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Bundesministerium  
für Ernährung  
und Landwirtschaft



## Call LEAP-AGRI

### Research and Innovation for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in Africa and Europe

#### ***ATMA4FS: Agricultural Trade and Market Access for Food Security: Micro- and Macro-level Insights for Africa***

<b>country/countries</b>	Germany, South Africa, Ghana, Senegal, Belgium, Netherlands
<b>funding agency</b>	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture - BMEL
<b>project management</b>	Federal Office for Agriculture and Food – BLE
<b>project coordinator</b>	Georg-August-University of Göttingen, Germany
<b>project partner(s)</b>	<p>Georg-August-University of Göttingen (UGOE), Germany</p> <p>University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa</p> <p>University of Ghana (UOG), Ghana</p> <p>Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), Belgium</p> <p>Wageningen Economic Research (WR), Netherlands</p> <p>University of Thiès (UT), Senegal</p>
<b>project budget</b>	1.000,095.00 Euro



<b>project duration</b>	August, 1st, 2018 – December, 31st, 2021
<b>key words</b>	Trade, Market Access, Non-tariff Measures, Agricultural Supply Chains, Regional and Global Market Integration
<b>background</b>	The development of markets for agricultural products in Africa faces many challenges. These include product access, price volatility and weak institutions. For one, developing value chains and better integrating local markets into regional/international trade can improve livelihoods and food security. Regional markets in Africa have also become important due to the growing demand of an increasingly urban population. But, trade barriers hamper further value chain development and market access. Unleashing the potential for reductions in (often inflated) trade costs requires a better understanding of the key inhibitors of trade facilitation.
<b>objective</b>	Our project seeks to provide insights into (i) the trade and market access situation of countries, firms/farms and (ii) how market access is influenced by trade agreements, non-tariff measures (NTMs) e.g. food standards, customs procedures, price trends and volatility, market logistics and institutions.
<b>results</b>	<p>Our results confirm the market access effects of the measures we identified in the proposal. Consistent with our dissemination strategy, we interacted with stakeholders (including private and public sector policy-makers, NGOs, civil society and researchers) in workshops organised in Ghana and the Netherlands. We engaged them in discussions on agrifood value chains, market access, and the barriers that inhibit agricultural trade. The findings of the project have resulted in high-quality scientific publications some of which are published as journal articles, conference proceedings or under review for potential publication. All can be viewed on the project webpage:</p> <p><a href="https://atma4foodsecurity.org/publications.aspx">https://atma4foodsecurity.org/publications.aspx</a></p> <p>Specifically, in Feyaerts et al (2019), we put forward a conceptual discussion on the type of linkages between global and local value chains in Africa, and how these depend on crop and value chain characteristics.</p> <p>In Fiankor et al (2019), we show that cross-country differences in public food standards decrease trade but increase product prices.</p> <p>We follow this up in Fiankor et al (2020), where we show that the trade-reducing burden of these stringent food standards falls disproportionately more on smaller exporters that are mainly in developing countries of Africa.</p>

In Fiankor et al. (2021), we confirm that stricter importer standards are indeed trade-restrictive. Combining estimates from unit value and trade value regressions set within structural gravity frameworks, we show in Tchakounte & Fiankor (2021) that trading standards increase trade costs—which exporters pass on to consumers in the form of higher prices—but they also increase trade volume.

For country-specific analyses, South Africa introduced a carbon tax in 2019 as an instrument to curb greenhouse gas emissions. If policy-makers use these taxes to ensure that imported products meet climate-related regulations, they may become new non-tariff measures. In Kalaba et al (2019), we show that this is indeed the case; taking climate action creates market access issues. They also increase the incidences of food insecurity by raising product prices. In ongoing work, Khanimamba and Kalaba evaluate policies that affect South African beef exports to the European Union. Preliminary results show that these policies and the subsequent compliance requirements have reduced South African exports to the EU.

A user-friendly dataset on NTMs for ECOWAS has been set up and is available open access on our project webpage to stakeholders interested in this region.

#### References:

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- Feyaerts, H., Van den Broeck, G., & Maertens, M. (2020). Global and local food value chains in Africa: A review. *Agricultural Economics*, 51(1), 143-157. URL: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/agec.12546>
- Kalaba, M., Sifiso, N., Bohlmann, H. (2019). The challenge of meeting climate change goals while avoiding trade protectionism: A South African case of potentially increasing non-tariff measures through carbon tax. Invited paper presented at the 6th African Conference of Agricultural Economists, September 23-26, 2019, Abuja, Nigeria. URL: <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/295875?ln=en>

**recommendations**

The open-access NTM database can be freely used by researchers and practitioners interested in assessing non-tariffs barriers to trade affect trade for the ECOWAS region. Our dataset is practical because while data on NTMs are freely provided by the WTO, they are not available in a form necessary for quantitative assessment.

For public-sector policymakers, the findings highlight areas to focus on to further integrate African countries into high-value markets more. Ultimately, our project identifies policy and investment priorities in order to make agricultural trade work for improved food security.

We advocate ensuring that food safety standards are appropriate, transparent, science-based, and not unduly restrictive of trade.

**photos**



Group foto at ATMA4FS kick off meeting, 14.02.2019, University of Pretoria  
Right rear: Bernhard Brümmer, Mmatlou Kalaba, Johann Kirsten, Gerd Mulders, Idrissa Wade, Marie-Luise Rau, Theophilus Tweneboah Kodua, Edward Ebo Onumah, Dela-Dem Doe Fiankor, and Scelo Mshengu  
Right front Simone Pfeiffer, Miet Maertens, Haki Pamuk, and Khanimamba Hlungwani