Agriculture, food and jobs in West Africa

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1. Food economy - driver of employment diversification in (rural) West Africa

2. Rural employment dynamics - empirical evidence

3. Implications for policy and development cooperation
Why food economy and employment?

The region’s largest private sector

- 260 USD billion (2015)
- 81 million jobs (2015)
- 39% of regional GDP
- 66% of total employment

81 million jobs (2015)
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Driver: urbanisation and cities

1950

- 152 agglomerations
- 5 million urban population
- Level of urbanisation 9%

- 10 000 - 30 000
- 30 000 - 100 000
- 100 000 - 350 000
- 350 000 - 1 million
- 1 - 2 million
- > 2 million
Driver: urbanisation and cities

1980

- 747 agglomerations
- 35 million urban population
- Level of urbanisation 26%

- 10 000 - 30 000
- 30 000 - 100 000
- 100 000 - 350 000
- 350 000 - 1 million
- 1 - 2 million
- > 2 million
Driver: urbanisation and cities

2010

- 1939 agglomerations
- 133 million urban population
- Level of urbanisation: 41%

- 10,000 - 30,000
- 30,000 - 100,000
- 100,000 - 350,000
- 350,000 - 1 million
- 1 - 2 million
- > 2 million
Driver: diversifying diets

- **Urban**
  - Fruits & Vegetables: 26%
  - Meat & Fish: 31%
  - Dairy: 4%
  - Cereals: 22%
  - Others: 17%

- **Rural**
  - Fruits & Vegetables: 37%
  - Meat & Fish: 27%
  - Dairy: 2%
  - Cereals: 16%
  - Others: 4%
Driver: demand for convenience

Processed foods: 39%
Unprocessed foods: 30%
Beverages: 4%
Cereals: 27%

Urban:
- Cereals: 41%

Rural:
- Cereals: 36%
2. Rural employment dynamics - empirical evidence
Total employment in West Africa by sector of activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Tertiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td></td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Share of food and non-food economy employment by sector

- Food agriculture: 99%
- Food processing: 30%
- Food marketing: 27%
- Food-away-from-home: 4%
- Food: 69%
- Non-food: 31%

Share of food economy in total employment

- Food economy employment: 66%
- Food economy: 30%
- Non-food economy: 34%

Share of food economy segments in total food economy employment

- Food agriculture: 78%
- Food processing: 5%
- Food marketing: 15%
- Food-away-from-home: 2%
Most jobs in the region are in the food economy

High share of food economy jobs in rural areas, but signs of diversification

Food economy also important in urban areas
Diversifying rural economies

Rural food economy employment by activity

Niger

West Africa

Nigeria

0% 20% 40% 60% 80%

Farming Food processing Food marketing Food catering Non Food System

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...diversifying, but not everywhere
### Zoom on Senegal, local context (and data)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average labour productivity (FCFA/worker)</th>
<th>Average land productivity (FCFA/hectare)</th>
<th>Number of workers per hectare</th>
<th>Share of farms hiring paid labour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groundnut basin</td>
<td>35 000</td>
<td>70 000</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niayes</td>
<td>590 000</td>
<td>860 000</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>250 000</td>
<td>440 000</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Type of access to land

- **Groundnut basin**
  - Inheritance: 6%
  - Bought: 8%
  - Lease: 8%
  - Other: 8%
  - Attributed by rural council: 78%

- **Niayes**
  - Inheritance: 8%
  - Bought: 7%
  - Lease: 4%
  - Other: 4%
  - Attributed by rural council: 78%

- **Delta**
  - Inheritance: 23%
  - Bought: 59%
  - Lease: 23%
  - Other: 59%
  - Attributed by rural council: 78%
Youth in food employment
Gender in food employment

Share of women’s employment by food segment

Food agriculture  |  Food processing  |  Food marketing  |  Food-away-from-home

| 100%  |
| 80%   |
| 60%   |
| 40%   |
| 20%   |
3. Implications for policy and development cooperation
Implications and what it means for development

- Strong linkages between ag. productivity, ag. labour demand and off-farm employment - **agribusiness environment** (development of markets - land, finance, input and output markets, infrastructure, SKILLS)

- Food system transformations create large and new rural employment opportunities - Need to understand **food system** - from producer to consumer - local, rural and rural-urban dimensions

- Not all areas and actors have same potential, constraints - **information**, mobility, social safety nets
...and what it means for employment policies

• Develop local economic development strategies and territorial policies

• Promote local government capacities

• Invest in data (local and territorial analyses)

• Reduce barriers to social and economic opportunities

• Public policy and investment - connectivity, rural and urban public services (extension services, training, finance) - small towns and cities

• Incentives for private sector investment
Thank you for your attention