

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

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This paper presents an interesting overview of agricultural policy in Benin since its independence. Based on an extensive literature review, the authors conclude that the country has gone five major phases in this domain which are clearly described. The methodology is clearly presented and the paper is well written.

There are, however, several weaknesses that could make the paper stronger. The main issue is the lack of analytical depth which makes the paper less interesting for a wider audience. The presented information creates an historical overview of dynamics in Benin but it is unclear what academics or policy makers in other countries can profit from it. First, there is some information provided about the shifts from one phase to the other. This could be made more explicit. One interesting question is whether these shifts emerged because of lack of impact from previous policy measures, or from changes in political ideologies and/or from changes in the balance of power. Second, the paper could profit from the presentation of some basic data about the agrarian sector in Benin and from broad historical trends in production. Third, the authors could make an explicit effort at the end of the paper to formulate conclusions that have a wider relevance than the single case of Benin.