

Intra-Africa agricultural trade - an overview

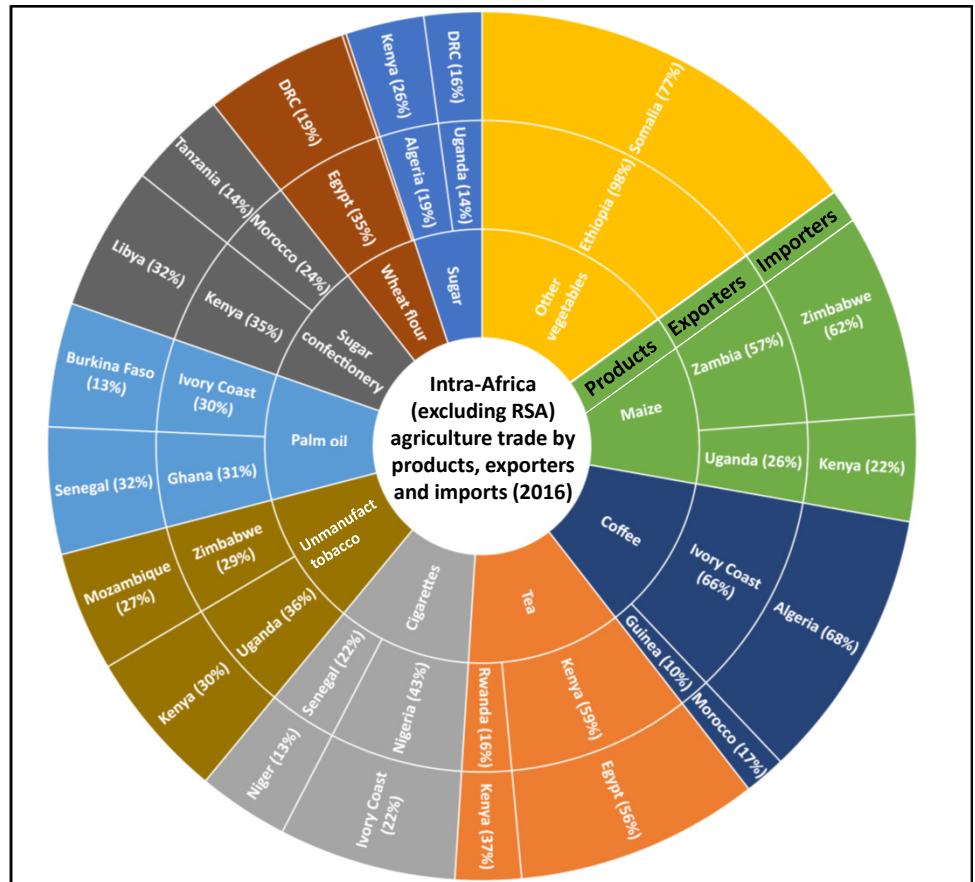
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Introduction

- 40% of Africa's agricultural products are exported to the EU
- Intra-Africa agricultural trade is centered around South Africa, both as major exporter and importer
- The only products where intra-Africa exports are more significant than world exports are maize, tobacco, sugar and tea
- Intra-African agricultural trade is regionally concentrated
- SADC is the largest regional destination market for African agricultural exports; 48% are exports to SACU and 42% to non SACU SADC countries

Excluding South Africa shows what else is in intra-Africa agricultural trade:

- Egypt, Uganda and Kenya are the main exporters and Kenya, Libya and Egypt are the main importers
- Algeria is the largest sugar exporter without even producing any raw sugar
- Kenya is shown as the main tea importer and exporter due to the Mombasa tea market
- Other vegetable exports are mainly (98%) chat exports by Ethiopia to neighbouring Somalia and Djibouti
- Palm oil are regionally concentrated – intraregional trade in west Africa vis-à-vis intra-regional trade in east Africa
- Only 9% of Africa's total coffee exports are to other African countries
- Kenya's sugar confectionery exports are mainly chewing gum



Minimal trade



Excluding South Africa, reveals low levels of intra-Africa agricultural trade (12% of African agricultural exports).

Main products



The main products traded include sugar, tea, cigarettes, other vegetables and palm oil.

Concentrated



Intra-Africa agricultural trade is regionally concentrated among neighbouring countries

Trade barriers



Tariffs and infrastructural and transactional costs inhibit intra-African agricultural trade

Numerous factors contribute to the low levels of intra-Africa agricultural trade: supply/demand mismatch, lack of diversification, supply-side constraints and capabilities, inefficient infrastructure and trade barriers.

By reducing import duties, ensuring the implementation of trade facilitation measures, facilitating intercontinental infrastructure projects and enabling access to technology and e-commerce the AfCFTA can yield large gains for agricultural producers on the African continent.

Acknowledgments/References

Viljoen, W., Sandrey, R. and Potelwa, Y. 2018. Intra-African agriculture trade – an overview. In Agriculture and the African Continental Free Trade Area (forthcoming). Stellenbosch: tralac

