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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESIS (ES)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

LIMITATIONS

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

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APPENDIX/ANNEXURE

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS

- Sharma T., Kwatra, G. (2008) Effectiveness of Social Advertising: A Study of Selected Campaigns, Corporate Social Responsibility, Edited by David Crowther & Nicholas Capaldi, Ashgate Research Companion to Corporate Social Responsibility, Chapter 15, pp 287-303.

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- Schemenner, R.W., Huber, J.C. and Cook, R.L. (1987), "Geographic Differences and the Location of New Manufacturing Facilities," Journal of Urban Economics, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 83-104.

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TRADE LIBERALIZATION EFFECTS ON INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND POVERTY IN CAMEROON

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ABSTRACT

Cameroon has signed several trade agreements with the WTO on the multilateral trade system and with the European Union on the ACP-EU agreements .These agreements, clear signs of a will to open up trade, have been put into practice in an economic policy context aiming at reducing income inequalities and poverty of households. The objective of the present study is to evaluate the potential effects of an open-up trade that result from the WTO and ACP agreements on income inequality and households poverty in Cameroon. The methodology used is based both on the analysis of the effects of the liberalization of trade through the transmission channels and by simulation through the multiplier principle based on the model of the Social Accounting Matrix of few conceivable economic policy measures. The results of this study indicate that trade liberalization has an effect on the level of households' income and therefore on poverty; although this is not always accompanied by a reduction of income inequalities between the different categories of households.

KEYWORDS
Income inequality, Poverty, Social accounting matrix, Trade liberalization.

JEL CLASSIFICATION
I30, J50, R20.

1. INTRODUCTION

The analysis of the effects of the different macroeconomic policies on the distribution of income and households poverty has become a major concern (preoccupation) of policies decision-makers and economists of several countries taking part in the international trade (trading). Among the concerned policies, we can cite the fiscal reforms, the external trade liberalizations, the financial liberalization, the signature and (the coming into force) the applications of free trade zones with regional organisations. That is particularly the case of Cameroon which, since these last decades now entered into several opening works and trade liberalization. As a matter of fact, with the two great free trade agreements (EPA) within the scope of EU-ACP and MTS within the scope of the WTO agreements) which are put in place progressively, several questions of social, financial and economic consideration are raised.

In the heart of the debate which divides the advocates (partisans) and the opponents of trade liberalization is the question of the impact of trade liberalization on the populations' welfare of the countries taking part in the international trade. This debate is very important for Cameroon since poverty alleviation and income inequalities are at the centre of the preoccupations of public policies.

In face of such questions, it is important to question ourselves about the effective incidence of trade liberalization on poverty and the distribution (allocation) of income of the Cameroonian households. This question becomes more topical and worrying especially since in the scope of the economic reforms undertaken in the days following its independence in 1960, the country has progressively entered into some trade liberalization processes.

Since its independence in 1960, Cameroon is among the signatory countries of several multilateral and bilateral trade agreements which lie resolutely within the scope of the liberalization logic and the diversification of its economic partners. Member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since the 1st January 1995, the country has entered into several negotiations of the Multilateral Trade System (MTS). The country is equally a member of the Africa-the Caribbean-the Pacific (ACP[1]) group within the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA[2]) with the European Union (EU). Similarly, Cameroon has also ratified on the 15th January 2009 an EPA of stage with the EU in which it commits itself to liberalize by January 2010 20% of the imports of European origin, in order to attain 50% after 15 years starting from 2010 and 80% in 2083.

From all that has been written so far, the central question of the present study is that of knowing what effects the economic policies and the reforms put in place in the scope of the trade liberalization process can have on the distribution of income and the households' poverty in Cameroon?

The objective of the present study is then to quantify and to analyse with the help of transmission channels and the social accounting matrix based multiplier model the potential effects of the various measures of trade liberalization stemming from the negotiations of the EPA-ACP/EU agreements and the WTO agreements on the distribution of income and the households' poverty in Cameroon between 1995 and 2007.

