (1202.20.00)	0	0	0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Oranges (0805.10.00)	0	0	0	48.2	59.7	53.8	52.5
Other fixed vegetable fats and oils (including jojoba oil) and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified. (1515.90.90)	0	0	0	320.0	10035.0	10000.0	0.0
Other Glucose and glucose syrup, not containing fructose or containing in the dry state less than 20% by weight of fructose (1702.30.90)	0	0	0	0.0	21.0	126.0	168.0
Other Raw Cotton-seed oil Crude and its fractions (1512.21.90)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5000.0
Other sugar confectionery (including white chocolate), not containing cocoa. (1704.90.90)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	232.0
Other vegetables and mixtures of vegetables, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen, (other) (2005.90.90)	0	0	0	0.0	40.0	4.0	14.0
Peel of citrus fruit or melons (including watermelons), fresh, frozen, dried or provisionally preserved in brine, in sulphur water or in other preservative solutions. (0814.00.00)	0	0	0	0.0	15.0	121.0	52.0
Salep (0714.90.10)	0	0	0	13.3	15.2	0.0	0.0
Watermelons (0807.11.00)	0	0	0	3.1	2.8	21.6	0.0

Source: NAPC database

Table A.4.17. Development of exported commodities that were zero before GAFTA

Jordan	Year						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Sum of Exports Quantity (tons)							
Almonds, shelled (0802.12.00)	0	0	0	0	0	19.6	11
Beans of the species Vigna mungo (L.) Hepper or Vigna radiata (L.) Wilczek, For sowing (0713.31.10)	0	0	0	990.1	95.0	0.0	0.0
Caciocavallo (0406.90.10)	0	0	0	197.7	0.0	0.0	3.4
Carrots and turnips (0706.10.00)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chocolate, plates and blocks (resulting from mold) weighing 1 kg each but not exceeding 2 kg (1806.32.10)	0	0	0	0.9	1.0	49.2	0.7
Cotton linters (1404.20.00)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	6.6	8.4
Cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter (0402.99.20)	0	0	0	24.3	76.4	0.0	40.5
From safflower seeds	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	573.1
Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter (2009.00.00)	0	0	0	0.0	0.4	37.9	0.0
Glycerol (1520.00.10)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	113.6	171.1
Ground-nuts, not roasted or otherwise cooked, shelled, whether or not broken (1202.20.00)	0	0	0	0.0	49.4	24.7	25.4
Lemons(citrus lemon , citrus lemon) and limes (citrus aurantifolia, citrus latifolia) (0805.50.00)	0	0	0	2.2	0.0	9.7	167.4
Lupines (0713.90.10)	0	0	0	70.5	77.3	58.8	0.0
Onions, dried (0712.20.00)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Other Ginseng roots (1211.20.90)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4
Other stone fruit, fresh (0810.90.90)	0	0	0	0.2	7.2	265.6	24.5
Processed milk containing cocoa ("milo") (1806.90.10)	0	0	0	6.4	0.9	64.2	0.0
wheat stanch for industries other than food (1108.11.10)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	960.6	534.0

Source: NAPC database

Table A.4.18. Development of export for commodities that were zero before GAFTA in selected countries

Lebanon	Year						
Exports Quantity (tons)	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Active yeasts (2102.10.00)	0	0	0	0.0	15.0	25.0	37.5
Concentrated preparations for forage (2309.90.10)	0	0	0	24.3	673.9	0.0	35.8
Cotton seeds (1207.20.00)	0	0	0	313.5	300.0	12.0	4.0
Cotton Threads Separated Raw < No. 24 (55/5/a/1)	0	0	0	0.0	97.0	544.8	0.0
Cotton Threads Separated Raw No. 24 - 40 (55/5/a/2/a)	0	0	0	0.0	19.0	192.7	0.0
Fruit and nuts, frozen, with added sugar (0811.90.10)	0	0	0	15.2	1.5	1.1	20.4
Homogenised preparations, obtained by cooking, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter for infant feeding (2007.10.10)	0	0	0	0.0	3.9	2.3	5.9
Maize & Soya Bean & Sunflower Oil (15/7/I)	0	0	0	27.0	38.5	12.0	0.0
Sauces and preparations therefore; mixed condiments and mixed seasonings; mustard flour and meal and prepared mustard (2103.00.00)	0	0	0	77.8	51.3	71.4	0.0
Sesame oil and its fractions (1515.50.00)	0	0	0	0.0	16.0	4.6	0.2

Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

Table A.4.19. Development of export for commodities that were zero before GAFTA in selected countries

