
	<p align="center">CAREED 6th Annual Conference 30th June, 2023</p>	
<p><i>Title of the Paper</i></p>	<p>The WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding as a Tool For Eliminating Market Access Barriers For Nigeria’s Agricultural Exports.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Author(s) Name</i> • <i>Email</i> 	<p>Aisha Waziri Umar aishaumar@yahoo.co.uk Prof John Struthers john.struthers@uws.ac.uk Dr Allan Moore allan.moore@uwl.ac.uk</p>	
<p><i>*Purpose of the paper</i></p>	<p>The purpose of this paper is to investigate the factors responsible for Nigeria's inability to use the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism to boost the export of key agricultural commodities. The factors considered are classified into two broad categories; internal(country-related) and external (WTO-related) factors. The internal factors cut across the entire trade architecture comprising the downstream, midstream, and upstream levels.</p>	
<p><i>*Design/methodology/ approach</i></p>	<p>A mixed-method approach was adopted for the study. A well-structured questionnaire was designed and administered to 300 (100 each) Cocoa, Sesame and Shea Nuts producers representing the downstream and the data collected were analysed using Probit Regression with the aid of SPSS. Then, data were collected from the midstream and upstream levels using Focus Group Discussion and Semi-structured Interviews respectively and analysed using content analysis.</p>	
<p><i>*Findings</i></p>	<p>The study found that Nigeria's inability to use the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism to boost agricultural exports is due to internal factors such as a lack of comprehensive domestic mechanisms, expertise, knowledge and awareness of WTO rules and external factors such as the duration, cost and complexity of prosecuting cases and skewed WTO provisions.</p>	
<p><i>Research limitations/ Implications</i> (if applicable)</p>	<p>The study only focuses on Nigeria's Cocoa, Sesame, and Shea Nuts producers, which limits the generalizability of the findings to other African countries and crops. Additionally, the study uses agency theory, which oversimplifies the relationship between agents and principals and assumes self-interest as the primary motivator of agents. Future studies can explore other African countries and agricultural commodities while considering institutional theory.</p>	

<i>Practical implications (if applicable)</i>	The practical implication of this study is that Nigeria needs to address the internal factors by fortifying her domestic mechanisms and increasing expertise, knowledge, and awareness of WTO DSU provisions. Also, the WTO needs to address issues such as the duration, complexity, and cost of prosecuting cases and skewed WTO provisions.
<i>*Originality/value of paper</i>	This study offers a framework for understanding why Nigeria struggles to participate in the WTO dispute settlement system and suggests ways to improve it. The findings are valuable for policymakers and stakeholders to address the challenges and enhance Nigeria's participation, which is essential for shaping future trade agreements and negotiations.
<i>**Key Words</i>	Dispute Settlement Understanding, Market Access Barriers, Agricultural Exports
<i>Paper Type (theoretical or empirical)</i>	Empirical