The study is carried out in order to test the following hypothesis: the measures of trading policies implemented in Cameroon in the scope of trade liberalization have an impact on households' poverty and income inequalities alleviation.

2. CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
2.1. CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL APPROACH OF POVERTY, INCOMES INEQUALITIES AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION
2.1.1. CONCEPT AND MEASURE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

Income distribution can be divided into two main categories: through function and through order of size or importance. The distribution through function shows the modalities of allocation of the national income between the factors of production. As to the distribution through the order of size or personal distribution, it shows the amounts of all types of functional incomes received by the rich, the poor and the individuals or family groups of the middle class. The distribution of income can equally be classified according to primary distribution and the secondary distribution. The primary distribution is the personal distribution before the redistribution while the secondary distribution is a modification form of the primary distribution through the redistribution mechanism.

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[1] A set made up of 46 then 77 African, the Caribbean and the Pacific Island countries, signatories of the Yaoundé convention, then the Lomé convention and finally the Cotonou agreement with the EU and members states.

[2] The countries negotiating the EPA are gathered together in six regions: the Pacific region, the Caribbean region, the Central Africa region, the West Africa region, the East and South Africa region (AFOA) and the SADC region.

Different indices have been developed to assess the inequalities. We have for instance: Atkinson, S-Gini, Atkinson-Gini, and the Entropy generalized index. Among all these indices, the concentration index or the Gini coefficient remains the most used one in the measure of inequalities [Atkinson (1987), Sen (1997)].

2.1.2. CONCEPT AND MEASURE OF POVERTY

There is not a unique definition of poverty. Several definitions have then been proposed with the passing years by some experts and academics; every one of them generates some different instruments to characterize and to measure it under its various forms. If we consider for instance the economic dimension of poverty, there are three forms of poverty: the monetary or ''income'' poverty; the living conditions or ''existence'' poverty; the potentialities or ''capabilities'' poverty.

However, there exists a close relation between these three forms of poverty; while the monetary poverty provides a means of measure of poverty, the living conditions poverty gives its main characteristics and the capabilities poverty provides its causes. This then shows the complementarity nature of the three forms of poverty in the scope of a poverty analysis.

a. The monetary or "income" poverty

According to FAO (1996), the monetary poverty gives the expression of an aspect of the standard of living and results from the insufficiency of resources leading to an insufficient consumption (expression of a very poor level of well-being). Its measure leans either on the income or on the consumption, expressed in monetary terms; this threshold can be estimated in ''absolute'' or ''relative'' value. The ''absolute'' poverty threshold[3] is the form of poverty which is more suitable for the developing countries, where a very important part of the population live around the minimal survival threshold, while in the developed countries, where the food security is quasi-ensured, poverty is more based on comparisons (Maertens, 2009). Likewise, an ''absolute'' poverty measure is useful in the economic crisis period for it permits to follow up the number of individuals who go below an objective threshold considered as poverty detector, while during the period of growth, a ''relative'' poverty measure brings out (highlights) the rejected individuals of growth.

b. The living conditions or ''existence'' poverty

Poverty can equally be perceived in its exclusion dimension in relation to a certain way of cultural and material life, resulting from the impossibility to satisfy the essential needs (in reference to the theory of essential needs). The analysis is widened to the whole set of needs which permit to live a decent life in a given society, and this refers to the notion of social integration/exclusion. This living conditions poverty or existence poverty has a more qualitative vision of poverty, which expresses a situation of lack in the domains relating to the feeding (nutritional disequilibrium), to the health (non access to the primary health care), to the education (non schooling) and to the housing. However, the non satisfaction of a given need, considered as essential, can have multiple causes (non availability of a service, non accessibility, the cost, and the differences of perception of the essential character of the need). Due to the fact that the determination of the living conditions poverty threshold remains a notion relating to the sociocultural environment of an individual, it is then difficult to determine the choice of the pertinent indicators of this form of poverty.

