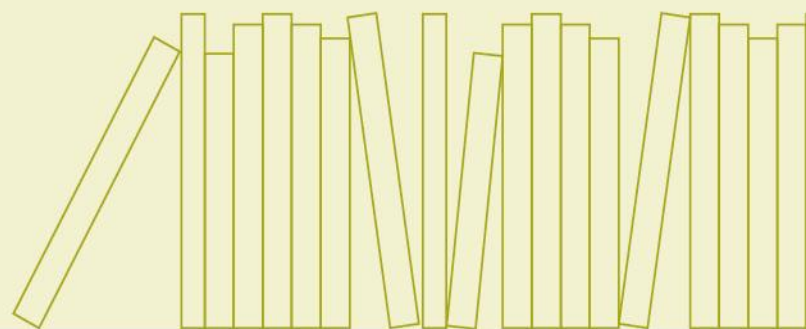


Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
**ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE CARIBBEAN**



Evaluation report of the workshop on TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus and WITS





UNITED NATIONS



**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean**

Workshop on TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus and WITS
3-5 December 2019
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

LIMITED
LC/CAR/2019/21
20 December 2019
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EVALUATION REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON TRADECAN, MAGIC PLUS AND WITS

This report has been reproduced without formal editing.

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has provided comprehensive training in the compilation and analysis of data using TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus and World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) to Member States over a number of years. Through these training workshops, ECLAC aims to enhance the trade analysis skills of our member States to produce the essential inputs needed to drive the formulation, negotiation, and implementation of better trade policy across the region.
2. MAGIC Plus and TradeCAN are analytical tools developed by the United Nations-ECLAC with the purpose of measuring the ex post competitiveness of exports. WITS, on the other hand, was developed by the World Bank with the purpose of accessing and retrieving trade and tariff data compiled by a number of international organizations.
3. For the 2019 workshop, ECLAC in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Trinidad and Tobago jointly coordinated the three-day highly interactive capacity-building workshop on trade data compilation and competitiveness analysis, specifically targeting public sector officials and relevant private sector participants from Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. Much assistance was also provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Guyana to coordinate participation among the Guyanese officials.
4. Over the course of the workshop, participants were exposed to the new features of TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus and WITS; the competitiveness profile of Caribbean countries; and a comprehensive overview of ECLAC's analytical tools based on partial equilibrium analysis and simulation techniques. At the culmination of the workshop, the primary objective was to increase awareness and promote discussion among Caribbean analyst of the analytical tools employed by ECLAC.

B. ATTENDANCE

1. Place and date of the workshop

5. The training workshop on the "TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus and WITS" was held on the 9th floor of the Ministry of Trade and Industry from 3 to 5 December 2019, in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

2. Attendance

6. Workshop participants originated from Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. The training targeted 19 professionals primarily from Central Banks, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Ministry of Planning and Development, Bureau of Statistics, Customs and Excise offices, Guyana Revenue Authority, ExportTT, Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturing Association, Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce.
7. The workshop was facilitated by Economic Affairs Assistant, Jennifer Alvarado and Senior Economic Affairs Assistant, Indira Romero of the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico.

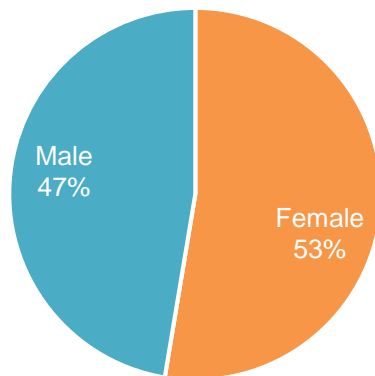
C. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

8. An evaluation questionnaire was administered to participants on the final day of the workshop. The purpose of the evaluation was to elicit feedback on the substantive content and usefulness of the workshop, organization of the event and other works by ECLAC. This section of the report presents a summary of the evaluation responses provided by the workshop participants. Reference to the term “respondent” throughout this document represents workshop participants that completed and submitted the questionnaire.

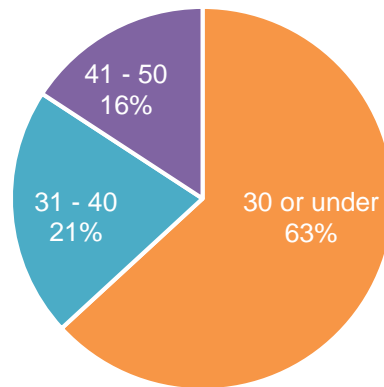
1. Identification

9. Of the nineteen persons participating in the workshop, all completed and submitted the evaluation questionnaire. Ten (53 per cent) of the nineteen respondents were female (Figure 1). Sixty-three per cent of respondents were 30 years and under, 21 per cent were between the ages of 31-40 years and 16 per cent were between the ages of 41 and 50 years (see Figure 2). The full list of participants is included in Annex I.

