



**GRET**



# Trade policies and agreements

Supporting stakeholders to formulate and promote trade policies and agreements that foster socio-economic development and food security in developing countries.

## Theme factsheet



### BENCHMARKS

Work on this subject area since 2003.

### Countries of operation in 2019:

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), European Union, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal

3 projects and consulting missions conducted by GRET in 2019.

**T**rade policies implemented in developing countries and the trade agreements to which they are party have impacts on competition between local agricultural and food products and importations. These policies and agreements influence the price paid to farmers for their produce, market outlets for local production, the dynamic of agrifood value chains and industrialisation processes, the development of regional exchanges, prices for consumers, nutritional quality of products consumed, evolution of eating habits and food self-sufficiency of countries. Lastly, they also affect States' tax revenue and therefore their capacity to lead social and economic policies.

For GRET, it is important that governments and civil society stakeholders in developing countries, in particular agricultural organisations, possess tools and elements enabling them to analyse trade between countries and the impacts of trade policies and agreements. In this way they will be better able to formulate and promote policies and agreements that are positive for the development of agricultural production and agrifood value chains, taking account of consumer interests and ultimately favourable to the long-term interests of populations. With a view to this, GRET has developed indepth expertise on this subject area for these stakeholders.

## Methods of intervention

GRET conducts consulting missions (studies, modelling of effects) and activities to strengthen capacities (training, support, publications) in trade between countries and regions, trade policies and agreements (WTO, EPA, regional integration process) and their impacts, on the one hand for public institutions, and on the other for producers' organisations and other civil society stakeholders undertaking advocacy actions in the Northern and Southern hemispheres.





## GRET's approach

» “Trade policies can contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture and agrifood value chains, to less vulnerability for the latter to importations, and to food security for their populations. For almost 20 years now, GRET has been contributing through its consulting missions to supporting various types of stakeholders with formulation and advocacy in favour of trade policies and agreements that are favourable to the long-term interests of populations in developing countries”, explains **Laurent Levard, programmes manager**.



## A key stakeholder's view



“For the ‘My milk is local’ campaign, GRET conducted a study on trade policy and fiscal policies in West Africa and their impact on the competitiveness of local dairy products compared to imported products. Based on these analyses, scenarios of evolution of the Common External Tariff and VAT were proposed with a view to creating

an environment that is favourable to the development of local milk, without compromising purchasing power for low-income consumers. The results of the study informed the influence communication in the campaign aimed at ECOWAS.” **Azara Remalia Nfon Dibie Sanogo, regional manager of the Food justice programme – West Africa, Oxfam International**

### SOME REFERENCES

- Broutin C., Levard L., Goudiaby M.-C., *Quelles politiques commerciales pour la promotion de la filière “lait local” en Afrique de l’Ouest?*, report, GRET-Roppa-Apess-RBM-CFSI-ISF, 2018, 102 pages.
- Levard L., *Politiques commerciales et fiscales et promotion de la filière locale en Afrique de l’Ouest*,

report, GRET-“My milk is local” campaign, 2019, 80 pages.

- Levard L., Lagandré D., *Cohérence des politiques commerciales et de développement : le cas de l’APE Afrique de l’Ouest*, report, GRET, 2018, 90 pages.

- Levard L., Benkahl A., *Comment promouvoir le commerce agricole intra-africain ? Analyse des pistes et des freins pour le développement de ce commerce*, report, Etudes et travaux en ligne n° 37, GRET, 2013, 182 pages.

## Focus on three actions

### Coherency of trade policies with development: the case of the partnership agreement between the European Union and West Africa

2016-2017 | **Budget:** 70 k€ | **Funding:** French Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

At the request of the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food, GRET studied the possible effects in Senegal and Côte d’Ivoire of the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and the West-African region for certain agrifood value chains, agricultural income and food security, due to liberalisation of importations (powdered milk, wheat, complementary foods for children). The study enabled analysis of the risk of incoherency between the agreement and development objectives.

### Which trade policies for the promotion of the “local milk” value chain in West Africa?

2017-2018 | **Budget:** 50 k€ | **Funding:** Osiwa Foundation, AFD.



With this study, conducted for CFSI and three West-African agricultural organisations (Roppa, Apess, RBM), GRET analysed the situation of the milk sector in two countries (Burkina Faso and Senegal) and the effects of public policies – in particular trade policies – on development of the “local milk” value chain. The study served as a starting point for a dialogue with various stakeholders in the region and for advocacy actions to support this value chain.

### Support to strengthen the operational capacities of Ivorian civil society organisations for citizen monitoring of the interim Economic Partnership Agreement

2019-2022 | **Budget:** 0.7 M€ | **Funding:** European Commission.

GRET is providing support to the Ivorian Civil Society Convention (CSCI) to strengthen its operational capacities with a view to ensuring monitoring of the interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) with the EU, to make recommendations and conduct dialogue with public authorities. GRET is in charge of a study on the expected effects of the iEPA and of training on trade policies, trade agreements, the iEPA and advocacy.

2020. Photos: © GRET.



GRET is an international fair development NGO that has been actively fighting poverty and inequalities for more than 40 years in the field and at political level. For more information on GRET's activities in the area of “Agriculture: value chains and agricultural policies”: [www.gret.org/themes/agriculture-en/](http://www.gret.org/themes/agriculture-en/)