

ASCRIN Project: Future of India-Australia Trade in an Era of Reglobalisation: A Supply Chain Management Perspective

Overview

Australia (AU) and India have initiated trade negotiations to redesign the existing trade policies, overcome constraints, enhance economic growth, and treat the root causes of de-globalization to aim at reglobalisation.

An opportunity exists for two (2) suitable candidates to join a collaborative research team from IITK-La Trobe Research Academy to undertake a fully funded Joint PhD research on “Future of India-AU Trade Supply Chain in an Era of Reglobalisation”. The successful candidates will each receive a co-funded scholarship and will conduct the project under the joint supervision of academics from La Trobe University (LTU), AU and the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur), India. As such, the successful candidates will have the opportunity to conduct the study through placements in both India and Australia.

The two PhD projects will examine the macro and micro- economic impacts of trade agreements between India and AU on agribusiness supply chains and regulatory factors. The researchers will work closely with industry (to develop case studies) regarding agribusiness supply chains’ push and pull factors associated with seasonality of supply and consumer demand between the nations (moving product from Australia, recognising its overarching export focus) to India (recognising the food and fibre security sought by a rapidly growing economy). The research involves the development of comprehensive descriptions of the supply chains recognising the relative material flows in the context of push and pull factors associated with seasonality of supply and consumer demand. It is both data-driven as well as qualitative, in that the collated data would be supported by interviews with key players to understand the nuances of the supply chains and highlight opportunities for innovation and joint entrepreneurship. A key outcome of this work will be the capacity to leverage the broader, contemporary understanding of opportunities for innovation in industry supply chains as they develop.

We are seeking TWO (2) outstanding PhD applicants to work on the following projects:

PhD Project 1: On the importance of supply chain and logistical factors in the future of India-AU bilateral agribusiness trade agreements

This project aims to explore how new trade agreements will reshape the existing AU-India agribusiness supply chain networks, focusing on potential challenges and opportunities arising as a result of new bilateral trade policies and relevant administration models. AU and India are promoting global value chains (GVCs) to boost their productivity and growth within the ambit of new trade agreements, further aiming to simultaneously enhance productivity and treat the root causes of deglobalization. Hence, the new trade agreements aim to provide incentives to several industries to reshuffle their supply chain elements and reconfigure their supply chain networks. In short-run, the industries may optimize their value chains and increase their profits without properly evaluating logistical and supply chain constraints. Without proper planning, however, such reconfigurations may impose several consequent drawbacks in long-run that adversely affect the foundation of high-level trust.

The project will combine empirical and game theory methods to analyse the possible outcome of potential agribusiness supply chain configurations between India and AU. The successful

candidate will use the national input output-data along with trade statistics to identify the GVCs in various sectors and decipher value added in bilateral trade flows, considering influential supply chain factors (e.g., logistics, transportation, inventory, production, etc.). Through a scenario-based approach and employing a game theoretical framework, the candidate is expected to work with GTAP10 and model and investigate the economy wide general equilibrium impact of the identified potential GVCs. Accordingly, the study will generate innovative supply chain solutions and promotes collaboration among multiple clusters of Indian and AU exporters and importers, with especial focus on MSMEs and low-income consumers.

PhD Project 2: Micro Economic Impacts of International Trade Agreements on the Sustainability of Agribusiness Supply Chains and MSMEs

This multi-disciplinary project will focus on micro-economic impacts of bilateral trade agreements between Australia and India on the sustainability of MSMEs in the agribusiness sector. Importantly, it seeks to identify opportunities for enhancing the resilience of agribusiness supply chains.

The project will consider how different trade agreements between Australia and India potentially impact the delivery of outcomes for both producers, consumers and climate change. Hence, it Importantly, the project will analyse consider the impacts of the implementation of new agreements on the sustainability and resilience of specified food, fibre and (bio)fuel supply chains. Accordingly, the project emphasises on fair trade agreements to promote quality of life in AU and India, considering issues such as fair and reasonable trading outcomes, the enhancement of financial prosperity and wellbeing, improved environmental outcomes and broader social implications of the agreements.

The interdisciplinary and comparative study will examine integrated supply chain of MSMEs in the agribusiness, drawing on theory from economics, supply chain management, sustainable and ethical production and human development. The project will be based on both secondary data and survey. The collected data will be analysed with the help of appropriate statistical techniques. The inferences drawn from the empirical work will be critically evaluated in terms of techno-economic-managerial practices of managers of MSMEs in the agribusiness' supply chain. The study will empower the researcher to design incentive structure in the trade agreements to change the behaviour of agents of supply chain to enhance their performance in agribusiness transactions between India and AU. It will draw on existing statistical datasets that describe supply chain relationships, as well as generating novel datasets through research. Interviews with key supply chain actors will provide insights into existing culture of supply chain relationships and provide intelligence as to how future trade agreements may impact at the micro-economic level.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be able to demonstrate strong research and analytical skills
- Applicants must demonstrate experience and strong interest in the following areas: Agribusiness Supply Chains, Global Business, Mathematical Modelling, Game Theory, Data Analysis, institutions, and Human Development
- Applicants must demonstrate relevant work experience and/or substantial research experience in a relevant sector
- Applicants should meet both IIT-K and La Trobe University' entry requirements.
- See the following web page for entry requirements:

- 1) La Trobe University: <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/study/apply/research/doctor>
- 2) IIT-K: <https://www.iitk.ac.in/doaa/post-graduate-admission>

Application Process

Applicants who require more information or are interested in this specific project should first contact the listed Supervisors: IIT-K supervisors: Somesh Mathur (skmathur@iitk.ac.in); Murali Prasad Panta (pmprasad@iitk.ac.in); LTU supervisors: Sean Asian (S.Asian@latrobe.edu.au); Timothy Clune (T.Clune@latrobe.edu.au)

Information and guidance on the application process can be found on this website. Information about scholarships is available on this webpage.

Closing Date

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