Study on the Influence of Green Trade Barrier on the International Trade of Agricultural Products in China

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Abstract: With the development of green economy, people’s awareness of environmental protection has been strengthened, and the sense of responsibility for environmental protection has also been raised. Countries can achieve green and healthy consumption through green trade barriers in the international economy and trade. However, green trade barriers not only have a favorable side, but also have a negative impact on international economy and trade. This paper first expounds the connotation and characteristics of green trade barriers, then analyzes the reasons why agricultural products encounter green trade barriers, and then analyzes the influence of green trade barriers on international trade of agricultural products of our country. Finally, it tries to explore the countermeasures of green trade barriers in international trade of agricultural products in China.

1. Introduction

There are many literatures on the influence of green trade barriers on the international economy and trade of agricultural products. Wei Du (2016) proposed to improve the quality of China’s agricultural products, develop green agriculture, open up new markets for agricultural products exports, and give full play to the role of China’s agricultural export trade associations to deal with the impact of green trade barriers on the international economy and trade of agricultural products. Yiwen Quan (2016) pointed out that with the continuous intensification of the process of global economic integration, China’s agricultural product export trade frequently suffers from green trade barriers policy. The root cause of this policy lies in the low quality of agricultural products and the low scientific and technological content in our country. The standard standardization degree is not high, under the green trade barrier restriction; the export volume drops sharply, the product competition superiority drops obviously. Shujun Ji (2018) pointed out that various kinds of non-tariff barriers increasingly affect the development of China’s international trade, among which green trade barriers have the greatest impact. Compared with the traditional trade barriers, green trade barriers have a greater concealment, which has a great impact on the international trade of Chinese agricultural products.

2. Connotation and characteristics of Green Trade Barrier

Green trade barrier, a non-tariff barrier, has become a common way for developed countries to hinder the export of Chinese agricultural products to the international market under the background of international trade liberalization. Green trade barrier is a kind of technical trade barrier which is set up by import and export countries to protect their ecological environment and public health in international trade activities. It is also a kind of technical trade barrier which has an impact on import and export trade. It is a form of international trade that, in the name of protecting limited resources, the environment and human health, restricts or prohibits the import of foreign goods by deliberately establishing a series of harsh environmental standards that are higher than internationally accepted or unacceptable to the vast majority of countries, and set up trade barriers in order to achieve the purpose of trade protection. China’s international trade experts define this as: green barriers are measures that restrict or even prohibit trade directly or indirectly in order to protect the environment. It mainly includes international and regional environmental protection conventions, national environmental protection laws and standards, voluntary measures such as...
ISO14000 environmental management system and environmental label, production and processing methods and environmental cost internalization requirements and so on. Green trade barrier belongs to one of technical barrier. The basic characteristics of green trade barriers include: formal legitimacy, wide protection content, hidden protection mode, strong technology, and relative technical requirements. Compulsory implementation of technical standards, commodity packaging and labeling, sanitary and quarantine standards, covering the entire process of product development, production, packaging, transportation, use, recycling, etc.

3. An Analysis of the reasons for the Green Trade barriers encountered by Agricultural products

3.1 External causes of Green Trade barriers to Agricultural products

(1) Trade protectionism. The agricultural products produced in our country are labor-intensive products, which are abundant in our country and low in price. With the deepening development of economic globalization, the domestic industries of various countries have been affected. In order to find new trade protection measures and protect their economic interests, developed countries take advantage of their technological advantages and environmental protection trends to set up green trade barriers.

(2) World environmental protection trend. With the improvement of people’s living standard, people are increasingly aware of the importance of ecological environment protection. People are beginning to pay attention to healthy life. And the increasingly developed international economic and trade have also resulted in the global circulation of products from all over the world. The environmental protection level of the countries in the world is different, and the products are intermingled. In response, international conferences, world environmental protection organizations and other organizations have formulated a plan, institutions and regulations for human health and ecological balance to protect the environment.

3.2 The Internal causes of Green Trade Barrier for Agricultural products

(1) The environmental protection laws and regulations of our country are not perfect. China’s laws and regulations are still in an imperfect stage, especially the environmental protection laws and regulations system is not perfect, production supervision is not strict, the production of agricultural products in China is not in line with international standards important reasons. In our country, the high energy consumption and high pollution enterprises are not banned, but are produced wantonly, which does great harm to the environment. For the sake of local economic development, the government knows that it is a polluting enterprise and also allows it to develop in order to raise taxes.

(2) The technical content of agricultural products in our country is low. The production and management of agricultural products is family-style production in China, without scale and technical production. And the family production technology equipment is backward, the standardization level is low, the information level is low, cannot meet the developed country strict inspection standard request. On the other hand, the R & D and popularization of agricultural investment in our country are not enough, which makes the added value of agricultural products in our country relatively low. In the process of export, our country’s advantage is low price, so as to seize the market, which often induces green trade barriers.

(3) The consciousness of environmental protection in our country is weak. In some developed countries in the world, such as the United States and Germany, they have established a high degree of environmental awareness. These countries have formulated environmental protection systems that tend to converge with each other. In China, environmental protection awareness is relatively weak and the environmental protection system is not perfect. Public acceptance is low. At present, our country is still in the economic development mode of consuming resources and destroying environment, so it is difficult to deal with the trade protection policy of developed countries. In addition, China’s agricultural production enterprises are not active in the certification of green
marks and are unwilling to pay high fees for testing and testing. Enterprises should change their ideas and not only produce low-cost primary products, but also produce high value-added products to improve their international competitiveness.

