

How AfCFTA implementation can change African agricultural and food trade?

Event Summary:

Trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement began January 1st, 2021, launching the world's largest free trade area by the number of State parties. Yet many questions about its impending impacts on agricultural sectors, commodities and supply chains remain largely unanswered. Will the AfCFTA remove all barriers to agricultural trade in Africa? Which barriers will persist? And who will be most impacted by the changes? Will the AfCFTA accelerate African agricultural development processes?

Based on extensive analysis of recent intra-African trade trends reported in the annual *African Agricultural Trade Monitor* (AATM), this webinar will explore how different agricultural sectors and regions can capitalize on the AfCFTA provisions, within the context of COVID-19 economic recovery and while urbanization, population growth, and the emergence of a middle class create attractive markets for African agri-food goods. Developing intra-African trade in agricultural and agri-food products is crucial for Africa's economic transformation, food security, and aligning with goals outlined in the 2003 Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the 2014 Malabo Declaration, and African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, which provides a global framework for "The Africa We Want." Presenters will give an up-close view of the AfCFTA negotiation process and the outstanding negotiation issues, discuss how AfCFTA furthers Africa's existing development goals, and offer insights on how to accelerate intra-African agricultural trade, and promote equity for women and informal traders.

Speakers:

Francis Mangeni, Head of Trade Promotion and Programs, AfCFTA Secretariat: brief overview on the status and next steps of the AfCFTA processes as well as addressing connectivity between Agenda 2063, AfCFTA and CAADP, including on food security;

Antoine Bouët, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI): presentation of key findings from Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM);

Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, trade law centre (tralac);

Anthony Nyame-Baafi, Former Chief Negotiator of Ghana;

Lucy Muchoklif, CEO, Pan-Africa Agribusiness.

Moderator:

David Luke, Coordinator of the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Event Objectives and Expectations:

With a diverse audience of technical and non-technical stakeholders, including policymakers, private sector, farmer organizations, including women-led organizations and businesses, researchers and academics, we expect all participants and attendees to have a better understanding of: (1) where we stand in the AfCFTA processes and how AfCFTA aligns with CAADP, Malabo and AU Agenda 2063 towards strengthening Africa's ongoing agricultural development; (2) how the AfCFTA may impact agricultural trade; (3) how outstanding negotiations issues (including from Phase II and Phase III) could be shaped to best support African agricultural trade; and (4) how to make the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement most beneficial to the agriculture and food sectors and actors. In particular, we expect that the event dialogue and exchange of information will help to understand AfCFTA's impact on women, youth and

informal traders in the agri-food sector. Following the event, participants should be in position to better understand and possibly capitalize on the AfCFTA's opportunities to strengthen Africa's food system, and improve livelihoods and food security.

Event Background Information:

About the African Agricultural Trade Monitor

The annual *Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor* (AATM) has become the leading comprehensive report on African agricultural trade flows and policies. Using a database that corrects typical trade flow errors, the report offers robust analysis of trade flows and compositions, comparative advantages, tariff and nontariff trade protection. Its yearly updated and new analyses identify opportunities to improve trade efficiencies and strengthen regional value chains. It offers insights on which sectors will capitalize on the recently ratified AfCFTA, and what trade barriers may remain, even after full AfCFTA implementation.

***See attached [AATM2020 synopsis](#) for more information*

About the AfCFTA Negotiation

After over 5 years of negotiating and gaining country signatures for its ratification, trading under the AfCFTA has begun. Outstanding issues, including finalization of rules of origin, intellectual property rights, investment, competition policy, and e-commerce will nonetheless continue to be negotiated throughout 2021. The COVID-19 crisis adds additional urgency to establishing safe and efficient trading systems that will support secure and fair trade, that strengthens healthy food availability, diverse livelihoods and economic activity throughout the continent.