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## **NEWS**

## IFPRI 2019 Global Food Policy Report highlights rural revitalization

The recently released Global Food Policy Report reviews the state of global food policy and food security in 2018, and highlights recommended transformation in order to reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and reach Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Several chapters in the report are focused primarily on African food policy and security issues, including Chapter 4 on African rural and urban employment and revitalization, Chapter 7 on renewable energy in Africa's rural areas, and finally, the overarching regional development sections on Africa and MENA.

Poverty in Africa South of the Sahara declined into 2018 and there was an increase in GDP growth from 2.6 percent in 2017 to 3.1 percent in 2018. However, poverty is still major concern, with 36 percent of the total population of Africa remaining poor in 2017. Overall, rural areas continue to have higher rates of both poverty and hunger than urban areas.

As of 2018, 69 percent of the population of Africa south of the Sahara lived in rural areas and the majority of rural income in the region comes from agriculture. The report recommends promoting policies that can lead to the modernization and diversification of agriculture. Further investment in human capital in rural areas and policy encouraging youth employment can also support increased incomes and development in the region. Additionally, the report recommends policies to provide support to improve rural infrastructure, particularly to increase access to electricity in remote areas.

GDP growth is expected to continue increasing into 2019, and it is expected that the new African Continental Free Trade Agreement will help improve movement of agricultural goods across the continent. Further information on development in Africa and globally can be found in the IFPRI report.

## FEATURED MEMBERS



Dr. Augustin K.N. Aoudji is a citizen of Benin. He has been an AGRODEP member since September 2018. Currently, Augustin is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi. Before joining the University of Abomey-Calavi, Augustin worked for Benin's Department of Agriculture. He has a Postgraduate Certificate from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, School of Economics, Socio-Anthropology and Communication for Rural Development at the University of Abomev-Calavi, and a Ph.D. from the School of Economics at the University of Abomey-Calavi.



Dr. Yonas Bahta is a citizen of Eritrea and has been an AGRODEP member since September 2018. Currently, Yonas is a Senior Researcher/ Lecturer at the University of the Free State. He holds a BS in Agricultural Economics from Alemya University of Agriculture, Ethiopia, an MSc in Agricultural Economics with distinction from University of the Free State, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from University of the Free State. He is specialized in Development Economics. He is interested in trade, socio-economic analysis, saving mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, marketing, price analysis, macroeconomic policy analysis, and finance.



Dr. Francoise Okah Efogo is a citizen of Cameroon and has been an AGRODEP member since September 2018. Françoise is currently a Senior Lecturer and Researcher at the University of Yaounde II. In this position, Françoise teaches and conducts research on international trade. macroeconomics, and monetary economics. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics and Master's degrees in both Applied Macroeconomics and Economics from the University of Yaounde II. She is specialized in growth, development, equity, regional integration, and trade.

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