
NEWS

Measuring Integration in Agricultural Markets

AGRODEP published the [English](#) and [French](#) versions of [Technical Note 18: Measuring Integration in Agricultural Markets](#). The study of market integration offers a powerful tool for understanding the relationships between geographically distant markets, for analyzing the impact of liberalization policies, and for diagnosing the transmission of price shocks. The literature on tools for measuring market integration, particularly those developed for agricultural markets, has been subject to major developments in terms of approaches over the past two decades.

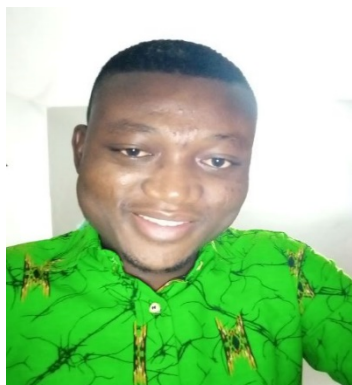
The technical note aims to provide an overview of the literature and tools for measuring agricultural markets integration, as well as their applications. The results should be interpreted with caution as these methods are in full development and must be linked to qualitative information that can support their validity.

Accurate Trade Statistics are required for Africa's Food Security

A recent [blog post](#) emphasized the importance of accurate international trade statistics, available near real time, in helping to identify areas where there is a significant risk of undernourishment and/or malnutrition. Coupled with near real time production estimates, export and import statistics can be used to establish food balances by region. The Family Farming, Regional Markets and Cross-Border Trade Corridors in the Sahel (FARM-TRAC) was launched in June 2020 to fill the statistical gap and develop a sustainable and self-financed means of collecting reliable agricultural and food trade data in West Africa.

FARM-TRAC is collecting data on agricultural and food trade along all trade corridors in West Africa with the help of WACTAF and with initial funding from IFAD and support from the USAID. This is being done in collaboration with the region's apex organizations (associations for producers of cereals, livestock and meat, fruits and vegetables, and so on). Near real time trade statistics will make it possible to anticipate food shortages, instead of responding to them with delay. It is expected that a well-structured partnership between private operators, apex organizations, national statistical institutes, and international institutions can make an important contribution to improving Africa's international trade statistics.

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