4. The influence of Green Trade Barrier on the International Trade of Agricultural products in China

4.1 The positive impact of Green Trade barriers on China’s International Trade in Agricultural products

The legitimate green trade barrier reflects the increasing importance of environmental protection in various countries in the world, and it is the symbol of human society moving towards civilization and progress. Green barriers to trade are meant to refer to laws, regulations, standards, policies and corresponding administrative measures that restrict or even prohibit international trade activities for the purpose of safeguarding human health and environmental safety. In order to avoid these trade activities may lead to environmental pollution and ecological damage, to achieve sustainable economic development. The implementation of sustainable strategy in China, green trade barriers to achieve the strategy of sustainable development of China has an important positive value, promoting the international economy and trade and environmental protection has a good interaction. In addition to dealing with the friction between international economy and trade, China needs to actively enhance its current environmental management ability, improve its environmental protection standards, and break through the constraints of green bottlenecks in an all-round way, so as to achieve a win-win situation between trade and environmental protection. Relevant international trade enterprises of agricultural products should also attach great importance to the relationship between economic development and environmental protection, implement green agricultural products certification, and use clean agricultural products technology, etc. In this way, the mutual influence of environmental protection and economic development can be effectively resolved, and the coordinated and stable development between economy and environment can be realized.

4.2 The negative impact of Green Trade barriers on International Trade in Agricultural products of China

Green trade barriers will curb the growth rate of agricultural exports. Due to the impact of green barriers, export growth momentum of agricultural products has slowed obviously in recent years. The low technological content of agricultural production in China brings a great burden to the environment, resulting in ecological imbalance and serious pollution. Pesticide, chemical fertilizer, animal medicine and other pollutants are harmful to human health and environment. In the international market competitiveness declined, export share decreased substantially. Great losses have been caused to Chinese enterprises. Our country’s green food development level is low; the technical standard is far lower than the developed country. However, the main countries and regions of agricultural products export in our country are demanding very high environmental standards, which seriously restrict the growth of agricultural products export in our country. China’s agricultural products are mainly exported to the United States, Japan, and South Korea, the European Union and other developed countries, accounting for about 80% of China’s total exports. Because these countries are developed countries, environmental awareness is high, and the ability to develop science and technology. They have high environmental protection requirements for imported products and advanced testing and evaluation techniques. To protect their economic interests, these countries use green trade barriers to control imports. But our country cannot realize the green economy in the short term, it is difficult to deal with the strict environmental standard of these developed countries. Make the scope of export of agricultural products of our country narrow. In practical terms, some countries in international trade use the protection of ecological resources, biodiversity, the environment and human health as an excuse, set a series of harsh environmental laws and standards that are higher than the internationally recognized or unacceptable
environmental laws and standards in most countries, and impose restrictions or prohibitions on the import of foreign goods. Developed countries have advanced environmental technology and have formulated environmental protection standards that are far higher than those of developing countries, which make them unable to meet their import requirements in a short period of time. Unfair to developing countries, it is inevitable to cause bilateral or multilateral trade friction.

5. Countermeasures of Green Trade Barrier in International Trade of Agricultural products in China

5.1 Vigorous development of science and technology agriculture

Vigorously develop science and technology agriculture, inject ecological planting technology, visualization technology and satellite radar technology into the agricultural production process, these science and technology applications to the base, So that the growth and development of the base crops and livestock animals at anytime and anywhere clearly presented in computer video, so that the safety of agricultural products have been fundamentally regulated.

5.2 Attaching importance to the Development of Green Agriculture

It is necessary to attach importance to the development of green agriculture, making full use of advanced science and technology, advanced industrial equipment and advanced management concepts, with a view to promoting the safety of agricultural products, ecological security, resource security and the coordination and unification of improving the comprehensive economic benefits of agriculture, To promote the agricultural development of human society and economy in an all-round, coordinated and sustainable way by means of advocating standardization of agricultural products, with "green environment", "green technology" and "green products" as the main body, promoting excessive dependence on chemical fertilizers, The chemical agriculture of pesticides has changed to ecological agriculture, which mainly depends on biological intrinsic mechanism. Through scientific and technological progress, we will promote the deep development of green agricultural resources, increase the scientific and technological content of green agricultural product brands, increase the added value of products, and transform and equip traditional agricultural industries with high and new technologies to realize the high-tech transformation of green agricultural industries, and then to realize the maximization of economic benefit.

5.3 To Produce green agricultural products

If China's agricultural products are conducive to export, they should follow the principle of sustainable development, produce in accordance with specific production methods, permit the use of green food labels by special agencies, and produce safe, high-quality and nutritious agricultural products without pollution. Production of pollution-free agricultural products, green food and organic food, such as green wheat, green rice, green vegetables, green fruits, green livestock meat, green aquatic products. Through the production of green organic agricultural products, improve the international competitiveness of our agricultural products.

6. Conclusion

In a word, green trade has developed into a trend in international economy and trade, and green trade barrier is a series of protective measures to restrict and prohibit the import of foreign goods. Because of the low scientific and technological content of agricultural products in our country, the technology of environmental protection is in a disadvantageous position, which is not conducive to the development of international economy and trade. However, our country should comply with the green trend and vigorously strengthen the development of green agriculture, scientific and technological agriculture, and ecological agriculture. Pay attention to the green production of agricultural products, carry out green trade measures, break down green trade barriers, and realize the sustainable development of agricultural economy.
References


