

Agricultural Economics Conference  
University of Nigeria, Nsukka,  
Nigeria



27th - 28th,  
OCTOBER, 2020

# **Virtual** **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE** **on Agricultural Transformation** **in the ECOWAS Sub-region**



**Keynote Speaker**

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**Guest Speakers**



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**Professor Adebayo Aromolaran**  
Professor of Agricultural Economics and Dean,  
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<https://aec2020conference.unn.edu.ng/>

# Introduction

The last few decades have witnessed rapid changes in the agriculture value chain, with varying consequences for countries at various levels of development and dependence on nature and primary commodities. In most West African countries there have been minimal improvements in the contribution of agriculture to GDP despite the widely held view that economic growth in the sub-region depends heavily on successful diversification and transformation in the sector. Policy change at multiple levels is critical for catalysing an inclusive and sustainable transformation in ECOWAS agri-food systems. Such policy changes at regional levels are transformative only when they are translated into ambitious national actions with adequate support, including both public and private investment. While governments in the sub-region have implemented blueprints for agricultural transformation within larger national economic development agenda, key emerging challenges in this process stem partly from new realities of trade, competition, openness, free movement of goods and persons, tensions associated with opportunistic access to resources (forage and water in particular) as well as difficulties in economically integrating countries with significant policy, cultural and language diversities.

Rising trends in monetary and migratory integration as well as increasing interdependence in trade and services within the sub-region call for region-wide multi-disciplinary perspectives in research, policy making and advocacy, as they affect agriculture. Amid all these, it is necessary to understand how linkages and interdependencies among ECOWAS countries pan out in the context of the transformation strategies deployed by governments, private sector and institutions. There are already very high levels of

unrecorded dependence in trade and services exchanges in the region, which affects even the smallest scale of farmers. But achieving coordinated positive transformations in agriculture would lead to higher productivity on

farms, commercially oriented farming and strengthened linkages between farming and other sectors of the economy. However, to achieve meaningful agricultural transformation, we must focus on policies, institutions, infrastructure, technology and innovation, incentives and support structures, among others. Diversifying ECOWAS agriculture will improve productivity and transform the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people across the sub-region while contributing to employment, poverty alleviation, food security, and nutrition as enshrined in the SDGs 1, 2, and 3. There are lessons to be learnt through pan-ECOWAS meetings where researchers, government officials, private sector, NGOs and institutions present their experiences in the various countries. This conference will focus on drivers of agricultural change, smallholder farmers' access to resources, information, training and services. It will look at the role of enabling in-country and between country infrastructure, how technology/innovation, entrepreneurship and education support agricultural transformation processes. In addition, it will examine how farmers, country policy makers and institutions are managing current and potential climatic shocks that could compromise the integrity of natural resources and the environment in ECOWAS.



# Objectives of the Conference

1. Provide a platform to bring together the full spectrum of stakeholders (ministers, policy directors, researchers, service providers, development partners, government representatives, private sector, law makers, industry captains, farmers representatives, financial institutions that have mandate for transformational change in agriculture within the ECOWAS sub-region;
2. Foster an environment for analysis of current developments for cutting edge technological applications for agricultural development in ECOWAS;
3. Engender bilateral exchanges for seamless harmonization of ECOWAS agricultural transformation strategies;
4. Generate invaluable literature that speaks to the agricultural development needs of ECOWAS in the next 20 years.



# Sub Themes

1. Research and agricultural transformation
2. Education, the knowledge economy and agricultural transformation
3. Role of innovation, ICT and data management
4. New/Future technologies and agricultural/food systems innovation
5. ECOWAS national governments visions and strategies for agricultural competitiveness/transformation
6. Multinational approaches to coordination of agricultural policies
7. Integrating local to regional policy as a catalyst for agricultural change
8. ECOWAS agricultural policies and SDGs compliance
9. Political economy and agricultural transformation in ECOWAS
10. Foreign direct Investment and ECOWAS agriculture
11. Private sector participation in agricultural transformation
12. Incentives/incentive structures for agricultural transformation
13. Role of Pan-African and global multilateral institutions and development partners/agencies
14. Diversification of production and income
15. Mechanization
16. Agricultural labour in ECOWAS
17. Climate smart and sustainable agriculture
18. Transborder trade and finance within the ECOWAS sub-region
19. Non-tariff barriers to agricultural trade within ECOWAS sub-region
20. Export marketing and smallholder farmers
21. Financing for transformational change in ECOWAS agriculture
22. Implications of the African protocol on free movement of persons for agriculture
23. Agriculture and ECOWAS single currency
24. Value chain development
25. Border porosity and insecurity
26. International mechanisms and protocols for trans-boundary pest and disease control
27. Role of nutrition and changing diets in transforming food systems
28. Hunger and food insecurity within ECOWAS
29. Gender mainstreaming
30. Corruption and transparency
31. Cooperatives, clusters and other institutional arrangements

## Abstract and Poster

Abstracts of not more than 250 words (Times New Roman, Single spacing, Font size 12) are invited from interested persons and submitted to [aec2020conference@unn.edu.ng](mailto:aec2020conference@unn.edu.ng). Owners of accepted abstracts or posters will be communicated to submit full papers/posters

## Panel Session

Research teams and institutions who would like to organise panel session on special topic(s) may submit same for consideration.

## Important Dates

Deadline for Full Paper Submission: 30th September, 2020

## Registration

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S/N	Fee Category	Before	Now (reduced)
1	Professionals i. with paper ii. without paper	₦15,000 ₦15,000	₦10,000 ₦5,000
2	Co-author desirous of receiving a certificate of participation	₦5,000	₦5,000
3	PG students with or without paper	₦10,000	₦5,000
4	Undergraduate students with or without paper	₦10,000	₦3,000
5	International participant with or without paper	US\$100	US\$80
6	Others: i. with paper ii. without paper	₦15,000 ₦15,000	₦10,000 ₦5,000

## Payment Instruction

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The Zoom conference link, ID and passcode will be forwarded to registered participants and placed on our website few days to the conference

### FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES

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