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## 1. Introduction





concentrate on the production and export of commodities that make intensive use of their relatively abundant factors (apparently, unskilled workers, agricultural, and mineral resources), the H–O model predicts that freer trade would be beneficial to unskilled workers, smallholder farmers, and land owners. Given that owners of these resources form the vast majority of the poor and vulnerable in developing countries, of which Africa is not an exception, trade if effectively facilitated will serve as one of the instrumental pathways to improve the social welfare and plight of these individuals.

As earlier argued, the prevale



### 3.1. Social welfare and trade facilitation measures

We follow [Srinivasan \(2012\)](#)





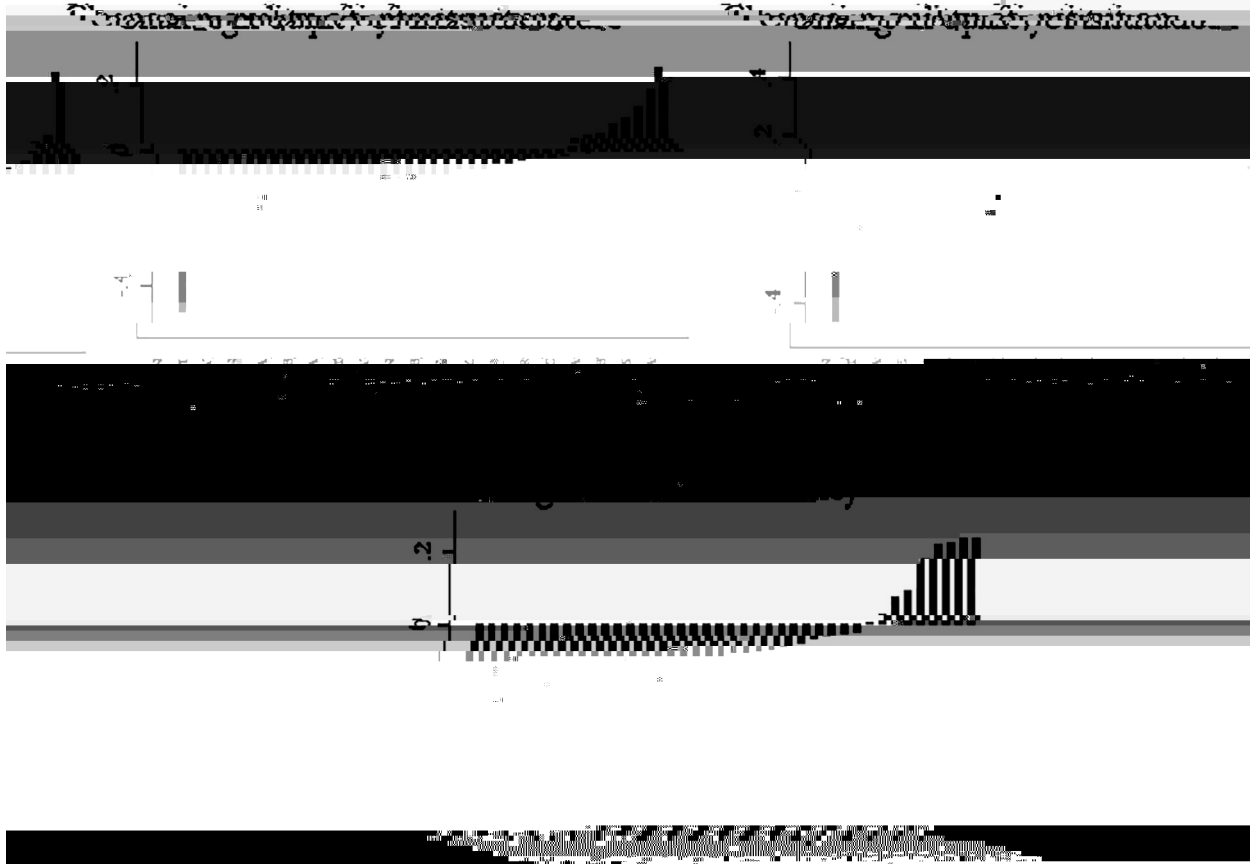


Fig. 1. Change in trade facilitation measures between 2010 and 2015. Source: Authors' own elaboration based on the WEF Global Competitiveness Index dataset. Note



infrastructure, institutions and market efficiency, over the period 2010–2015. Alarminglly, the graphs show that apart from a handful of countries

estimation results distinguished by the trade facilitation measure used: infrastructure (Model 1),











## Appendix A

## References

- Buyonge, C., Kireeva, I., 2008. Trade facilitation in Africa: challenges and possible solutions. *World Cust. J.* 2 (1), 41–54.
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