c. The potentialities or capabilities poverty

The poverty of capabilities is expressed by the fact that an individual does not have means (different forms of capital) which could have permitted him/her to get out of poverty, to live correctly and to show to advantage his/her individual capacities. This insufficiency of capital accumulation[4] generates an insufficient development of the individual capacities [Herpin and Verger (1998), Sen (1985)]. This approach permits to tackle poverty at its source in considering it as the result of the incapacity to seize the opportunities which are presented owing to a lack of capacities resulting from a deficient health, an insufficient education, a nutritional disequilibrium. In a dynamic vision, we become poor as a result of the modifications in the patrimony (property) through bankruptcy, in the human capital (handicap) or in the social capital (exclusion or family breaking).

There exist a great number of indices of measure of poverty. We have for instance: the Watts index, the Gini index, the Clarck index, Hemming and Ulph (CHU). The measure class of Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (1984), known under the name of ''FGT'' index, seems to be a more general index for the measure of poverty.

2.1.3. CONCEPT OF TRADE LIBERALISATION AND TRANSMISSION CHANNELS

a. Concept of trade liberalization

The concept of trade liberalization is often similar to that of the opening towards the outside world. In this case, we indiscriminately talk of trade liberalisation or trade opening up. The lexis of Economics (8th edition, 2004) defines liberalization as the set of measures aiming at facilitating the development of international trade. In other words, the liberalization implies the suppression, the reduction of all forces other than those of the markets mechanism, which influence the international trading in general and trade in particular. This lexical definition deliberately agrees with that of the World Bank (1996, pp. 28) according to which the liberalization decentralizes the decisions of trade and production in favour of the enterprises and households, and directly tries to correct the weak points of the centralised planning.

This approach of liberalization is highly shared by the World Trade Organisation, which, since its creation in 1994, has come forward as the guarantor for the liberal ideology in the world [CNUCED (2012) and WTO (2012)]. We can say that these institutions considered it as a powerful instrument of motivation to the competition and to the profit and a mechanism of regulation of the demand and supply of prices of goods and services according to the invisible hand of Adam Smith.

Besides this definitional approach of the international institutions, many other authors have tried to apprehend the notion of trade opening up/trade liberalization. Thus, for Krueger (1986) and Bhagwati (1991), the liberalization means the reforms of the trade policies leading to a mechanism of prices independence and the reduction of the anti-exports bias. Pritchett (1991), Reinikka (1994), Papageorgiou et al. (1991) and Bhagwati (1991) think that the liberalization should be considered as an overhang towards the prices neutrality. For these authors, the neutrality is the central element of liberalization.

When widening the notion of liberalization to that of free trade, we can say that the trade liberalization implies an elimination of barriers of all kinds from the internal and external trade. But in the reality, we can notice that there exists no absolute and total liberalization of trade. That is why in practice, the trade liberalization refers to the liberalization of imports and/or the trade policies movements towards the neutrality of the relative prices structures and/ or the substitution of the State intervention forms which create more distortions by those which create less distortions (Bamou, 1999).

b. Transmission channels of trade on poverty

The main transmission channels of the effects of trade liberalization are: the prices of the traded goods, the employment and the salaries, the State revenue and the economic growth.

The effect of trade liberalization on the prices is function of the variations of the prices of imported goods or the amelioration of the prices of the exported goods. The impact on the welfare of the households depends on the manner the poor consume the imported and exported goods and also on the fact that they are or can become the producers of the exported goods. At the level of the employment and the salaries, the effect of liberalization is exerted either through the increase of the level of employment or the improvement of salaries (Cling, Razafindrakoto and Roubaud, 2005). On the State revenues, the trade liberalization acts through the tariff and taxes on imports and exports. In the case where the process of liberalization is accompanied with a reduction of the customs revenues, this can constitute a major constraint for the African countries which budgets are strongly reliant on the customs revenues. Moreover, a significant reduction of the public revenues can be source of the diminution of the State capacity to supply services to the poor. On growth and according to Winters, McCulloch and McKay (2004), if we accept the argument or thesis that the opening up favours growth, we can expect that it will generally have a

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[3] According to the World Bank (2000), the extreme poverty threshold is now estimated at 1. 08 dollars per day and per inhabitant (generally rounded down to the nearest dollar that is to say 1 dollar).

