PREFACE

Co-operation among nations of the South risks being rushed into a simple strategy for commercial competitiveness. But its historic role goes beyond this to challenge global processes that generate unfair trade practices, unbalanced economic development, and poverty. To date, the South has maintained a general consensus that national interests were served by its collective ability to bargain internationally not only about trade but also with respect to aid and debt.

The foundations of this broader vision of South-South co-operation are under threat today because the emerging new global order appears to be unipolar (rather than multipolar, with the South a major factor); and because institutionalised globalisation (through such bodies as the World Trade Organisation) erodes even the last stronghold of South co-operation, the preferential trading blocs now being undermined by global rules.

With the private sector ascendant, transnational growing, the state weakened, and the South’s role as a bloc power diminished, old notions of alleviating poverty through subsidies and welfare to help people escape the cycle have lost credibility. But can regions like Sub-Saharan Africa, or South Asia with its 330 to 440 million poor, really ignore poverty in their efforts to achieve regional co-operation and development?

This research has examined a large body of literature and assembled materials on south-south trade & technological co-operation that have never, to the best of my knowledge, been explored to the same extent before. In the process of doing so, it was undocumented in this area. And it has, it is hoped, helped to fill a gap.

The foregoing survey broadly supports the frequent, through usually undocumented, assertion that south-south trade was an area had tended to neglect and to which they had made few if any original or significant contributions. Serious theoretical discussions of south-south trade in economic treatises and professional journals were indeed comparatively few. Writers who did attempt to grapple analytically with the subject generally limited their comments to a relatively small number of pages.
Thus, it was considered logical to undertake an in-depth analysis of analytical and empirical commodity trade, technical collaborations, manpower training, joint-ventures, etc. for providing a more meaningful substance to the relationship between the two regions.

The major thrust of this study is to evaluate the technological cooperation between India & East Africa as a source of developing local technological capacity and its impact on India’s trade with the regions. It will also make an assessment of future possibilities.

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