

ABSTRACT

## Institutional Framework for Export Competitiveness:

## The Case of Trinidad and Tobago

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Export competitiveness is a critical factor in international trade. It is a factor which determines a country's survival in today's hostile international trading environment.

The growing complexities of the world trading system present an ever-increasing challenge for participants to become more export-efficient. For export-dependent economies, the challenge is greater.

Export competitiveness and export efficiency are general concerns of this study which is premised on the fact that a country like Trinidad and Tobago must export in order to survive.

From a general standpoint the author examines critical aspects of export policy. More specifically, a case study of Trinidad and Tobago is undertaken. The author addresses the issues of export competitiveness and export efficiency for Trinidad and Tobago in particular, and from the perspective of institution - building. The focus of the study is on the institutional framework for export competitiveness.

A principal objective of the study therefore, is to examine the country's present economic and social structures and the changes required for the achievement of export efficiency and ultimately export success.

Following an indepth analysis and evaluation of the existing institutional economic and social framework, the author concludes that there are definite and serious gaps in this country's present institutional framework.

Broad policy guidelines are put forward as the author attempts to provide some general policy recommendations on the subject of export efficiency for Trinidad and Tobago.

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