[4] It is a question of means of material nature (physical equipments or financial capital) but also of human capital (level of education or of experience, life expectancy), and of social capital (relations network, stocks of rights, etc.). Sen (1985) talks of ''functioning'' to define the activities that an individual can run or the steps that he/she can reach. It is not a matter of guaranteeing the attainment of a given level but only to ensure the effective possibility or real opportunity to get to that level.

favorable impact on poverty (trickle down effect thesis). This impact depends however on the effect of the opening up on inequalities discussed previously, as well as on that of growth on the inequalities (a great increase of inequalities is translated into an increase in poverty).

c. Social accounting matrix based multiplier model as an instrument of economic policy analysis

Based on the construction of a social accounting matrix, the social accounting based multiplier model has come into being in a parallel way to the development of the works on the social accounting matrix (SAM). Thanks to its architecture, it permits to measure the effects of a change or shock occurred in a sector of the economy on the whole economy. This model has been largely disclosed in the developing countries by the World Bank, which saw in it an instrument capable of permitting to evaluate the impact of the economic policies put in place or implemented in the framework of the adjustment policy on poverty [Graham Pyatt and Jeffery Round (2004)]. Afterwards, with the gradual integration of the developing countries into the international trade, this model and its different variants have experienced a renewed interest due to its effectiveness in the analysis of macroeconomic policy shocks on the microeconomic indicators of countries taking part in trade (Tchoumo and Jumbo, 2013).

Since the first use of the model, many applications of this model have been developed in several countries for various research interests. For Indonesia, Keuning and Thorbecke (1992) have used this model to study the effects of the government budget reduction in the 1980s on the socioeconomic indicators on a sample of 10 groups of households. . Defourny et Thorbecke (1984) have used this model to describe the South Korean economy and to analyse the effects of subsidies on households. Pansini Rosaria Vega (2008) has used the new approaches of the decomposition of the SAM to formalize a model in order to analyse the different direct and indirect effects of macroeconomic policy shocks on poverty and inequalities of income among households in Vietnam.

In Ghana, Powell and Round (2000) have constructed a model, on the basis of the 1993 Ghanaian social accounting matrix in order to describe the economy and the interactions between the different sectors of activities. In South Africa, social accounting matrix model has enabled to study and to assess the different strategies of economic policy implemented by the South African government in her policy of poverty reduction and the improvement of the living conditions of the citizens (Statistics South Africa 2010). In 2012, in the framework of the works carried out by the African Growth and Development Policy, Rhoda Gakuru and Naomi Mathenge have used the SAM model to highlight the level of income inequalities in Kenya and its implications on the different policies of growth and poverty alleviation.

Many other studies have focused on the development of a social accounting matrix model for more general analyses. We have for instance the works of FAO (2006) and Fofana (2007), who have developed a SAM model for the analysis of the socioeconomic impact of agricultural policies on rural development and for the analysis of the impact of macroeconomic policies and shocks respectively.

One of the most important variant of the SAM model is the "Calculable General Equilibrium Model". This variant has also aroused a lot of interest and has motivated several works of which several were focusing on the analysis of poverty, economic growth and the effects of trade liberalization.

Several studies have been carried out on the impact of trade reforms on the economic performance, the revenue distribution and poverty in many African countries these recent years [Souleymane Diallo et al. (2004) for Côte d'Ivoire; Maertens et al. (2009) in Senegal; John Cockburn (2010)[5] et al. for studies focusing on Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Cameroon, Morocco, Zimbabwe, Tunisia and South Africa]. From all these studies and from an economic theory point of view, it emerges that trade liberalisation has an impact on economic development and the reduction of income inequalities.

