

NEWS

[African Exports on the Rise: Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor 2020](#)

The third annual *Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM)*, edited by Antoine Bouët, Sunday Pierre Odjo, and Chahir Zaki and released in September 2020, found both good news and bad news for Africa's trading system. The 2020 AATM presents an overview of trade in agriculture products in Africa and highlights the main impediments that affect intra- and extra-African trade. It includes chapters focusing on intra-Africa trade integration for agricultural products, including the role of nontariff measures, and on the competitiveness of African value chains that are crucial for food security. The importance and measurement of informal cross-border trade for agricultural products is also examined. The final chapter looks at regional integration experiences in Southern Africa, with a focus on the Southern Africa Development Community. The report offers policy recommendations for improving agricultural exports performance, especially in the context of the unprecedented uncertainty the world is facing with the COVID-19 pandemic. AGRODEP members Fatou Cissé, Marko Kwaramba, Busani Moyo, Mamello Nchake, and Chahir Zaki contributed to the volume.

[Acute Food Insecurity Rising in Africa: Global Report on Food Crisis 2020 update](#)

In 2019, as many as 135 million people across 55 countries required urgent food, nutrition, and livelihood assistance, according to the 2020 Global Report on Food Crises. The GRFC's mid-year update, released in early October, takes a look at recent data for 26 of those countries (plus Togo) and specifically examines the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 27 countries examined by the mid-year update, an estimated 97.6 million people faced "crisis-level or higher" food insecurity in 2019. Between March and September 2020, that number had risen to between 101 and 105 million people. The majority of these populations live in Africa South of the Sahara.

In SSA, as in other regions, the majority of ongoing food crises in 2019 were driven by conflict, extreme weather events, economic shocks, or a combination of those factors. While it is too soon to precisely quantify the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the mid-year update discusses the likely effects of the pandemic and associated lockdowns and economic declines. As summarized here, the mid-year update provides several regional and national breakdowns, including for East Africa, Central and Southern Africa, and West Africa, the Sahel, and Cameroon.

FEATURED NETWORK MEMBERS



Dr. Antoine Bouët is the coordinator of the Trade and Regional Integration theme under the Policy Analysis and Advisory Services component of AGRODEP. He co-edited the recently released 2020 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor. He is a Senior Research Fellow in the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division (MTID) of IFPRI and is also professor of economics at University Montesquieu Bordeaux IV in France. He has carried out research on market access, global trade modeling, the economics of trade retaliation, and the relationship between trade policy and Research and Development.



Dr. Sunday Pierre Odjo is Deputy Director of the Department of Knowledge Systems in Akademiya2063. He co-edited the recently released 2020 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor. He previously served as a Senior Research Coordinator in the Africa Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute. Over the past ten years, he has supported West African authorities in the development of national agricultural investment plans as part of IFPRI's scientific and technical assistance to the implementation of the CAADP. He holds a Ph.D. in Rural Economics from the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium and an M.A. in Geography and Land Use Planning from the National University of Benin.



Dr. Chahir Zaki is a citizen of Egypt and has been an AGRODEP member since April 2011. He co-edited the recently released 2020 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor. Chahir is an Associate Professor of Economics at Cairo University. Chahir teaches and conducts research on trade policy. He holds a B.A. in Economics from Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, an M.A. in Economics from Université Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Université Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne. His area of specialization is development economics. His research interests include international trade, trade policy, trade in services, CGE modeling, and gravity models.

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