**FIGURE 1
SEX**

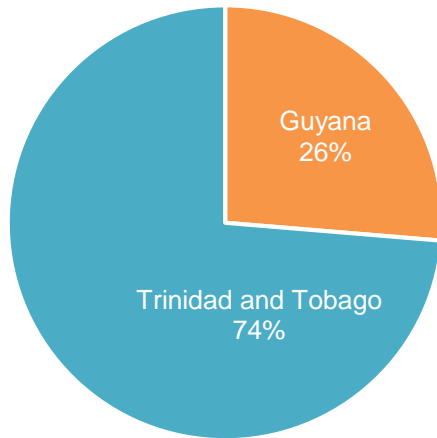


**FIGURE 2
AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION**

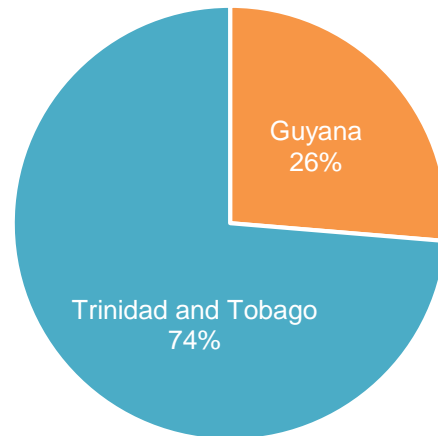


10. As the host country, Trinidad and Tobago had the highest participation rate with 74 per cent of respondents reporting that they originated from this country and were currently employed there. For the remaining participants, 26 per cent reported that they originated and were employed in Guyana (Figures 3 and 4).

**FIGURE 3
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**



**FIGURE 4
COUNTRY OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT**



11. Most respondents indicated that the type of institution represented as either a national ministry (68 per cent) or a national institute (21 per cent) – see Figure 5. Two (11 per cent) participants indicated they were representing the private sector (ExporTT Limited and Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturing association). The institutions most represented at the workshop included Ministry of Trade and Industry (37 per cent); Central Banks (11 per cent); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (11 per cent) and Private sector institutions (11 per cent) – see Figure 6. The remaining institutions had 1 representative, each representing 5 per cent of total participation. These included Bureau of Statistics; Customs and Excise; Ministry of Planning; Ministry of Finance; and Guyana Revenue Authority.

**FIGURE 5
TYPE OF ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED**

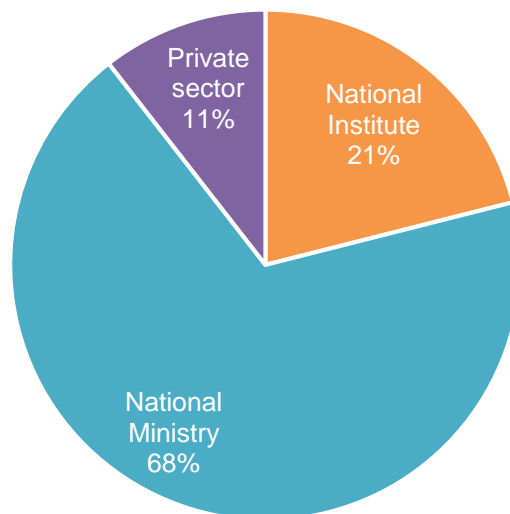
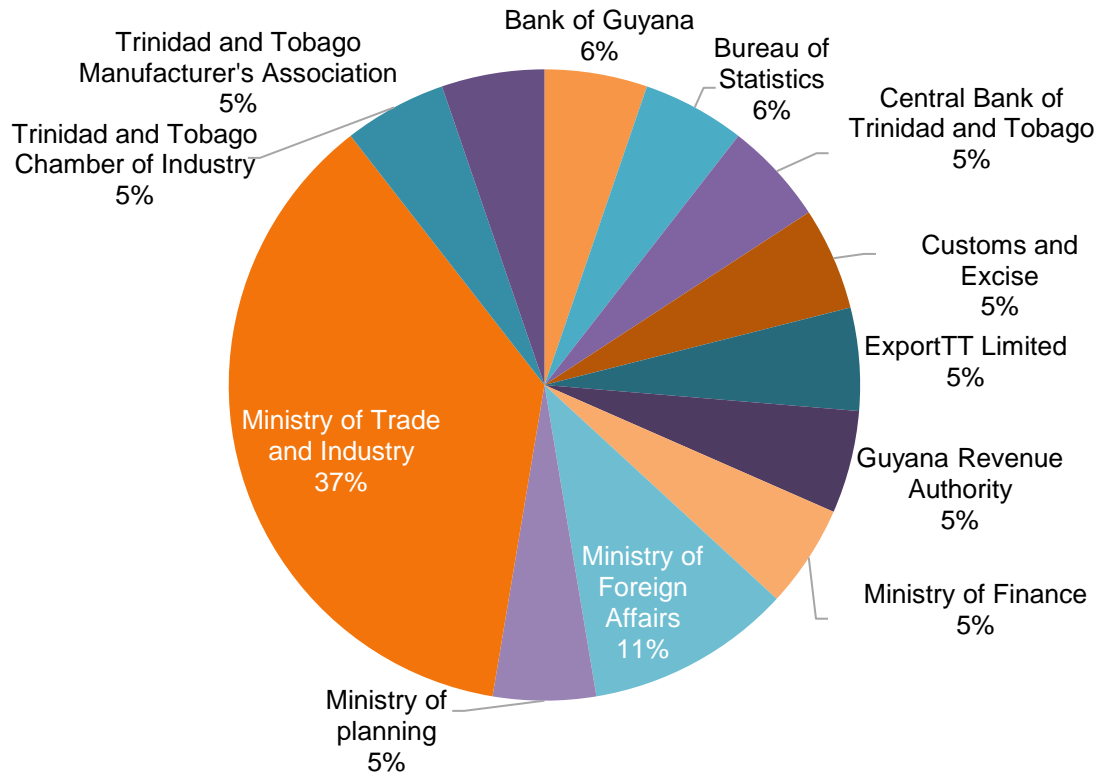