In Africa in general and in Cameroon in particular, several applications of this model have been developed to analyse poverty, economic growth as well as the distribution of incomes [Cogneau and Roubeau (1993); Emini (2000); Thurlow and Wobst (2003); Lange and Schade (2004)]. When gathering in a unique framework the main tables of synthesis of the national accounting (the resources-employment table, the table of integrated economic account, the table of financial operations) and the different surveys, the social accounting matrix based multiplier model has permitted to give answers to some new macroeconomic questions which up to now have remained without any answer.

From the studies carried out on the impact of trade reforms on the economic performance, the allocation of incomes and poverty in the developing countries these last years [Souleymane Diallo et al. (2004), Fofana et al. (2003), Bamou (1999), Maertens et al. (2009)], it emerges that if on the economic theory point of view the trade liberalization has an impact on the economic development and the reduction of incomes inéqualities, the way in which these measures affect the welfare and the distribution of incomes of the populations is strongly related to the specific conditions of the countries which implement them.

The present study is limited to the analysis through the mulitiplier effect principle of the linked effects of the trade liberalization at the same time on poverty and on incomes inequalities of households. Thus, when subdividing the households in two groups according to the residence milieu and in six groups according to the standard of living, we can then measure the impact of the liberalization not only in terms of the residence milieu but also in terms of social categories of households.

3. METHODOLOGY

In order to give a suitable answer to our central question and to verify whether our working hypotheses are accepted or rejected, the methodological approach used consists in a twofold analysis. The first analysis is based on the compiling of information provided by the different surveys carried out in some Cameroonian households, and relating to the socioeconomic situation of households between 1996 and 2007. The second analysis is based on the social accounting matrix based multiplier model. For that, we have first of all constructed a Macro Social Accounting Matrix of 11 accounts, and then we have disaggregated this matrix in order to construct a multiplier matrix which has constituted the skeleton of our model thanks to which we have simulated some few measures of trade policy in use in the ACP-EU and WTO agreements.

4. RESULTS AND INTERPRETATIONS

4.1. MEASURE OF THE EFFECTS OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION THROUGH THE TRANSMISSION CHANNELS

4.1.1. TREND AND POVERTY PROFILE

On the basis of the results of the three surveys ECAM I, ECAM II and ECAM III carried out as we earlier said it over the whole national territory in 1996, 2001 and 2007, we can construct table 1 and table 2 which provide respectively the evolution of the level of households' poverty and the evolution of the inequalities in the distribution of income between 1996 and 2007.

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[5] See the book titled: '' Libéralisation commerciale et Pauvreté en Afrique'' published by the Press of the University of Laval (Canada) in 2010. This book under the direction of the Center of Research for International Development summarises several works carried out by different authors on the theme of trade liberalization and poverty in Africa.

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TABLE 1: EVOLUTION OF THE INDICATORS OF POVERTY BETWEEN 1996 AND 2007 (in percentage)

	1996	2001	2007
Incidence (P0)			
National	53.3	40.2	39.9
Urban	41.4	17.9	12.2
Rural	59.6	52.1	55.0
Depth (P1)			
National	19.1	12.8	12.3
Urban	14.7	4.3	2.8
Rural	21.5	17.3	17.5
Gravity (P2)			
National	ND	5.8	5.0
Urban		1.6	1.0
Rural		7.7	7.2

Source: report ECAM I , ECAM II , ECAM III ; SDEG.

TABLE 2: EVOLUTION OF THE GINI INDEX BETWEEN 1996 AND 2007 (in percentage)

	1996	2001	2007
National	0.406	0.408	0.390
Urban	0.449	0.406	0.352
Rural	0.345	0.369	0.322

Source: report ECAM I , ECAM II , ECAM III ; SDPR(2003), SDEG.

4.1.2. INTERPRETATIONS OF THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEYS

It emerges from these results that the monetary poverty has moved back for about 13 points between 1996 and 2001 and remains stable over the 2001-2007 period. As a matter of fact, the incidence of poverty has declined from 53.3% to 40.2% between 1996 and 2001, before stabilizing around 39.9% in 2007. This decline of poverty can be the result of a large growth of average income (growth effect) or an improvement in the process of redistribution of incomes (redistribution effect). But in the reality, it is recognized in Cameroon through the decomposition of the evolution of income that, the decline of poverty is especially due to the economic growth effect than to the redistribution effect. Between 2001 and 2007, the poverty index remains practically stable. The immediate consequence of this stability of the level of poverty is the significant increase of the number of the poor due to a population increase which is still very important (the demographic growth rate stands at 2.7%).

