

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.

Review of Benin Ag. Policy paper

The paper provides a good overview of the rather unstable and erratic policy context in which the different participants in the agricultural chain had to operate. With additional work, the paper could be an interesting background document for future policymakers and development agencies.

Other reviewers have commented on the details of the paper. Let me add a couple of more far-reaching items that would greatly enhance its quality. Many of the points below are already in the text but could be made more accessible to the reader, for example, by using a box. Besides, I acknowledge that the database is weak, but I encourage the authors to address the gaps listed below.

1. A more quantitative analysis. For example, providing growth figures of the Ag. Sector in comparison with other sectors, rather than describing it as "relatively weak."
2. More details on the main drivers of each of the periods: government policies, international agencies, bilateral donors, processors, farmers(organizations)? But maybe also, developments at the level of international markets;
3. Also, for each period, what were the winners and losers? I imagine that the effect of the policies has been quite different for farmers, processors, government officials, etc.
4. The same: what were the strengths and weaknesses of the different agencies?

On the other hand, I wonder whether the description of all the agencies (and their alphabet soup) could not be presented in a more summarized form.