

- Another agreement was reached to **expand the Green Box list of “general services”**. This list added the following: spending on for land use, land reform, water management, rural livelihood security and other purposes related to development and reducing poverty.
- A declaration to reduce all forms of export subsidies and to enhance transparency and monitoring. This declaration covers a wide range of issues generally known as **“export competition”**. This includes measures, like international food aid, export credits, export credit guarantees, insurance programmes etc, whose effects may be equivalent to export subsidies.
- **A temporary peace clause** was added in Bali. It stated that no country would be legally barred from food security programmes even if the subsidy breached the limits specified in the WTO agreement on agriculture. This clause will remain in force for four years until 2017, by which time the members will find a permanent solution to the problem. However, the permanent solution remained elusive after the 11th Ministerial Conference.

b) **2015 Nairobi Package:**

- WTO members adopted a historic decision to **eliminate agricultural export subsidies** and set disciplines on export measures with equivalent effect. According to the decision, members shall eliminate export subsidies according to different timelines. Developed countries to eliminate immediately, except for a limited number of agriculture products, while developing countries to end it by 2018. This step has been taken to fulfill the key target of **Sustainable Development Goal on Zero Hunger by 2030**.
- Member nations also agreed to **discipline in food aid** i.e. ensuring that food aid does not negatively affect domestic producers and local or regional markets.
- WTO members **agreed to engage constructively** in finding a permanent solution to developing countries' use of public stockholding programmes for food security purposes.
- Ministers also agreed to continue negotiations on a **special safeguard mechanism (SSM)** that would allow developing countries to temporarily raise tariffs on agriculture products in cases of import surges or price falls.

The adoption of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration signaled the strong commitment of member nations to advance negotiations on the remaining Doha Round issues, including advancing work in all three pillars of agriculture i.e. domestic support, market access and export competition.

2.4.2. Indian Agriculture Subsidies and WTO

India had signed Agreement on Agriculture of WTO expecting that it would:

- reduce the domestic support given by OECD countries to their respective agricultural sectors
- increase the prices of agricultural products in international markets
- improve export prospects for India.

But, to its surprise, the agricultural prices went down, putting agricultural countries like India at disadvantage. India has the following contentions with respect to the AoA and the WTO.