FIGURE 6
INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED AT WORKSHOP



12. Respondents at participating institutions reported a diverse number of titles/ positions ranging from junior level professionals to senior level management. Altogether, their roles comprised of Economist (32 per cent), Trade or Industry specialist (16%), Statistical officer (11%), Manager (11%), Customs and Excise Officer (5 per cent); Project Assistant (5 per cent); Policy Officer (5 per cent); and Planning Officer (5 per cent).

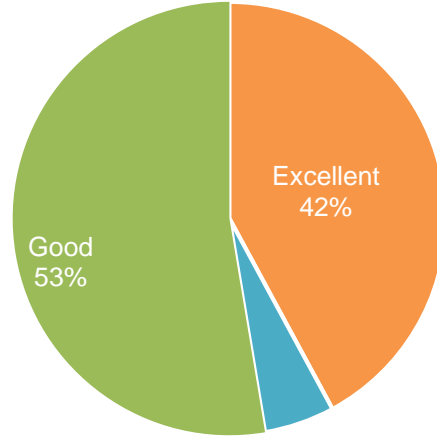
2. Substantive content and usefulness of workshop

13. All respondents rated the overall workshop as either good (47 per cent) or excellent (53 per cent) – see Figure 6. Most respondents (95 per cent) rated the substantive content of the workshop as either good (53 per cent) or excellent (47 per cent) – see Figure 7. However, a slightly smaller percentage of respondents (79 per cent) agreed that the workshop lived up to their initial expectations. Although 4 participants did not indicate agreement (3 reported neither agreed nor disagreed and 1 reported not sure/ no response) that the workshop lived up to their expectations, no one indicated disagreement with that statement. Further, the overall workshop and substantive content of the workshop were rated as at least good or excellent among these participants (Figure 8).