As a matter of fact, out of a population estimated at about 15.5 millions of individuals in 2001, 6.2 millions were considered as poor. In 2007, the ECAM III report estimates the population of the country at about 17.94 millions of individuals with 7.1 millions of poor. Theoretically, the diminution of the poverty incidence between 1996 and 2001 expresses, with a demographic growth rate of 2.7%, a reduction of poverty and an improvement of the living conditions of the populations during the second phase of the liberalization period of the country; while the index stability between 2001 and 2007 expresses an increase of poverty. However, the stability of the incidence of poverty observed at the national level hides a striking contrast between the residence milieus. As a matter of fact, in the urban milieu, the poverty rate which was at 17.9% in 2001 has experienced a drop of 5.7 points over the 2001-2007 period; while it has rather experienced an increase of 3.1 points in the rural milieu to stand at 55.0% in 2007. The degradation of the situation in the rural milieu could be explained by the fact that the households' activities incomes have not evolved or developed at a sufficient rate to permit them preserve their purchasing power.

During that very period, the gravity of poverty which measures the aversion of the populations vis-à-vis poverty or of the inequalities between the poor is situated at 5% in 2007 against 5.8%. This result shows that the poor population tends to be homogenized. As a matter of fact, this rate was at about 13.8% in 2001 (ECAM II). Moreover, the depth of poverty has remained practically stable over the period: 12.8% in 2001 against 12.3% in 2007. In other words, the poor have globally not gained from the effects of economic growth in order to reduce significantly the average gap between their level of consumption and the poverty threshold, even though the effect of growth has essentially benefited to the 10% of the poorest households. This depth corresponds to a poverty intensity or severity of about 31%, that is to say a deficit of CFA F 83 500 per poor individual in average.

As to the next table that is to say table 2, it presents the evolution of the inequalities in the distribution of incomes between 1996 and 2007. It emerges from that table that, if the incidence of the absolute poverty has declined between 1996 and 2001, this is not the case for the inequalities which, for lack of diminishing, are reinforced at the national level and much more in the rural milieu. On the other hand, the inequalities index has experienced a drop between 2001 and 2007. This drop expresses a decline of inequalities between the households at the national level and just as well in the rural zone as in the urban zone. However, it is interesting to notice that the inequalities reduce much more in the urban zone that in the rural zone.

4.2. MEASURES OF THE EFFECTS OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION BY SIMULATION OF LIBERAL TRADE POLICIES

4.2.1. RESULTS OF THE SIMULATIONS

The analysis of trade liberalization through the transmission channels gives us only the information on the households according to the residence milieu but we do not know its effects on the different sub categories of the households (Poor, Intermediate, Non poor). To complete this analysis, two options of economic policy have been thought and simulated in order to illustrate the effects of the trade economic policies on the allocation of incomes and the households' poverty. The first one which is relative to the ACP-EU and the WTO agreements, examines the effects of a 50% reduction of the trade or tariff barriers of all the imported goods and the suppression of customs duties on the exported good. The second one, relative to the accompaniment measures provided for in the agreements (internal support to the countries taking part in the agreements), is an implicit representation of an agricultural policy[6] permitting to increase the agricultural productivity[7] by a 20% increment of the APU transfers to the households. It should be noticed that the SDPR considers the increase of the productivity of factors as the major source of a growth which can generate income sufficiently high to lower by half the poverty incidence in 2015.

These differnt scenarios will be simulated under the hypothesis that Cameroon essentially exhange with the European Union and in considering that the Cameroonian government gets wider the tax base and/or increases the direct tax rate on the income of persons to compensate the losses due to the custom disarmament.