Oman	Year						
Exports Quantity (tons)	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Almonds, in shell (0802.11.00)	0	0	0	8.0	31.9	21.2	23.4
Almonds, shelled (0802.12.00)	0	0	0	0.0	9.1	3.5	0.0
Figs, In packings of 1 kg or less (0804.20.10)	0	0	0	3.1	3.1	2.1	0.0
Green beans (0708.90.10)	0	0	0	34.0	34.3	34.0	8.2
Lemons(citrus limon , citrus limonum) and limes (citrus aurantifolia, citrus latifolia) (0805.50.00)	0	0	0	10.5	10.1	51.7	53.7
Olives, fresh or chilled. (0709.90.10)	0	0	0	0.3	6.3	0.2	0.9
Other fruit, fresh (0810.00.00)	0	0	0	4.6	21.1	44.1	0.0
Peas (Pisum sativum) fresh or chilled (0708.10.00)	0	0	0	7.9	45.5	30.3	3.4
Sheep (0104.10.00)	0	0	0	0.0	29.8	918.6	0.0
Sweet lemons (0805.90.10)	0	0	0	1.2	6.2	2.3	0.0

Source: NAPC database

*The value of trade is calculated depending on old exchange rate before 2000

Table A.4.20. Development of export for commodities that were zero before GAFTA in selected countries

Saudi Arabia	Year						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Exports Quantity (tons)							
Beans of the species <i>Vigna mungo</i> (L.) Hepper or <i>Vigna radiata</i> (L.) Wilczek, For sowing (0713.31.10)	0.0	0.0	0.0	469.2	1.0	1.9	1.7
Fruit and nuts, uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling in water, frozen, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter. (0811.00.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.8	17.4	0.0	0.0
Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter (2009.00.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	2.4	0.0
Glucose and glucose syrup, for the pharmaceutical industry (1702.30.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0
Guts (0504.00.10)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	7.4
Hides of Cattle & Horses Tanned for Shoes & Strips (41/2/a/1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0
Milk of a fat content, by weight, not exceeding 1% (0401.10.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	2.0	0.2	6.6
Olives, In brine, sulfur water or water with other added materials (0711.20.10)	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.6	37.9	1.0	22.4
Other fermented beverages (for example, cider, perry, mead); mixtures of fermented beverages and mixtures of fermented beverages and non-alcoholic beverages, not elsewhere specified or included (2206.00.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	2.7	0.2
Prunes, dried (0813.20.00)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	5.9	0.0
Seeds, fruit and spores, of a kind used for sowing (other) suitable only for sowing (1209.99.10)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	3.0	0.0

Source: NAPC database

Table A.4.21. Development of export for commodities that were zero before GAFTA in selected countries

Kuwait	Year						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Exports Quantity (tons)							
Broad beans (<i>Vicia faba</i> var. major) and horse beans (<i>Vicia faba</i> var. equina, <i>Vicia faba</i> var. minor), For sowing (0713.50.10)	0	0	0	63.1	0.0	45.4	78.3
Chocolate, plates and blocks (resulting from mold) weighing 1 kg each but not exceeding 2 kg (1806.32.10)	0	0	0	5.3	2.4	0.8	24.9
Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter (2009.00.00)	0	0	0	0.3	2.8	0.0	0.0
Olive oil (lampante) for use in the manufacture of soap (1509.10.21)	0	0	0	6.1	11.4	40.2	23.0
Olives, In brine, sulfur water or water with other added materials (0711.20.10)	0	0	0	2.9	2.4	0.0	55.6
Other Juice of any other single fruit (2009.80.19)	0	0	0	2.4	0.0	0.1	38.1

Source: NAPC database

Table A.4.22. Syrian Imports of products protected by the calendar from GAFTA Countries in 2002, (Tons)

Month	Potatoes	Tomatoes	Onion	Oranges	Lemon	Watermelon
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1	0	248	2915	0	0	2
2	71.2	3171.1	3040	69.3	6.1	1.9
3	1173.5	4363.2	3836	20.6	15	43
4	1320	2320	0	33	684	75
5	1703	856.7	0	29.6	976.5	2039.5
6	206	86.5	328.4	673.5	5420.3	170
7	7.3	0	0	276.5	817.8	13
8	241.6	0	0	0	77.7	0
9	102.3	0	0	36.1	222.4	0
10	60	0	0	0	124	0
11	3960.4	281.5	0	0	0	0
12	1120.3	1302.7	18.1	2.1	15.1	0

Source: GCD
 Protected period
 Non protected period



Table A.4.23. Syrian Exports of Protected Products by Main MC, 2002, (Tons)

