

Sushmitra Dahal

Research Associate (Economics)

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Professional Bio

Sushmitra Dahal is a trade policy researcher at the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), where she works with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, on multilateral trade negotiations, Non-Tariff Measures with a special focus on SPS/TBT, sustainability-linked trade regulations, and MSME integration in global markets. She holds a Master's degree in Economics with specialization in International Trade and Econometrics from Sharda University (2022), a Master of Science in Mathematics from Christ University (2022), and a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, Economics and Statistics from Christ University (2020). She joined CWS as a Research Fellow in July 2022.

In her current role, Sushmitra has been substantively engaged in India's G20 Trade Track, contributing to the drafting of trade components in the New Delhi G20 Leaders' Declaration (2023) and assisting in the finalization of the negotiated text for the G20 Leaders' Declaration (Brasília, 2024). She has provided substantive text for the G20 Compendium of Good Practices to Increase the Participation of Women in International Trade (2024), drafted talking points for the Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister and Minister of State, and assisted in drafting speech inputs for the Hon'ble Prime Minister's address to G20 Trade Ministers. She has also contributed to WTO Ministerial preparatory work for MC-13 (Abu Dhabi), prepared analytical inputs for WTO Trade Policy Reviews spanning South and Southeast Asia, Europe, North America, and Oceania, and worked on FTA feasibility studies assessing Non-Tariff Measures across Latin America, Southeast Asia, North Africa, South Asia, and East Asia. She also supports the TBT Desk, providing bilateral trade data alongside background analysis of NTMs.

Sushmitra's core expertise lies in Non-Tariff Measures, with particular depth in Technical Barriers to Trade, where she has worked extensively on technical requirement of a country such as certification processes. Her country profiling work involves taking stock of SPS and TBT measures in force, mapping product coverage against these measures, and identifying key export areas of interest analysis that is calibrated to whichever approach best serves the negotiation at hand. Where an analytical, feasibility-study-based approach is called for, she draws on HS-level trade data analytics, RCA, elasticity, and terms-of-trade methodologies, supported by simulation tools such as WITS Smart Simulations and the TiNA database, combining empirical trade analytics with negotiated text drafting to support India's bilateral objectives. Her research specializes in the trade-climate interface, including the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), the Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), the Waste Shipment Regulation, and the OECD Waste Decision, and their implications for Indian MSMEs.

Conference & Research Publications

Year	Title	Conference / Outlet
2026 (scheduled)	Aligning Indic Ecology with Global Green Governance: A Special Case of the EU's ESRP and RSW	Earlier presented at the 23rd AIB South Asia Conference, IIFT Kolkata; scheduled for presentation at the IIPPE Conference, Lisbon, from September 9
2024	Trade Liberalisation, Globalisation, and Employability Challenges: Case of Indian Hand Tool Sector	Presented at ICGEEE 2024 (UK); published in official proceedings
2025	Trade and Economic Impacts of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism on India's MSME Sector	Presented at IIFT, Delhi
2026	Socioeconomic, Trade and Developmental Linkages: Providing the Trade (HS) Link to Indian GIs	CWS Working Paper

Working Papers & Papers Under Review

Year	Title	Status / Outlet
2026	Global Trade Flows and the Applicational Concerns in Antitrust Laws: The Case of Digitised and Sustainability-Based Trade Agreements	Submitted to SAGE Antitrust Journal
2026	India's Trade Liberalisation and Protection of Domestic Production Capacities: Balancing Act by Increased Variability in Tariff Modalities and the TRQs Usage (co-authored)	Working paper

Contribution to Policy Making

Year	Contribution
2023	Drafting inputs for the New Delhi G20 Leaders' Declaration – Trade Components
2023	Speech inputs for the Hon'ble Prime Minister's address to G20 Trade Ministers
2023	Drafting and coordination of press releases for Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meetings
2024	Annex 2 – Trade Annex to the G20 Leaders' Declaration (Brasília)
2024	G20 Compendium of Good Practices to Increase the Participation of Women in International Trade
2024	G20 Trade and Investment Ministers' Meeting Outcome Document