

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

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This article proposes a systemic literature review of studies on agricultural reforms in Benin since its independence. While the methodology of the systemic literature review is well explained and detailed, several methodological, theoretical, and empirical aspects weaken the study and affect its analytical, theoretical, and even empirical scope. The article falls short of its main ambition and, in the end, provides only a presentation of the evolution of agricultural reforms in Benin. The article also fails to present an appropriate theoretical framework. Also, it would have been more relevant to analyze the primary sources, the legal texts, in the light of the literature selected by the authors. It would also have been expected that the authors would have detailed, with the help of the selected literature, what the concrete implications of these reforms were regarding agricultural policy, farming practices, and the daily lives of rural populations. Similarly, we would have expected the authors to better contextualize the political and power issues associated with these agricultural reforms, and how these have influenced the ideology and design of these reforms. It would also have been appropriate to present better the ideological and political evolution of Benin's various regimes and state structures over the decades. Finally, no mention is made of the economic interests and power relations closely associated with Benin's agricultural sector and its place at the heart of Benin's political structures, as we can see by the current president's personal implication in the cotton business and its monopoly over the sector.