

#IFADiNnovationTalk No. 8

Please join

AKADEMIYA2063

the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

and

the International Food Policy Research Institute

For the eighth IFAD Innovation Talk

On the topic



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

Thursday 20 January 2022
14:00-15:00 CET



AKADEMIYA



Registration required

Where:

https://ifad.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qND4f8wjSr2X-yfSIWo4aQ

Increased intra-African trade has the potential to stabilize regional food supplies, increase the resilience of markets to local production fluctuations and international price shocks, and give farmers access to larger and more lucrative regional markets. In support of a continental goal to triple the level of intra-African agricultural trade as well as other efforts to increase regional integration, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was founded in 2018. Trade under the AfCFTA officially began in January 2021 after having been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely affected economic growth, poverty and hunger in Africa and caused sharp declines in intra-African trade. Advancing the implementation of the AfCFTA and boosting regional trade are key elements of efforts to speed the continent's recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

AfCFTA implementation and other strategies to boost intra-African trade must be informed by robust, high-quality, and consistent trade data and analysis. The Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM) is the only annual flagship publication focusing on agricultural trade in Africa. Its objective is to provide consistent and high-quality statistics, indicators and analysis to inform decisions, policies and strategies and ultimately contribute to increasing the benefits of trade for African countries. A result of partnership between African and international researchers, the AATM is produced under the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium and Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) programs as a collaborative effort by AKADEMIYA2063 and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

About the session

This session will draw from findings of the [2021 AATM](#) as well as [previous editions](#) to explore (i) the impacts of COVID-19 on Africa's agricultural trade and (ii) the potential of increased intra-African trade to build the resilience of food systems components and actors, in particular smallholder farmers. The panel discussion will highlight innovations being carried out to support intra-African trade for the benefit of smallholders and other actors as well as next steps for advancing the implementation of the AfCFTA.

Participants will be introduced to the AATM as a unique source of high-quality data and analysis on African agricultural trade and will gain insight into the potential roles of intra-African trade in accelerating economic recovery and building resilience in the context of COVID-19.

Key takeaways from the event

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had severe impacts on economic growth and trade in Africa, particularly informal cross-border trade, which represents a large share of intra-African trade and provides an important source of income for households.
- When designing responses to the current pandemic as well as future shocks, it is vital for governments to coordinate trade policy and minimize disruptions to trade.
- Intra-African trade can provide many benefits for African countries, including increased market stability and income opportunities for smallholder farmers.
- Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is essential to harness the benefits of increased intra-African trade to accelerate the recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

The event will aim to answer the following questions:

- What is the role of innovation and intra-African trade in accelerating the recovery of African economies from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What role can innovation in regional trade play in stabilizing domestic food supplies and increasing the resilience of markets to local production and price shocks?
- What are the potential benefits of AfCFTA implementation and increased intra-African trade for local producers?
- What are the next steps for the AfCFTA Secretariat and other actors to advance AfCFTA implementation?
- How can African countries, regions and continental institutions ensure that responses to future crises do not impede cross-border trade?

HOSTING ORGANIZATION



IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency based in Rome, the UN's food and agriculture hub. Since 1978, the Fund has provided US\$23.2 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached an estimated 518 million people. At the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) we invest in rural people, empowering them to increase their food security, improve the nutrition of their families and increase their incomes. We help them build resilience, expand their businesses and take charge of their own development.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



AKADEMIYA2063's overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from 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 the African Union Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost growth and prosperity. The main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet the needs of African countries 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 member states. In addition to the AATM, AKADEMIYA2063's trade-related portfolio includes the identification of priority commodities to boost intra-African trade and contribute to national development goals; analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of global commodity price and trade volume shocks on African countries; and provision of support for countries to strengthen trade data collection and reporting systems.



The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. Established in 1975, IFPRI currently has more than 600 employees working in over 50 countries. It is a research centre of CGIAR, a worldwide partnership engaged in agricultural research for development. IFPRI's vision is a world free of hunger and malnutrition. Its mission is to provide research-based policy solutions that sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition.

IFAD Innovation Talks

In November 2020 IFAD launched the Fund's first community of practice (CoP) for innovation on the IFAD Dgroups.io platform.

*The **IFAD Innovation Network** is an informal, democratic, non-hierarchical space where members can share ideas, good practices, tools and lessons learned on how IFAD can: use innovation to improve performance and better address the needs and challenges of IFAD's target groups and beneficiaries; and develop innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.*

***IFAD Innovation Talks** are a series of learning and knowledge sharing sessions, lasting one hour. They feature innovative approaches, tools, products and services developed by IFAD, its partners and the members of the IFAD Innovation Network in order to further the aims of the network. The Talks follow various formats: from interviews and panel discussions to TEDx talks and demonstrations of new technological tools. Learn more here: <https://www.ifad.org/en/innovation>*