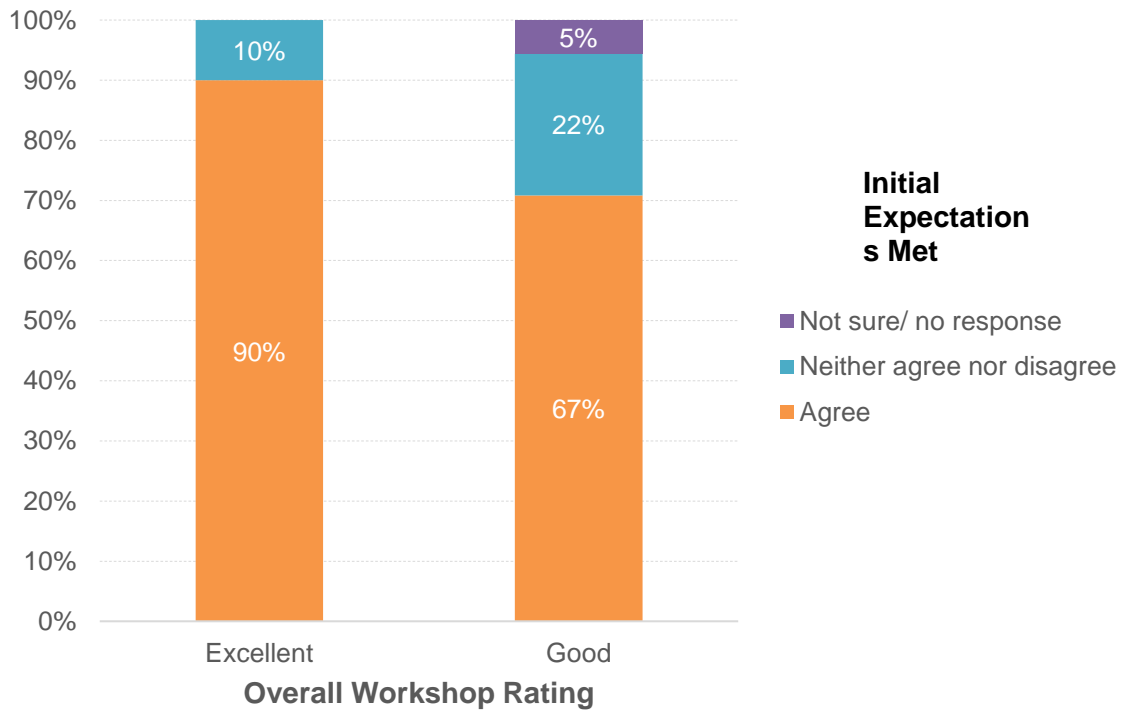
**FIGURE 6
OVERALL WORKSHOP RATING**



**FIGURE 7
SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT RATING**



**FIGURE 8
INITIAL EXPECTATIONS MET RELATIVE TO OVERALL WORKSHOP RATING**



14. Ninety-five per cent of respondents reported that the subjects presented and discussed were either useful (42 per cent) or very useful (50 per cent) to their institution (Figure 9). In general, there was consensus among respondents that the duration of the workshop needed to be increased in order to achieve the stated objectives of the workshop. Respondents generally expressed satisfaction with the subjects addressed, indicating that it was adequate, comprehensive and met the objectives of the workshop. However, some recommendations were offered to strengthen the topics addressed. Table 1 outlines these recommendations.

TABLE 1
SUBJECT RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE WORKSHOP

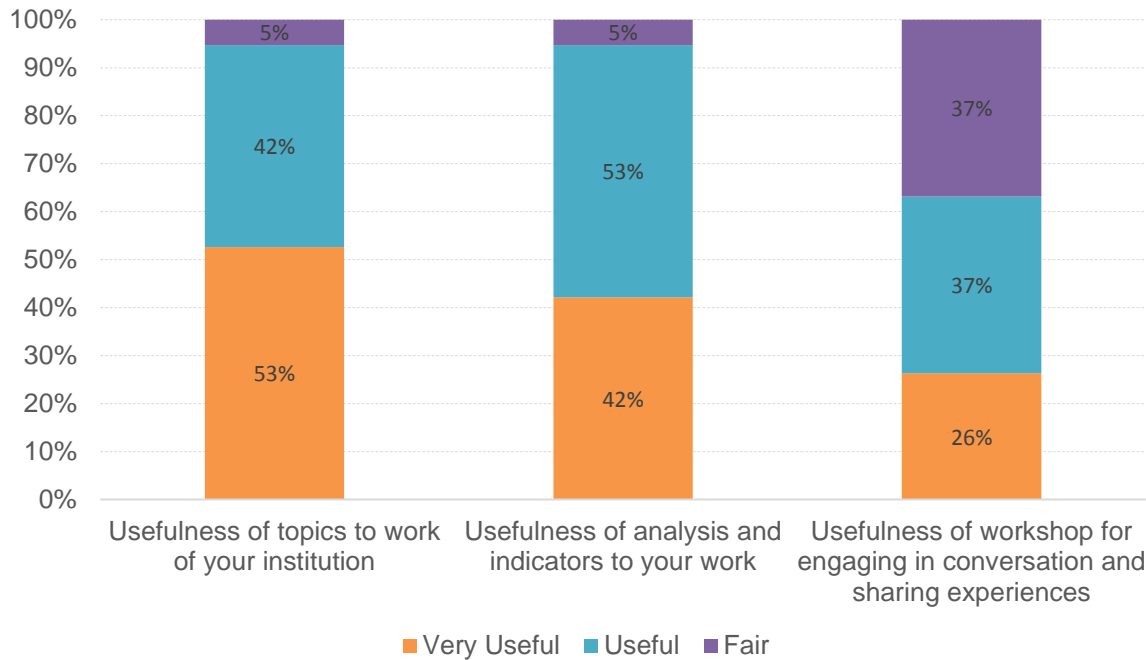
Recommendation	
1	Delve more into the competitiveness analysis and product typology analysis and provide further recommendations for countries for countries and product typologies
2	Provide more in-depth analysis and understanding of the data
3	Provide explanation into the use of these data in modelling and econometric analysis
4	Demonstrate how these tools work with other tools such as trade map and market access map to complete a full country and product analysis.
5	Focus more on services as data in this area is lacking
6	Provide a more detailed manual including more explanation of terms and how to navigate tools
7	Provide more in-depth analysis of figures and how to interpret them towards making sound policy decisions
8	Drafting of trade policy (simulation) exercises
9	Provide additional time for the concepts to be developed

