



# **The Doha Agenda on Agriculture and the UNCCD**

## ***Seeking Policy Integration through Impact Assessment of Trade Liberalisation***

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Impact Assessment of Trade and MEAs

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# How can impact assessment of trade and MEAs can be mutually supportive?

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- Issues Identification
  - Identify how trade agreements affect positively or negatively the implementation of an MEA
- Strategic and Timely Policymaking
  - Prevent negative impacts or seize opportunities
  - Focus resources and interventions where more strategically needed
- Policy Integration
  - Between trade, development and environmental policies
  - *Assuming that there is a common policy space*

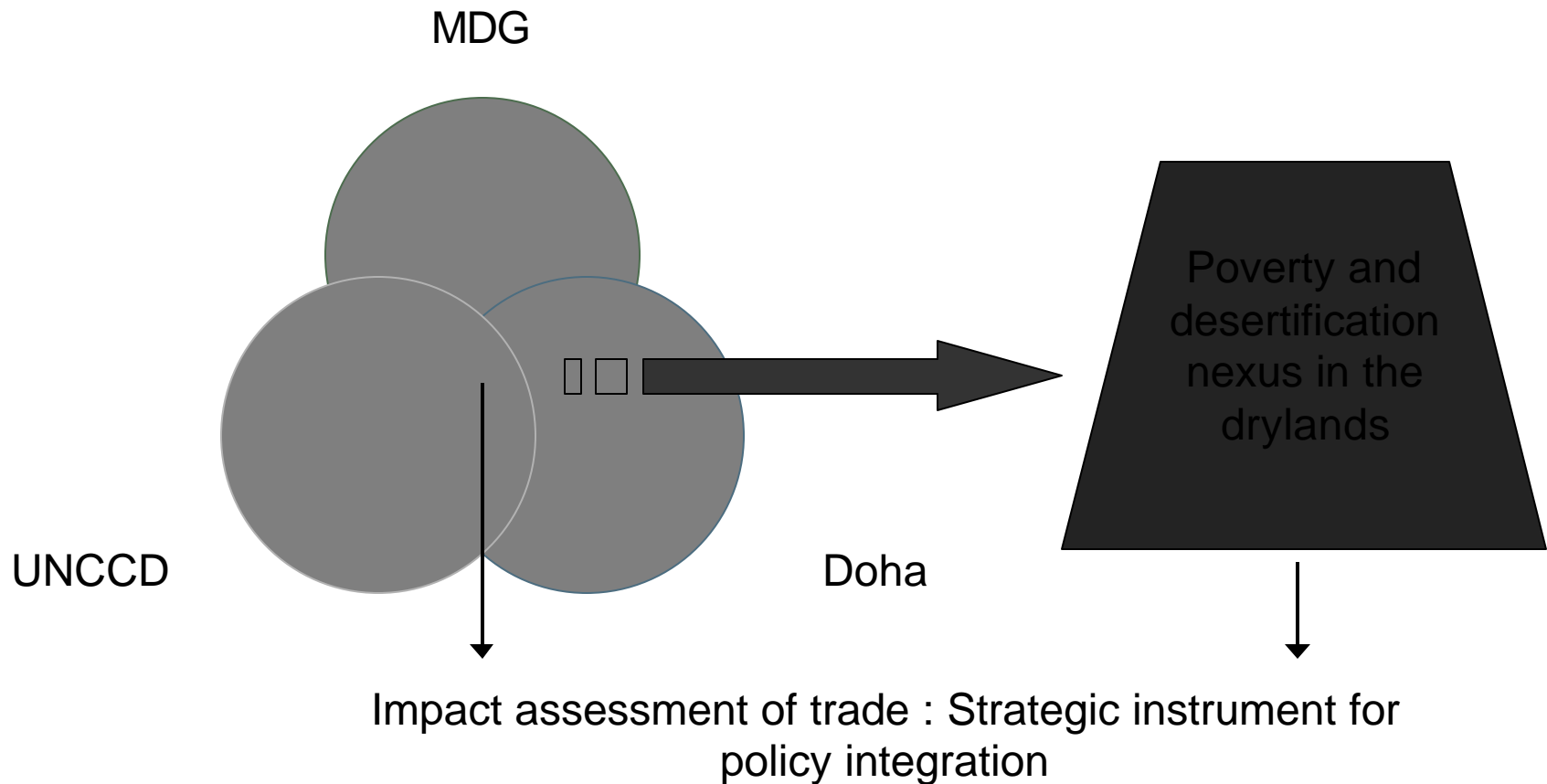


# Poverty, Agriculture and Environmental Degradation in the Drylands

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- Correlation between extreme poverty, land degradation and subsistence agriculture in the drylands
  - More than 1.2 billion human beings live in absolute poverty (less than \$1/day)
  - More than 900 million poor live in the drylands and are facing land degradation
    - 250 million are directly affected by desertification
  - Subsistence agriculture is the main source of food and revenues for these populations

# Common Policy Space between the MDGs, Doha and the UNCCD





# Doha's Development Agenda and the UNCCD

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- Liberalise agricultural trade
  - Improve market access
  - Reduce, with the aim of eliminating, all forms of export subsidies;
  - Substantially reduce trade distorting domestic support
  - Special and differentiated treatment for developing countries
    - Adjustment to trade liberalisation considered a domestic issue



# Impact Assessments of Agricultural Trade and the Doha Round

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- Assess and measure the distribution and extent of economic impacts
  - By country/region
  - By commodity
- Assess and measure potential environmental impacts
  - According to local environmental conditions
  - According to production type/scale and agricultural practice – intensive/extensive
- Assess and measure potential social impacts
  - According to existing production – traditional/subsistence or intensive/industrial
  - According to the anticipated extent of production consolidation



# Relevance in the UNCCD Context

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- Identify countries/regions where economic impacts will be most important
- Assess the risk of increased land degradation according to local environmental conditions, agricultural practices, type of production and crops.
- Assess potential impacts on poor and marginalised populations living in the drylands, especially on subsistence/traditional farmers.



# Impact Assessment of Trade as a Strategic Tool for Policy Integration

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- In the context of internal adjustment to trade liberalisation:
  - ❑ Identify countries/regions for priority intervention
  - ❑ Facilitate early policy responses to trade-related land degradation issues
  - ❑ Develop appropriate strategies to support populations that are negatively affected by trade liberalisation
  - ❑ Develop appropriate policies to maximise the social/environmental benefits of trade liberalisation where applicable
  - ❑ Adapt strategies to combat desertifications (NAPs) to the new context of trade liberalisation
  - ❑ Contribute to enhance the status of the UNCCD as an instrument to fight poverty and land degradation in the development/trade system.

- Impact assessment of trade can:
  - Identify desertification and poverty issues associated with trade liberalisation
  - Inform timely and strategic policymaking to combat poverty and environmental degradation in the drylands
  - Favour the coherent and effective integration of trade, development and environmental policies in the drylands

- Low potential at the multilateral level
- Strongest potential at the national or regional level in the context of internal adjustment to trade liberalisation
  - When the following conditions coincide:
    - Country is moderately to strongly affected by desertification
    - Country is characterised by mixed export-oriented and subsistence agricultural production
    - Country already has an effective national action programme to combat desertification in place