



#IFADiNnovationTalk no. 8

Boosting Intra-African Agricultural Trade to Build Resilience of Small-scale Farmers

Q&A REPORT

During the Q&A section of the event some questions were answered “live”, whilst for those questions where there was not enough time to do so, the event’s experts provided written responses after the event.

You can find both the written responses and links to the live responses below.

Question 1

How can this information pass to the grassroot farmers to our artisanal fishers, processors and traders? *Felicia Eboka*

Answered live

By Sara Mbago-Bhunu, *Director, East and Southern Africa Division (ESA)*, IFAD (c.arthur@ifad.org), and Elizabeth Nsimadala, *Director in charge of Women Affairs*, PAFO (elizabethnsima@gmail.com)

From 48:08: watch video [here](#).

Question 2

Is the African Union the key actor positioned to coordinate the process of aligning trade rules across African regional economic communities, as well as with those outside the continent, e.g., with the European Union?

Sanja Terlević

Answered live

By Komla Bissi, *Senior Advisor on Agriculture Trade and Agriculture Value Chains Development*, AfCFTA (Komla.Bissi@au-afcfta.org)

From 50:20: watch video [here](#)

Question 3

Why is the African intraregional trade trend (relatively low and stagnant share) presented in Akademia2063 presentation different from the one presented by IFPRI (higher overall share)? Is it a data source problem?

Nadhem Mtimet

Answered live

By Antoine Bouet, *Senior Research Fellow, Markets, Trade and Institutions Division*, IFPRI (A.BOUET@CGIAR.ORG) and Sunday Odjo, *Deputy Director, Knowledge Systems*, AKADEMIYA2063 (sodjo@akademiyaya2063.org)

From 51:40: watch video [here](#).

Question 4

How can Geographical indication (GI) help in boosting intra- African agricultural trade to build resilience of small scale farmers?

Felicia Eboka

Sara Mbago-Bhunu writes:

Geographical Indication is an effective instrument in promoting local producers, their local areas and their food products, which can lead to nutritious food systems and build the resilience of small-scale farmers. Geographical Indication has changed the narrative surrounding the nexus between products and places. It has placed a market value on products and their quality. Within the scope of intra-African agricultural trade, we need to build the capacities of local stakeholders to upstream linkages in value chains, promote quality products and improve access to more remunerative markets. Digital platforms and the use of GIS mapping could facilitate Geographical Indication.

Question 5

Could farmer collaboration via cooperatives or similar collective value creation organisations increase farmer know-how, income and market access?

Sanja Terlević

Sara Mbago-Bhunu writes:

Indeed, farmer organizations and cooperatives solidify their position in the food supply chain. For example, it facilitates farmers' cooperation through producer organizations that can among others, promote marketing, concentration of supply and in general, a more coordinated response to market pressures. Moreover, cooperatives can help farmers benefit from economies of scale by lowering their costs of acquiring inputs or hiring services such as storage and transport. As a member of a cooperative, farmers are able to improve their products and service quality and reduce risks. Cooperatives also empower their members economically and socially by involving them in decision-making processes that create additional rural employment opportunities, or enable them to become more resilient to economic and environmental shocks. Cooperatives can support negotiations for fairer prices.

Question 6

How can peasant farmers export their products regionally and internationally and what are the requirements?

Ruxton Nyamutara

Sara Mbago-Bhunu writes:

Smallholder farmers can export their products as a large group represented by a cooperative or a farmer's organization. This gives you a higher bargaining power and the ability to compete regionally and internationally. The produce have to be safe and nutritious and meet all market requirements for foreign export. In the advent of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), regional exportation of food will be facilitated through the agreement to support smallholder farmers. Deployment of digital GIS mapped geographic tagging of the origin of the food and crops would facilitate with the rules of origin conditions that will govern trade area.