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[6] It can be a subsidy policy of the agricultural inputs, farmers' training, reinforcement of means of production, reinforcement of the infrastructures, etc.

[7] The 20% increase of transfers towards the households can be interpreted as an internal support policy to the country taking part in the agreements and which can be included in the framework of the National Programme of Participative Development which is a programme elaborated and put in place by the Cameroonian government, with the help of the international community. This programme has as objective to assist the government in the definition and the implementation of mechanism aiming at giving responsibilities to the grass roots communities and the decentralized structures of the State in order to render them actors of their own development.

TABLE 3: RESULTS OF THE SIMULATIONS (IN MILLIONS OF CFA F)

	Income of the households					
	Urban			Rural		
	Poor	Intermediary	Non Poor	Poor	Intermediary	Non Poor
Initial income (Y)	265079	382312	1487548	1582140	1005234	1416243
Initial total	2134939			4003617		
Income after simulation	265126	382988	1488851	1582225	1005477	1416630
Total after simulation	2136965			4004332		
Variation (dY)	47	676	1303	85	243	387

Source: calculations of the authors

4.2.2.   INTERPRETATIONS OF THE RESULTS OF THE SIMULATION

From the above table, we can easily notice that there is an increase of the total income of the households after simulation. The income being an essential determinant of the households' standard of living, its modification leads to the repercussions on standard of living of households and therefore on poverty. Knowing that these simulation hypotheses correspond to the conceivable trade liberalization measures during the second phase or stage of the liberalization process in Cameroon, and assuming that the variation of the poverty indicators is essentially explained by the variation of incomes induced by the liberal trade policies, we can conclude that the trade liberalization has led to the reduction of households' poverty.

However, this globally positive evolution of incomes hides at least two important disparities:

- with respect to the group Urban/Rural, we note that the application of the measures of trade policy has more impact on the urban households than on the rural households, but it has been acknowledged that more than haft of the poor reside in the rural zone;
- with respect to the sub group, we note that the measures of trade policy benefit less to the poor households in the urban zone as well as in the rural zone.

Finally, we notice that the reduction measures of customs duties on the imported products, the suppression of customs duties on the exported products and the transfers, have effectively a positive effect on the welfare of households. As a matter of fact, when we consider stable all the other determinants of poverty like the increase of the population, we can conclude that the trade liberalization has contributed to improve the income of the urban and rural households; and this leads to a poverty reduction or alleviation in these different milieus. However, this amelioration of incomes has not always been accompanied with a reduction of inequalities of incomes between the households.

Such a result is both in line with the results of some authors and contradicts the results of others depending on the methodologies used in the analysis related to other countries of trade liberalization on poverty and/or distribution of income. Najid Ahmed et al. (2012) in Pakistan and Antoine Bouët et al. (2013) in Senegal for instance have shown that trade liberalization leads to the reduction of poverty and to a slight increase to income inequalities. Other studies carried out in Senegal [see John Cockburn et al. in Trade Liberalisation and Poverty in Africa (2010)], in Morocco [see Touhami Abdelkalek in Trade Liberalisation and Poverty in Africa (2010)], in Zimbabwe [see Margaret Chitiga et al. in Trade Liberalisation and Poverty in Africa (2010)] and in Tunisia [see Sami Bibi et Rim Chatti in Trade Liberalisation and Poverty in Africa (2010)] just to name a few show with slight differences that trade liberalisation leads to a reduction of poverty in the above mentioned countries. However, the results of our study confirm that rural households in general and the poor households in particular benefit less from poverty alleviation due to measures of trade liberalisation policies. Moreover, this results is in line with that of John cockburn et al (2010)] who arrived at the conclusion that in Benin, rural households in general and the poor in particular are more victimised by the increase in poverty.

This divergence in the results for the same study objective might be justified among others by the model used, the simulation hypotheses, the decomposition of the sectors of activities in the aggregate social accounting matrix, the choice of the transmission channels of trade liberalization on households. This also concerns the present study for we have considered the income as a transmission channel of trade liberalization on households while other studies rather use the prices of goods in the market.