15. Most respondents reported that the analysis and indicators presented at the workshop were at least useful to their work with 42 per cent finding it very useful and 53 per cent finding it useful. One participant (5%) found the analysis and indicators presented to be fairly useful (Figure 9). The participant indicating that it was only fairly useful (Research and Monitoring manager at a private sector institution) rated the overall workshop as good but neither agreed or disagreed that it lived up to expectations.

16. Overall, participants were keen on incorporating several aspects of the training. Participants reported that they planned on using the training to source trade data and indicators; conduct econometric analyses, partial equilibrium analyses, country comparisons, trade balance analyses, specialization analyses, and competitiveness analyses; determine the revealed comparative advantage for products according to typology; formulate policy decisions; develop new trade policy; and identify the most competitive export products. They were particularly interested in the visualization capabilities in WITS and suggested that TradeCAN and WITS would be most useful for their work.

17. Regarding the use of the workshop for engaging in conversation and exchanging experiences, all participants indicated that the workshop was at least fairly useful for this purpose (Figure 9). Twenty-six per cent reported very useful and 37% reporting useful.

FIGURE 9
USEFULNESS OF SUBJECTS PRESENTED, ANALYSIS AND INDICATORS TO WORK,
AND WORKSHOP FOR ENGAGING AND SHARING EXPERIENCES



18. Table 2 outlines the learning experiences from the workshop that would be beneficial to each member State. Among the participants from Guyana, the new information would assist as the progress in the development of a new trade policy for their country. The participants from Trinidad and Tobago indicated that the most significant outcome of the workshop was the practical experience gained from using the tools to analyze trade data, produce a competitiveness report and gain a better appreciation for international trends in the global trading environment. This newfound knowledge has the potential to contribute to better trade policy formulation and aide in decision making that would ultimately benefit their respective economies.

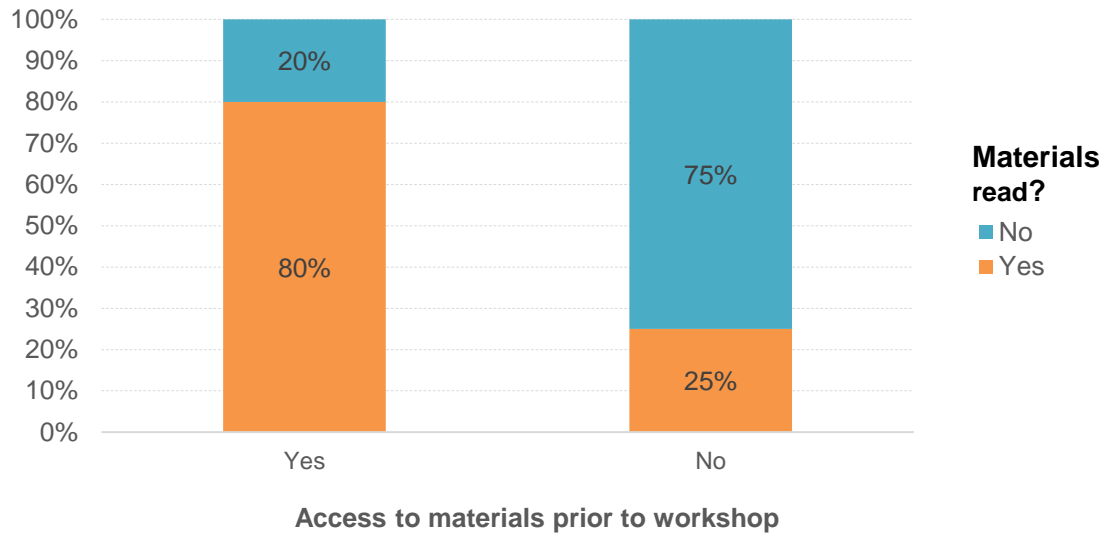
TABLE 2
LEARNING EXPERIENCES IMPORTANT TO COUNTRY NEEDS

Country	Workshop Learning experiences important for country's need
Guyana	Use of the trade databases, indicators, and analytical techniques offers a new perspective that can assist in the development of better trade policy. The information gained from using these tools can also strengthen recommendations related to exporting products, specializing in a particular product, or even diversification.
Trinidad and Tobago	Analytical techniques using TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus, and WITS that can be beneficial to the Trinidad and Tobago economy include competitiveness analysis for diversification, specialization in trading product and market share of imports and exports, and partial equilibrium analysis. As Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers are seeking new opportunities via trade agreements, the tools can greatly assist in product selection aimed at boosting exports. These tools can also be used to prepare trade policy documents and inform future research.

