

# Gender and Trade

---

Some issues to consider

Barbara Kotschwar  
OAS Foreign Trade Information System  
22 April 2004

# How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

---

- Women as producers:
    - Dual role: productive and reproductive roles
    - Time allocation: market versus non-market activities
-

# How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

---

## □ As workers

- In terms of quality of employment
    - As compared to previously existing opportunities
    - Effect on the wage gap
-

# How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

---

## □ Women as consumers

- Trade liberalization may lower prices on important consumer goods -- so women may gain significantly from a reduction in the price of their basic bundle of goods and in increased access to medicine and basic health services – given their role as primary household managers.
  - Conversely, elimination of subsidies or price supports may raise the price of basics, making household management more costly.
-

★ Tariff reduction on agricultural goods: an example from a country in the Americas

| Tariff Line Level | Description               | Value | Nature     |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------|------------|
| 702000            | TOMATOES FRESH OR CHILLED | 224   | Ad Valorem |
| 704901            | CABBAGES                  | 123   | Ad Valorem |
| 705110            | LETTUCE                   | 123   | Ad Valorem |
| 710100            | POTATOES                  | 30    | Ad Valorem |
| 40100             | MILK and CREAM            | 159   | Ad Valorem |

On average, these tariffs increase the price by 125%

# How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

---

## ★ The case of agricultural liberalization:

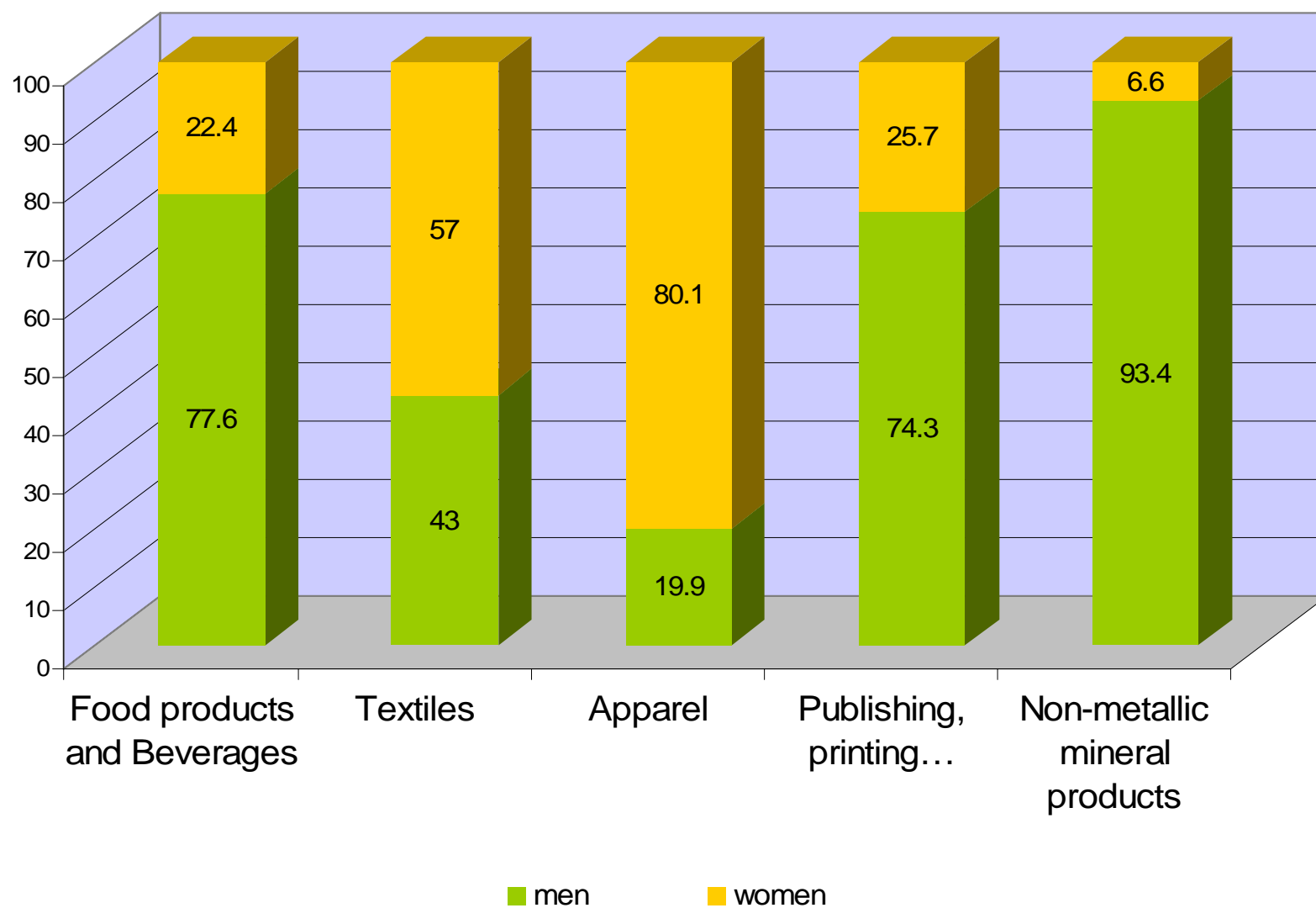
- ❑ Production Factors: Impact of trade liberalization on the agricultural sector:
    - Are women formal or informal workers?
    - Are women intensively employed more in large agricultural concerns or in smaller farms?
    - Are women employed more in traditional or nontraditional sectors? What are the trends?
  - ❑ Consumption factors: Can the loss of agricultural income be offset by other factors, such as cheaper imported foodstuff?
-

