



The Expertise We Need. The Africa We Want.



Press Release

Increasing Intra-African Trade requires more ambition – 2022 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM) Analyzes Status of Africa's Agricultural Trade

Kigali, September 26, 2022 – Amid supply chain disruptions, rising prices exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine war, and a looming food crisis, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) can be a game-changer, but only if it embarks on ambitious tariff liberalization and disciplines on non-tariff measures, the [2022 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor \(AATM\)](#) finds. According to the report, the current AfCFTA tariff agreement would increase African exports of agrifood goods by only 1.7 percent, whereas the complete elimination of tariffs on intra-African trade would increase exports by 6.4 percent. Published by AKADEMIYA2063 and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the [2022 AATM](#) will be launched during a virtual event on September 27.

The disruptive effects of the Russia-Ukraine war are compounding Africa's difficulties in boosting its participation in world trade and reaping the related developmental benefits. Africa still captures only a small share of global trade in value-added terms despite increasing participation in global value chains (GVCs). Furthermore, African countries are positioned more upstream in GVCs, still providing mostly unprocessed agricultural products rather than more value-added food or other products. These results suggest that African countries should continue to broaden their processing and manufacturing sectors to upgrade to a more balanced position in agrifood and other types of GVCs while leveraging opportunities offered by the large domestic market created by the AfCFTA.

"The disruption of global markets in recent years, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and now the Russia-Ukraine war, has underscored the importance of trade for growth, employment and community livelihoods. This includes the role of intra-African trade in helping absorb shocks originating from extra-regional markets," said Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson at AKADEMIYA2063. "The 2022 AATM highlights the potential for intra-African trade in boosting food supplies and enhancing resilience. For this to happen, results indicate that it is crucial to adopt a more ambitious approach to the implementation of the AfCFTA that fully liberalizes tariffs and reduces non-tariff measures," he said.

In this context, the full implementation of the AfCFTA can contribute to the greater development of regional value chains, allowing African countries to benefit from trade complementarities and economies of scale as they access a larger and open market. Internal challenges related to infrastructure and access to technology and credit must also be addressed, as these are key determinants of the success of African countries in upgrading along regional and global value chains.

"There is a need for better trade data to support the AfCFTA agenda and to combat the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Development, African Union Commission (AUC-DARBE). "The AATM report addresses challenges in African agricultural trade and provides findings and opportunities for intra-trade activities," he added.

The 2022 AATM also conducts a detailed analysis of trends and policy issues in value chains for stimulants (cocoa, coffee, and tea), demonstrating that trade in these sectors is still concentrated in unprocessed products. The report equally examines the patterns of trade integration within the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS).

"The AATM has become a much anticipated annual report, providing much needed data and analysis to assess progress towards as well as impediments to greater African integration into global and regional trade," said Dr. Johan Swinnen, Director General at IFPRI. "We hope policymakers across the continent will find the findings and recommendations useful as the AfCFTA continues to be negotiated and implemented," he stated.

The Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor is produced and published under the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium and the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) programs as a collaborative effort by AKADEMIYA2063 and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The annual flagship report builds on the work of both organizations in support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

About AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is an international Africa-based non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal. Inspired by the ambitions of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of solid knowledge and evidence-based systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent's needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent's development aspirations, creating wealth, and improving livelihoods.

AKADEMIYA2063's overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost economic growth and prosperity.

Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa's needs at the continental, regional and national levels in terms of data, analytics, and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized under five strategic areas—policy innovation, knowledge systems, capacity creation and deployment, operational support, and data management, digital products, and technology—as

well as innovative partnerships and outreach activities. For more information, visit www.akademiya2063.org.

About IFPRI

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), a CGIAR Research Center established in 1975, provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition. IFPRI's strategic research aims to foster a climate-resilient and sustainable food supply; promote healthy diets and nutrition for all; build inclusive and efficient markets, trade systems, and food industries; transform agricultural and rural economies; and strengthen institutions and governance. The Institute's regional and country programs play a critical role in responding to demand for food policy research and in delivering holistic support for country-led development. For more information, visit the global website at www.ifpri.org and the regional website at <https://www.ifpri.org/division/africa-region-afr>.

Media Inquiries

Dr. Layih Butake

Director, Communication and Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063

Lbutake@akademiya2063.org

Charlotte Hebebrand

Director of Communications and Public Affairs, IFPRI

c.hebebrand@cgiar.org