3. Organization of event

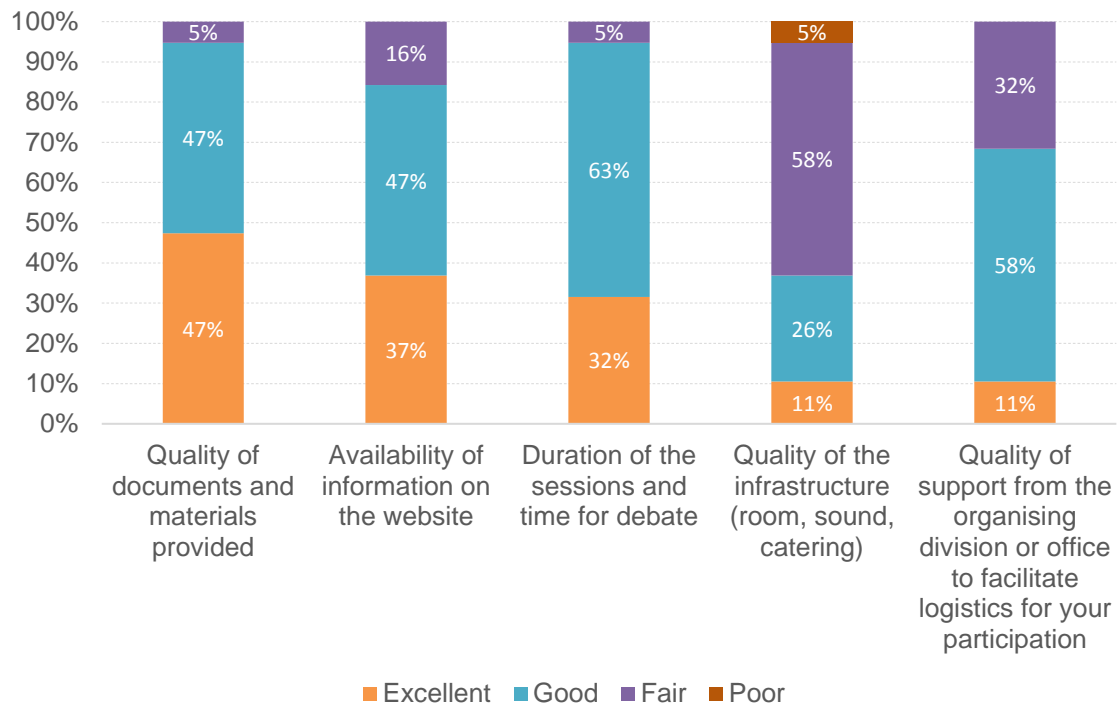
19. Fifteen (79 per cent) of participants had access to the materials for the workshop prior to seeing the presentations at this event. Of the 15 participants with access to materials prior to the workshop, 12 (87 per cent) read the materials (Figure 10).

FIGURE 10
DID PARTICIPANT HAVE ACCESS TO MATERIALS PRIOR TO WORKSHOP
AND WERE MATERIALS READ?



20. In general, respondents appeared to be mostly satisfied with the organization of the event but expressed concerns about the venue and lack of snacks at the break (Figure 11). Participants expressed satisfaction with the quality of documents and materials provided such that 94 per cent of respondents reported it as excellent or good. Eighty-four per cent of respondents indicated that the availability of information on the website was either excellent or good. Participants were mostly satisfied with the duration of the sessions and time to debate as 95 per cent reported it to be either good or excellent. The quality of the support from the office to facilitate logistics for participation in the workshop was fairly satisfactory with 69 per cent of respondents considering this service to be good or excellent. Alternatively, only 37 per cent of respondents felt that the quality of the infrastructure was good or excellent with 11 (58 per cent) individuals considering it to be fair and 1 (5 per cent) individual indicating it was poor. Participants felt cramped and encountered issues with internet access.

