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Trade & the Circular Economy: A Deep Dive on Ghana & Plastic Action

Report context

Growing interest at the **World Trade Organization** on addressing plastic pollution → New talks among 14 WTO Members

Basel Convention amendments moving most types of plastic waste onto controlled trade lists → From January 2021

Growth of regulations affecting (single-use) plastic and plastic waste trade → Plastics accounts for 5% total goods trade

Plastic waste flows for recycling?

Impact on raw materials flows?



Access to alternatives?

Impact on investment?

Impact on goods trade?

Yet figuring out how trade policy contributes to reducing plastic pollution is complex

These issues can be better unpacked within a specific context and trade flows

Climate change links: plastic derived from fossil fuels + manufacturing processes; CO2 emissions from plastic waste dumpsites and incineration (emissions from the latter could rise to 2.8 billion tonnes of GHG by 2050; oceans impact

Report outline

➤ Evaluating plastics in the Ghanaian economy and society

Why the plastics challenge matters for Ghana

Overview of the plastic and plastic waste landscape in Ghana

Mitigating pollution and enhancing socio-economic opportunities

➤ Ghana's plastic pollution control efforts and the transition to a circular economy

Imperative of a circular economy approach to plastic management in Ghana

The evolution of plastic control measures

Private sector initiatives

➤ How Ghana can optimize plastic waste management and trade, industrialization and sustainable growth

Implement circular economy principles to manage consumption and waste generation

Develop recycling-based materials/component supply chain for anchor industries

Build a regional competitive advantage as a plastic recycling and export hub

➤ The role of trade policy in supporting Ghana's plastics agenda

Global trade flows and trends

Using trade agreements

Trade impacts

Figure 2: Linking upstream plastic management recommendations to trade considerations

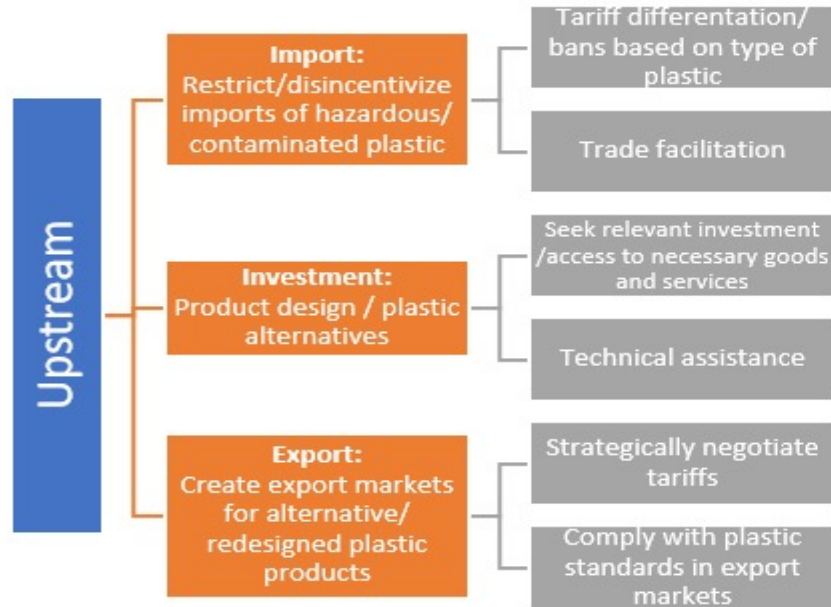
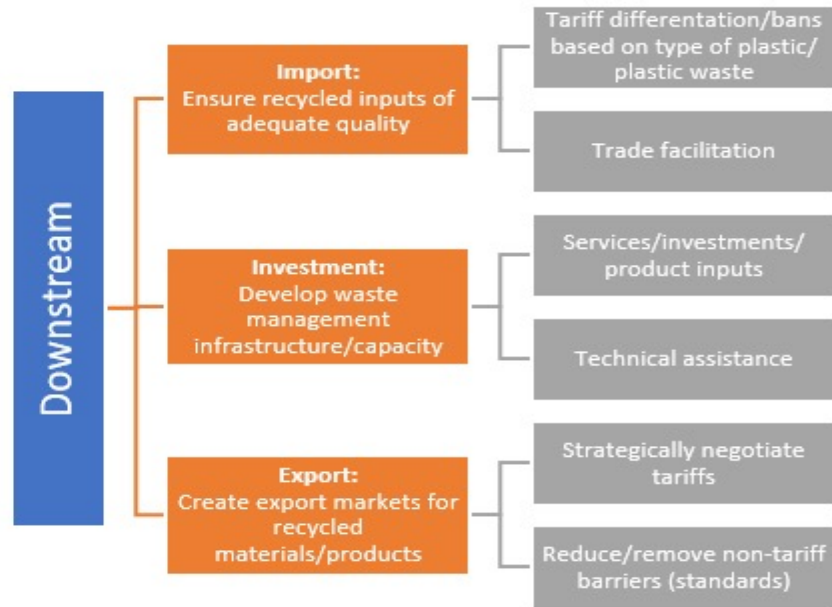


Figure 3: Linking downstream plastic management recommendations to trade considerations



The EU has a set a goal of all packaging material in its market being reusable or recyclable in an economically viable way – there will be a particular emphasis on designing for recyclability – by 2030. Implications for developing country traders using plastic packaging or in end product targeting the bloc. There are ongoing EU-ECOWAS EPA negotiations that could help to address this topic (capacity building) and lends weight to need for industry circular economy strategies.



Thank You

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