# How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

---

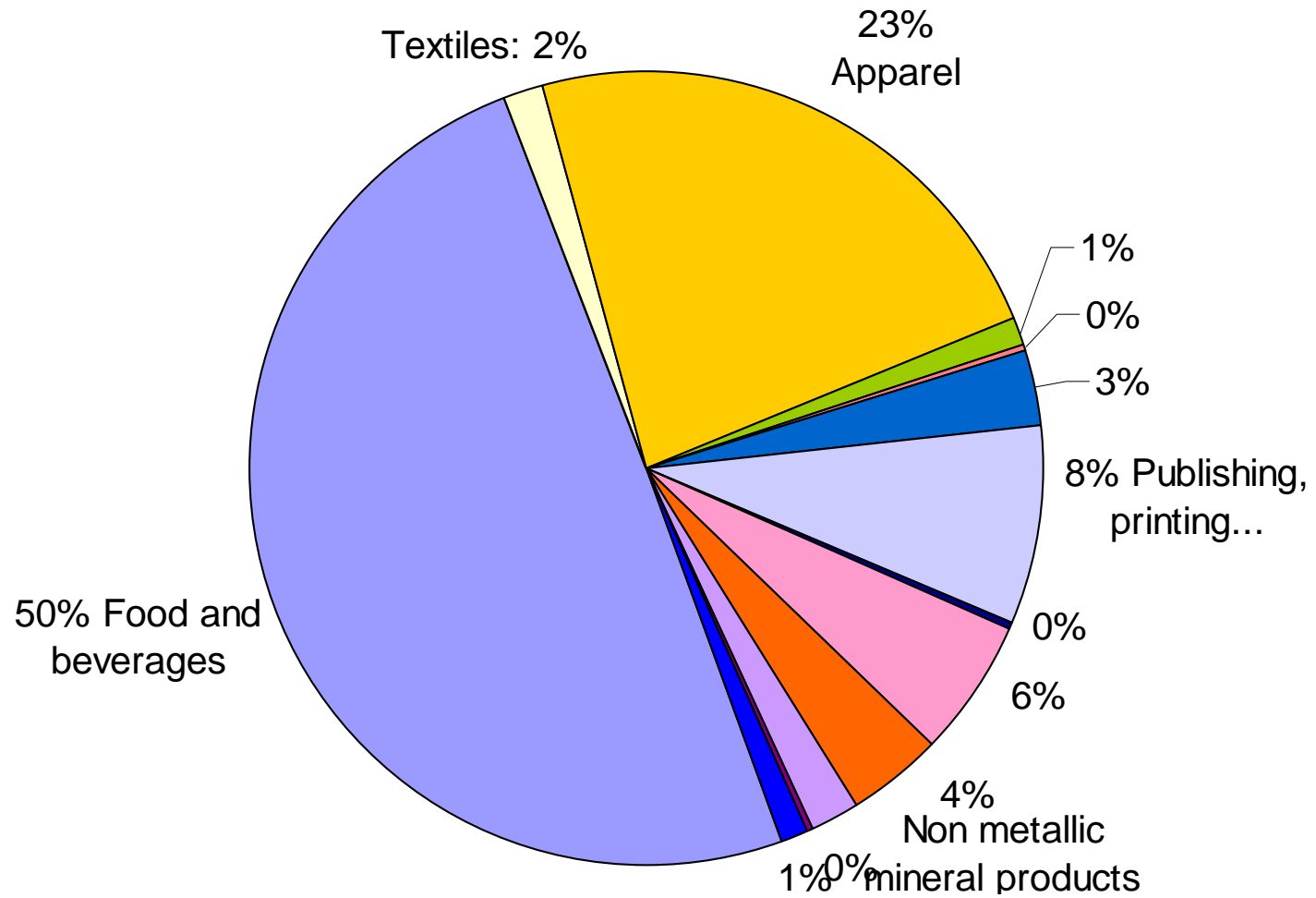
- ★ The issue of sectorial concentration:
    - ❑ Are some sectors more affected by trade?
    - ❑ Are women concentrated in some of these sectors?
    - ❑ How do we look at the issue of sectorial concentration?
      - overall concentration, compared to men
      - in terms of the female labour force
-

