

Review of: "A Socio-Historical Look at Agricultural Policy Reform in Benin (West Africa) since 1960: A Literature Review"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper deals with a very important theme linked to a fundamental economic and social sector. Studying policy reforms in the agricultural sector of a developing African country such as Benin is no doubt useful not only for the cumulative literature but also for improving the policy strategies of the sector and informing farmers about the variability and relevance of changes in the policy ambit. I commend the authors for the choice and effort.

Other reviewers already made some good observations and advice. Suffice it to say, brief comments and suggestions that may be helpful to the authors.

- The title should adequately reflect **policy reforms** instead of simply 'policy reform', as more than one policy reform was showcased in the text. Noting that policy is more generic and reform more specific, reforms depict different changes in a policy sphere.
- Apart from not systematically or logically depicting the structure of the work from its onset, that is, in terms of sectional or sub-sectional divisions, the adopted and followed structure does not manifest proper scientific procedures. For example, the abstract followed by introduction, background information (if necessary), theory or methodology, literature review, supporting facts, and final considerations or simply conclusion with policy recommendations (if necessary) can constitute a more intelligible structure and reading fluidity.
- The main argument, surmise, or conjecture of the study is not clear. There seems to be varied statements that do not indicate the actual one for guiding the study.
- Although the character, competence, and conduct of national state elites are both fundamental and decisive to policy reforms and outcomes, the blueprints (eventually imposed) and pressures exercised by international agencies, states, and governments cannot be overlooked. The latter sometimes influence the choices made by the former.
- Despite concentrating focus on the literature review with highlighted policy documents, the research can benefit as well from factually based analysis, especially for pinpointing the weak points and outcomes of the agricultural sector reforms and reinforcing the platform for concluding about such weaknesses. Moreover, as the authors appear concerned in the text, not only about literature portrayals but also the concrete performance records of agricultural policy reforms, ultimate observations and considerations require data support for enhancing the quality of the paper.

- The conclusion needs to be inclusive of the necessary elements and features duly articulated from the study's problem, conjecture, observations, and findings. The current conclusion is too short as it does not fully capture and integrate significant winding up points.