

Mauritius-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

Market access – Trade in goods

(A) Summary

- Upon entry into force of the Mauritius-China FTA, Mauritius would benefit from **immediate duty free access** on the Chinese market on some **7,504 products**.

A few examples of products with immediate tariff liberalization include:

Live swine (e.g. HS 0103.9110)	From 10% to 0
Live poultry (e.g. HS 0105.1190)	From 10% to 0
Yellowfin tunas	From 12% to 0
Skipjack or stripe-bellied bonito	From 12% to 0
Flours, meals and pellets of fish, fit for human consumption	From 10% to 0
Instant noodle	From 15% to 0

- Tariffs on an additional 723 products will be phased out over a 5 to 7-year period starting on 01 January 2021.

For example, China has agreed to liberalise tariffs on our main export product to Beijing i.e. **fish products**; over 5 years.

- The above means that Mauritian operators will have **better (preferential) access on 96% of the Chinese tariff lines**.

Products cover **key export items** such as rum, frozen fish, noodles and pasta, wafers and biscuits, fresh fruits, juices, mineral water, linen, garments, watches and articles of leather.

- In addition, a **Tariff Rate Quota for 50,000 tonnes of sugar** will be implemented on a progressive basis over a period of 8 years with an initial quantity of 15,000 tonnes; at an in quota rate of 15% (compared to 50% out quota). This is expected to generate export revenue of some **US\$ 40 million**.

(B) Concrete benefits

- According to the Joint Feasibility Study undertaken by Mauritius and China, to assess the potential benefits of the FTA, Mauritius' **exports** have the capacity to increase by at least **US\$ 318 million**.
- A further internal trade potential analysis conducted on the basis of 49 products of export interest to Mauritius – identified by the World Bank – indicate that exports could indeed increase by some **US\$ 36,3 billion**.
- The FTA would create new opportunities in the areas of electronic goods, Information and Communications Technology, hardware assembly, pharmaceuticals and chemicals **to broaden the manufacturing base of Mauritius**.

(C) Exclusion of our sensitive goods

- All products considered to be sensitive have been excluded, following consultation with the private sector.
- Mauritius would eliminate tariff on 148 tariff lines over a period of 5 years. This represents 2.5% of our tariff lines. The impact on the domestic industry is expected to be marginal.