



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

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**UNECA PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE DIVISION  
& UNECA SUB REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA**

Validation webinars of the study on **“Strengthening clusters development to develop competitive regional agricultural value chains in Central Africa “**

Yaoundé, Cameroun  
17 December 2020

**CONCEPT NOTE**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.a Context

Building on outcomes of several high level meetings and conference including the 2014 Malabo Declaration on agriculture transformation and food security, and the launch of the Agenda 2063 and the CAADP's new results framework to end hunger by 2025 whose implementations and roadmaps were adopted by the African leaders in January 2015, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), its member states, its institutions, development partners, is undertaking a continent wide study in support of development and promotion of strategic agricultural commodities regional value chains and clusters in Africa. This study is considered as part of the CAADP implementation strategy and the proposed commodity based strategy to increase productivity and value addition while creating jobs, managing scarce national resources and building resilience towards Africa's industrialization. ECA has committed itself along other partners to advance this growth and transformative agenda.

The study focuses on the development and promotion of strategic regional agricultural value chains<sup>1</sup>, agribusiness and agro industries. It aims at developing results-oriented recommendations focusing on transformative interventions, which hold out the best opportunity to create new regional value chains, agribusiness and agro industrial clusters and strengthen existing ones. More importantly, it assesses policy reform priorities in the context of formulation of the right regional policy framework and guidelines that African countries should put in place in order to foster agricultural commodity based industrialization as entry point towards the structural transformation of the continent. To this end, scoping/baseline assessments of strategic agricultural commodities value chains was undertaken. The studies drew from three country cases: **Chad**, **Cameroon** and **Congo-DRC** with focus on selected value chains of high relevance to agro allied industrialization and arising opportunities with the AfCFTA (cassava, rice, maize, fish, livestock, cassava, sugar, palm/groundnut oil).

## 1.b Objectives of the study

The overall objective of the study is to enhance capacity, knowledge and engagement of African policy and decision makers and key stakeholders at national, subregional and regional levels to develop and implement appropriate policies, strategies and programmes for the development and promotion of competitive regional value chains for achieving food security and sustainable development. The project seeks to encourage policy makers to mainstream regional integration in value chains development in their agricultural development policies.

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<sup>1</sup> A primary focus of the project to identify related capacity gaps necessary for industrial, managerial organization and innovations systems (e.g. value chains, agro-business incubators, specialized self-contained farm enterprises generating high quality product) to add value to farm products by means of the transformation and marketing of agricultural commodities via re-skilling, re-tooling, branding, manufacturing, superior market positioning, packaging, assembling and shipping.

The specific objectives are:

1. To undertake a comprehensive assessment of strategic commodities in the Common Market for Central Africa regions;
2. To enhance the awareness and knowledge of policymakers and key stakeholders of the potential benefits of the regionalization of agricultural value chains in the Central Africa region
3. To increase the capacities of African policy makers to mainstream policy measures with regard to the development and promotion agricultural value chains into agricultural policies within the context of Pillar 2<sup>2</sup> of the CAADP, and
4. To strengthen regional collaboration and partnership initiatives among private entrepreneurs (including commercial and small-holder farmers, especially women) for upgrading their position within existing and potential agricultural value chains.

### **1.c Expected Accomplishments of the Study**

**EA1:** Enhanced awareness and knowledge of policymakers and key stakeholders of the potential benefits of the regionalization of the livestock, maize and rice value chains in the region

**EA-2:** Enhanced capacity of African policy makers to mainstream policy measures with regard to the development and promotion agricultural value chains into agricultural policies within the context of Pillar 2 of the CAADP framework.

**EA-3:** Strengthened capacities of private entrepreneurs (including commercial and small-holder farmers, especially women) to upgrade their position within existing and potential national/regional agricultural value chains.

## **2. VALIDATION WEBINARS**

The planned validation webinars will provide in two steps a forum for farmers, governments, private sector actors, technical and financing institutions, civil society and development agencies to discuss the resultant policy recommendations with a view to develop a framework and a road map for possible implementation.

### **2a. Objectives of the validation workshop**

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- <sup>2</sup> CAADP Pillar 2: *Accelerate growth in the agricultural sector by raising the capacities of private entrepreneurs (including commercial and small-holder farmers) to meet the increasingly complex quality and logistic requirements of markets, focusing on selected agricultural commodities that offer the potential to raise rural (on- and off-farm) incomes.*
  - *Create the required regulatory and policy framework that would facilitate the emergence of regional economic spaces that would spur the expansion of regional trade and cross-country investments.*

1. to review a draft research study entitled “**Strengthening clusters development to develop competitive regional agricultural value chains in Central Africa**”
2. to facilitate a common understanding and agreement on key elements for agricultural regional value chains in Central Africa
3. to promote cooperation and partnerships for effective implementation of the set recommendations of the study in terms of promoting regional agricultural value chains

## **2b. Expected outcomes**

1. a reviewed and improved research study report on regional value chain in Africa
2. enhanced awareness and better understanding of the study
3. agreement and consensus on modalities for regional value chains implementation in Central Africa.

## **2c. Participants**

Participants will be drawn from farmer associations, agro-enterprises and other private sector actors, public sector representatives, member states, technical and financing institutions and other development agencies, civil society organizations, and Regional Economic Communities, among others with interest in promoting regional agricultural value chains in Central Africa.

## **2d. Dates and Venue**

The webinar will be held on line on 17 December 2020.

## **2e. Contacts of organizers**

1. Mr. Guy Ranaivomanana

Economic Affairs Officer  
Agriculture & Business Enabling Environment Section  
Private Sector Development & Finance Division  
UN Economic Commission for Africa  
P.O Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: + 251-11- 544 3933  
Email: [ranaivomanana@un.org](mailto:ranaivomanana@un.org)

2. Ms. Yitagesu Getahun  
Staff Assistant  
Agriculture & Business Enabling Environment Section  
Private Sector Development & Finance Division  
UN Economic Commission for Africa  
P.O Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: + 251-11- 544 5231  
Email: [getahun4@un.org](mailto:getahun4@un.org)

3. Joan Kagwanja  
Chief  
Agriculture & Business Enabling Environment Section  
Private Sector Development & Finance Division  
UN Economic Commission for Africa  
P.O Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: + 251-11- 544 3820  
Email: [kagwanja@un.org](mailto:kagwanja@un.org)