FIGURE 11
RATINGS FOR ORGANIZATION OF EVENT



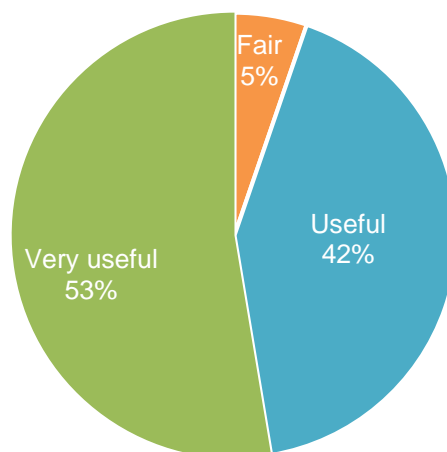
21. In general, the workshop was a satisfying experience for participants. Several participants indicated that the presentations were delivered clearly and concisely, making the material more understandable and digestible and that the sharing of material prior to the presentation gave participants early knowledge of the materials to be covered. The practical approach to the conduct of the workshop was highly commended. The primary concern among participants was the congested seating arrangements given the limited size of the meeting room. It was suggested that an alternative location be sourced in the future. Concerns were also raised regarding the malfunctioning microphone. Finally, one participant commented that more time was needed for the practical exercises while another indicated that more practical examples were required to improve understanding of the material.

22. A number of areas were identified as follow-up activities ECLAC could undertake to support participant countries and/or institutions. These included topics on trade facilitation, use of the partial equilibrium model, conducting analyses for trade in services, and preparation of a country profile for Guyana. In general, respondents desired additional training for a broader spectrum of participants, more in-depth training on the three analytical tools focused on analyzing results and policy decision-making.

4. Other works by ECLAC

23. There was strong agreement among respondents regarding the usefulness of the analysis and indicators provided by ECLAC for formulating and implementing of trade policy in their country. Ninety-five per cent of respondents reported that using ECLAC's analysis and indicators for this purpose was either useful (42 per cent) or very useful (53 per cent) – see Figure 12.

FIGURE 12
USEFULNESS OF ANALYSIS AND INDICATORS FOR FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE POLICY IN YOUR COUNTRY



24. Other technical cooperation activities of interest outlined included topics on typology of product analysis; use of tools for maximum potential and capabilities as well as how they work together; applications or programmes for developing businesses/government/agencies; more training on modelling and econometric techniques; national export strategy for Trinidad and Tobago using ITC's methodology similar to Jamaica; Public policy decisions/ further analysis of results of tools; and consideration of extending the training to drafting policies (simulation).

25. A total of 8 respondents (42 per cent) reported being aware of at least one ECLAC publication (Figure 13). All 8 respondents that read the Economic Survey of the Caribbean found it at least useful. More specifically, 4 (50 per cent) found it useful and 4 (50 per cent) respondents found it very useful. The readership for the Preliminary Overview of the Caribbean was slightly smaller with 6 (32 per cent) having read the publication, of which, 3 (16 per cent) respondents found it very useful, 2 (11 per cent) respondents found it useful, and 1 (5 per cent). Only 2 (11 per cent) respondents indicated that they found other ECLAC documents to be either very useful (5 per cent) or fairly useful (5 per cent). These titles include The Hummingbird and ECLAC's annual reports.

26. Almost all participants (95 per cent) expressed an interest in receiving information on activities and publications by ECLAC in the area covered by the workshop (Figure 14). The email addresses of these respondents can be identified in Annex I.

FIGURE 13
FAMILIARITY WITH ECLAC PUBLICATIONS

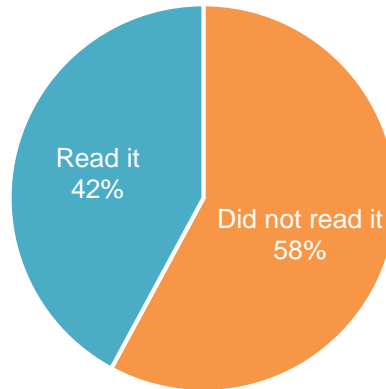
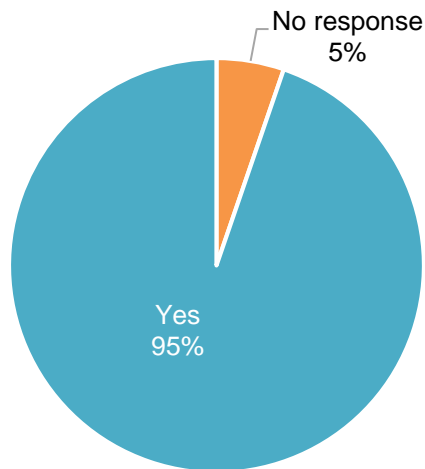


FIGURE 14
INTERESTED IN RECEIVING INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OR PUBLICATINOS BY ECLAC IN THE AREA COVERED BY THE WORKSHOP



D. CONCLUSIONS

27. Overall, the TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus, and WITS workshop facilitated by collaboration between ECLAC and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Trinidad and Tobago was a benefit to participants of Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. Participants were exposed to useful ECLAC analytical tools for acquiring and analyzing trade data that has the potential to positively impact trade related decision making and the formulation of public policy. More importantly, participants generally viewed the analysis and indicators presented as an asset to the work of their institutions and expressed an intention to implement and share their newly acquired knowledge. Institutions that now have the potential to benefit from these skills include statistical offices; Ministries of Trade and Industry, Finance, Planning, and Foreign Affairs; Central Banks; Customs and Excise; private sector; among others.