## PANAMA: Men and women's share of employment in manufacturing (%) 2000

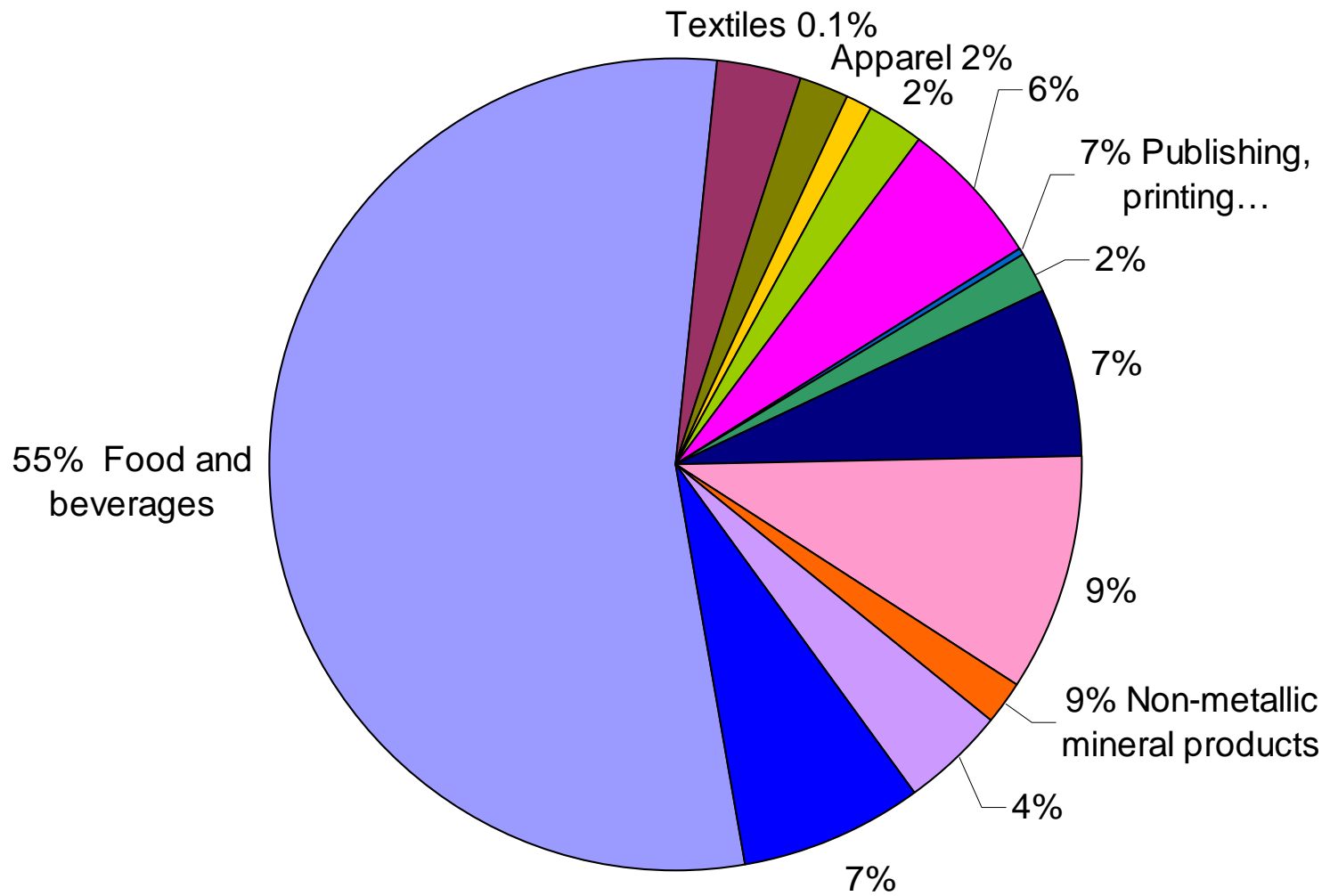




## Distribution of women's employment in manufacturing



## Distribution of men's employment in manufacturing



## Gender and Trade: What are the options?

---

- ❑ Incorporate language on gender into trade agreement provisions
  - ❑ Incorporate language on gender in side agreements
  - ❑ Incorporate gender consideration into trade-related projects
  - ❑ Incorporate gender consideration in domestic policy-formation
-

## Gender and Trade: some suggestions

---

- ❑ Coordination and collaboration among NGOs, national institutions and international organizations
  - ❑ Communication among trade people and gender people
  - ❑ Sharing of country experiences
  - ❑ Wider dissemination of information
-

# Gender and Trade: some suggestions

---

- ❑ Trade Unit -SICE/CIM collaboration:
  - Section on trade and gender on the SICE Website:



[www.sice.oas.org](http://www.sice.oas.org)

---

# Trade & Gender on the SICE Website

---

- The website will include:
    - Links to international organizations involved in the issue of gender and trade
    - Links to other sources of information, such as articles, bibliographies...
    - The presentations and papers done by the Trade Unit
-

# Trade & Gender on the SICE Website

---

- Best Practices submitted by OAS Member States
  - A list of trade & cooperation agreements and impact studies including vocabulary on gender equality, non-discrimination, and other relevant issues.
-