

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

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The paper from Sossou et al presents a literature review on the politics of agriculture in Benin since 1960. They aimed to have a wide and exhaustive (if any) understanding of the past and present politics of such matters. They collected a large array of materials but, for different reasons, ended up with only 44 documents out of 37,214 open access ones. This means that the analysis will be biased, first by the open access nature of the documents only, and secondly through all the criteria used. Indeed, the chosen criteria are quite strange for me: once a thesis can be used, once it cannot (criteria 1), or a scientific article is not either an inclusion or an exclusion criterion (criteria 1). In the same way, the relevance criterion is for me highly suspect, as it is purely a subjective one. In regard to the scientific article criteria, there is no difference between peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed ones, which is for me a high level of discrimination. In addition, no reports from international organizations such as UNESCO or FAO were included.

Outside of the data, the paper itself is a list of all the different politics, but without any real analyses of the causes of failure or success of these politics. For me, it is a pity that we do not have any quantitative or objective criteria used to validate or invalidate those politics, outside of pure political regards. In addition, no comparison with other countries that accessed independence at the same moment was performed. Thus, the paper is for me more a list than a real scientific analysis.