

The Policy Monitor: An Introduction¹

Motivation

Monitoring food price crises at national, regional, and global levels requires a deep understanding of how policies impact contribute to or address the effects of food price crises. Commodity-related policy changes may indeed reinforce, directly or indirectly, food price crises, while food price shocks may prompt drastic policy reforms. Numerous examples of panic policies have been held responsible for triggering food price hikes. Likewise, avoidance of panic policies is also believed to have averted food price escalation.

To effectively respond to unfolding food price crises, policy makers at national and international levels need access to reliable and transparent information on relevant commodity-related policy developments. Early warning monitoring systems help reduce uncertainty by providing

ii) **Categorization.** A systematic classification of policy changes, reflecting in-house assessment

(IMF 2008).

Food
assistance/safety
nets

Export tariff

final export price, and creates a dual price system benefiting industries in the domestic market using the taxed input over foreign

Tariff quota

When quantities inside a quota are charged lower import duty rates, than those outside (which can be high) (WTO 2014).

Import ban

place in general for a specific purpose, sometimes not related to trade

Import qu0003002