Product	Jordan Calendar	Before	During	After
Potato 1	1/11:31/12	71.6	0	0
Potato 2	1/2:31/5	0	0.6	6
Onion	1/5:31/9	259.6	0	1141.2
Garlic	1/5:30/8	0	0	0
Banana	1/11:31/1	0	0	0
Orange	1/12:31:3	13.5	106.2	3197.4
		13.5	4490	3197.4
Lemon	1/11:31:3	3.8	0	27
Grape	1/8:30/9	0	13.2	1964
Apple	1/9:31/12	122	20.6	62.8
Peach	1/8:30/			
Product	Lebanon Calendar	Before	During	After
Potato	1/5:1/10	0	0	0
Tomato	15/2:15/6	0	0	0
Onion	15/8:1/11	0	0	0
Cucumber	1/4:30/5	0	0	
Orange	1/11:30/4	2.4	0	0
Mandarin	15/10:31/1	6.2	5.3	0
Grape	1/9:31/12	4.3	0	0
Watermelon	1/6:31/8	0	57.9	12.8
Apple	1/10:1/3	0	0	0
Product	S-Arabia Calendar	Before	During	After
Potato	1/1:30/5	276.7	0	642.6
Tomato	1/5:31/8	2	23006.6	21658.1
Onion	1/6:31/10	19.8	1.1	124.2
Carrot	1/2:31/5	78.4	2	64
Cucumber	1/5:31/8	40.4	2.8	2
Squash	1/6:31/7			
Okra	1/7:31/8			
Watermelon	1/5:31/8	1.2	421.5	68.3
			315.5	
Product	Egypt Calendar	Before	During	After
Potato	1/12:31/3	0	0	0
Orange	1/11:31/5	0	15.6	0
			0	
Mandarin	1/12:31/3	0	0	0
Grape	1/6:30/9	16	0	0
Watermelon	1/6:31/8	0	0	0
Muskmelon	1/5:31/8	0	0	0
Apple	1/5:30/8	508	0	829.5
Pear	15/7:15/9	0	0	0
Apricot	1/4:30/7			

Source: GCD

Table A.4.24. Syrian Wholesale Prices of Syrian Calendar products Comparison for One month before, during, and after Protected Period

Protected Products	Protected period	Selected month	Years					Ave.a
			Average 96-97	1998	1999	2000	2001	
			SP/kg	SP/kg	SP/kg	SP/kg	SP/kg	
Potato seeding	One month before	3	13.0	26.6	9.9	9.6	9.2	9.6
	One month during	7	13.0	7.3	7.3	9.9	8.9	8.7
	One month after	11	12.5	1.0	10.4	10.5	12.2	11.0
Tomatoes	One month before	2	16.4	17.4	10.0	14.3	8.8	11.0
	One month during	4	23.0	19.4	12.8	18.8	16.1	15.9
	One month after	7	6.5	4.2	6.2	5.0	6.6	5.9
Oranges	One month before	9	27.5	27.5	21.8	18.8	22.7	40.0
	One month during	12	12.0	11.9	14.5	14.1	13.5	13.2
	One month after	4	17.1	12.8	15.0	19.2	15.7	16.4
Apples	One month before	9	23.4	24.0	22.8	25.7	27.6	25.4
	One month during	12	26.3	27.8	27.0	29.6	29.0	28.5
	One month after	3	29.6	27.5	29.5	27.1	31.5	29.4
Lemon	One month before	8	59.8	41.7	28.2	26.7	28.2	26.6
	One month during	11	41.3	21.0	14.2	16.0	12.2	14.4
	One month after	3	39.6	31.2	21.2	17.2	15.0	17.8
Onion	One month before	3	12.5	14.8	14.0	6.8	17.0	12.6
	One month during	5	16.3	11.5	11.6	7.6	18.8	12.7
	One month after	7	8.5	6.6	6.5	6.1	9.4	7.3
Water Melon	One month before	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	One month during	6	12.4	7.3	7.0	5.9	6.2	6.4
	One month after	9	4.1	6.2	4.5	3.8	4.7	4.3

Source: MAAR&NAPC

Table A.4.25. Changing of Syrian grape prices before, during, after Jordan calendar

month	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	30.7	30.7	23.5	24.5	25	24.8
8	0	21.8	21.8	19.5	20.8	20	21.2
9	0	17.8	17.8	18.4	20.8	20.2	20.5
10	0	17.8	17.8	18.8	20.8	21.5	22.8
11	0	20.8	20.8	19.2	19.5	25.3	25
12	0	0	0	0	0	26.3	0

Source: MAAR & NAPC
During the calendar



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