28. Participants were generally satisfied with the organization of the event but highlighted a couple areas for improvement. Most notably, the congested location was a major challenge for many participants and considerations should be given to sourcing a more conducive space in the future. Many participants also expressed an interest in follow up workshops to deepen their understanding of the material introduced at the workshop.

29. There was a sizeable number of participants indicating exposure to ECLAC publications and documents and those that had the opportunity to review ECLAC flagship publications and other documents all found them to be at least useful. By conducting the workshop, ECLAC now has an opportunity to expand their readership base given that most participants expressed an interest in acquiring future publication related to the topics presented at the workshop.

30. The workshop was very successful in strengthening relations between ECLAC and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
3-5 December 2019
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Guyana

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Annex II

EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE



UNITED NATIONS



**Workshop on the Trade Competitiveness Analysis of Nations (TradeCAN)
The Module to Analyse the Growth of International Commerce (MAGIC Plus)
The World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS)**

**Economic Development Unit
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
3-5 December 2019**

EVALUATION FORM

Please answer the following questions (please print answers to open-ended questions):

Identification

Sex

- Female
 Male

Age (optional)

- 30 or under
 31 - 40
 41 - 50
 51 or over

6. How useful did you find the analysis and indicators presented at the workshop for your work?

1. Very useful 2. Useful 3. Fair 4. Not very useful 5. Not useful at all 6. Not sure / no response

7. Based on the above, what specific aspects of the training would you consider incorporating in the work of your institution?

8. How useful did you find the workshop for engaging in conversations and exchanging experiences with representatives of other countries and institutions?

1. Very useful 2. Useful 3. Fair 4. Not very useful 5. Not useful at all 6. Not sure / no response

9. What learning experiences were especially important vis-à-vis your country's needs?

10. What do you consider to be the most significant outcome of the workshop?

Organization of the event

11. a. Did you have access to the materials for the workshop before seeing the presentations at this event?

- Yes
 No

b. Did you read them?

- Yes
- No

12. How would you rate the organization of the workshop? If you choose “poor” or “very poor” please explain your response so that we can take your opinion into account.

Quality of documents and materials provided	1. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Good <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Very poor <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Not sure/No response <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of information on the website	1. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Good <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Very poor <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Not sure/No response <input type="checkbox"/>
Duration of the sessions and time for debate	1. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Good <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Very poor <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Not sure/No response <input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of the infrastructure (room, sound, catering)	1. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Good <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Very poor <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Not sure/No response <input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of support from the organizing Division or office to facilitate logistics for your participation in the event	1. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Good <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Very poor <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Not sure/No response <input type="checkbox"/>

13. Based on the ratings selected above, please indicate what worked well and what could be improved.

14. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on organizational aspects of the workshop?

15. What follow-up activities on topics covered in the workshop should ECLAC undertake in the future to support your country or institution?

Other works by ECLAC

16. In your opinion, how useful are the analysis and indicators provided by ECLAC for the formulation and implementation of trade policy in your country and in the region?

1. Very useful 2. Useful 3. Fair 4. Not very useful 5. Not useful at all 6. Not sure / no response

17. What other technical cooperation activities in the areas covered by the workshop would you suggest that ECLAC undertake in the future?

18. Are you familiar with the following ECLAC publications? If so, do you find their analytical content and recommendations useful?

The Economic Survey of the CaribbeanRead it _____Do not read it _____

1. Very useful 2. Useful 3. Fair 4. Not very useful 5. Not useful at all 6. No response

The Preliminary Overview of the CaribbeanRead it _____Do not read it _____

1. Very useful 2. Useful 3. Fair 4. Not very useful 5. Not useful at all 6. No response

Other documents produced by ECLAC (please specify):

1. Very useful 2. Useful 3. Fair 4. Not very useful 5. Not useful at all 6. No response

19a. Would you like to receive information about activities or publications by ECLAC in the area covered by the workshop?

- Yes
 No

b. If yes, please provide your e-mail address:

Thank you.



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
www.eclac.org