5.   CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of the effects of trade liberalization on the distribution of incomes and poverty of the households in Cameroon has been the object of this study. To achieve this objective, we have used a methodology which is based on the analysis of the effects of trade liberalization through the transmission channels and by simulation based on the multiplier model.

It emerges from the analysis of the effects of the trade liberalization through the transmission channels that the measures of economic policy put in place in the scope of the trade liberalization process have not contributed in a significant and sustainable manner to the reduction of poverty and the improvement of the living conditions of the populations between 1996 and 2007 in terms of the residence milieu.

It emerges from the analysis of the effects of the trade liberalization through simulation that the options of policy put in place in the framework of the trade opening up improve the income of the different categories of households and consequently reduce poverty. However, contrary to what was expected, the increase of incomes is unequally distributed between the categories of households and do not always permit to reduce significantly the inequalities of incomes. As a matter of fact, the variation of income benefits much more to the urban households that to the rural households. Moreover, in each zone, the poor households benefit less from this amelioration of incomes.

These results are in accordance with our initial hypothesis which states that the trade opening up resulting from the liberalization of trade affects the sources of incomes of the different economic agents and, therefore, the allocation of the national income, but also that the improvement of the welfare and/or the reduction of poverty following the trade opening up depend on the strategies and economic policies put in place in the country.

From the results of the present study, the following recommendations of economic policies are suggested. First of all, it is important for the group of countries of the Central Africa in which belongs Cameroon to understand and to measure the stakes in these different agreements in order to better defend the interests of its population. This comes through the harmonization and the amelioration of the functioning of the national committees of follow up and coordination of the negotiations of these agreements as well as through a greater implication of the political, social and economic actors in these negotiations.

Among the objectives of the ACP-EU agreements, appears in good place that of facilitating the economic intra African integration in general and sub regional in particular. After all observations, this objective is far to be achieved in Africa [Elbadawi, I. (1997), Foroutan, F. (1998) ; Sekkat K et al. (2004), Collins et al. (2010)] for, there still exist many barriers to the free movement of individuals and goods. All these things delay the process of negotiation and compromise in this manner the economic development of the members' countries. From the determining stakes of the different trade talks for each country, it is important to put in place at the intra regional and the sub regional level, policies which aim at breaking the mentalities and the institutional constraint which handicap the efforts of economic integration and compromise in this way the development of a genuine intra African and sub regional market.

The rigidity of the rural milieu in responding favorably to the measures of trade policy of opening up equally stems from the loss of affection of the rural milieu in terms of attractiveness and incitation to the investment. For that, it is important to create in these zones a social, economic and political environment which favours the entrepreneurship in general and the agricultural entrepreneurship in particular. We also note the marginalization of the informal sector which, with time – in the rural zone as well as in the urban zone – increases drastically. In reality, we can no more continue calling ''informal'' a sector which with the passing years has been generalized, has been diversified and is now accepted as being part of our economy. It is then desirable to accompany institutionally, financially and technically this sector in order to permit it, by the side of the SMIs and SMEs to be for the African countries in general and for Cameroon in particular some new emergent sectors following the example of the Asian countries.

At the national level, it is important to diversify the sources of incomes of households. This could be done among others through the creation of employments, the customs and fiscal incentive measures, the amelioration of governance, the support to the agriculture which comes through the improvement of the distribution networks (channels) of the inputs, a marketing of products, the access to credits, the training and the agronomic research, the popularization of

support infrastructures. Measures should be taken in order to favour more the transformation within the country of the exported raw material and the agricultural products in order to benefit from the increase in value and to increase the demand/Supply in labour.

For the future studies, we recommend to carry out a more global study using the calculable general equilibrium model on the analysis of the effects of trade liberalization on poverty and the distribution of incomes in dividing up the households according to the socioeconomic criterion, that is to say to gather the households in Public salaried employee, Formal private, Agricultural informal, Non agricultural informal, Unemployed person, Pensioner, Other non-working population.

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