

PEGNet Newsletter 45

Dear PEGNet Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the third PEGNet Newsletter of this year. We would like to announce the publication of the latest Policy Brief and share some interesting calls, events, publications, and other news of the PEG Network.

If you have any comments, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us via pegnet@ifw-kiel.de.

Enjoy the read!

Best wishes,

The PEGNet Team
Past editions of our newsletter are available in the [PEGNet Newsletter Archive](#).

PEGNet Policy Brief

Can the expansion of SMEs along Africa's food supply chains improve food and nutrition security?

September 2021 | 25/2021

KEY POINTS

- Domestic food supply chains dominate Africa's food supply and SMEs move most of this food.
- SMEs are an important source of employment in rural and urban areas.
- SMEs are an important mechanism to improve farmer incomes.
- SMEs are important determinants of food quality and safety.
- Domestic policy makers and development partners do not work to create SMEs along Africa's food supply chains; they are already there but need support.
- Donors, governments, and development practitioners should focus on infrastructure investments and policy reforms that lower transaction costs and reduce SMEs' risk of loss from trading and value chains.

PEGNet Policy Brief
Can the expansion of SMEs along Africa's food supply chains improve food and nutrition security?

Lenis Saweda O. Liverpool-Tasie & Thomas Reardon

In the last three decades, agrifood value chains (AVCs) have expanded and transformed in developing regions. These growth is partly explained by rapid rates of urbanization, income growth, and market integration. AVC transformation across Africa has created large markets for farmers, along with employment to process supply chain requests, including food processing, wholesaling, and logistics provision. This has been limited and hindered by large investments in infrastructure and food and nutrition security (FNS) to improve food and nutrition security. However, understanding these SMEs and their behaviors is important because they are crucial to small food and nutrition security, i.e., food availability, access, utilization, stability, and quality (FAU). Policy makers to recognize the important role that SMEs play across Africa can lead to the design of policies and programs with limited or negative impact on food and nutrition security. This case note summarizes national and global efforts to promote food security for Africa's rapidly expanding populations.

Despite the crucial role of SMEs along Africa's food supply chains, national surveys of economic, social, and processing SMEs are extremely low with lower off the line. Thus, the impact of these SMEs on welfare and food security. Thus, this policy brief summarizes the findings from several recent studies regarding how the transformation of African food supply chains (specifically the role of SMEs along food supply chains) affects food and nutrition security. The present brief for publication through which SMEs are the primary source of food and nutrition security. This case note summarizes national and global efforts to promote food security for Africa's rapidly expanding populations.

SMEs are an important source of employment in rural and urban areas.

In addition to providing access to food for SDGs, rapidly expanding populations, SMEs are a key source of employment for many. Recent work by Chikanga et al. (2021) documents the importance of small-scale food and agriculture enterprises (SMEs) in the resilience and development of food supply chains for self and wage employment across SSA. The authors emphasize the need for policies, programs, and investments in food processing, marketing, retail, and food services. Leveraging nationally representative data from countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda), Chikanga et al. (2021) find

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In the last three decades, agrifood value chains (AVCs) have expanded and transformed in developing regions. AVC transformation across Africa has created huge markets for farmers, along with employment in various supply chain segments, including food processing, wholesaling, and logistics provision. Thereby, domestic food supply chains dominate Africa's food supply and SMEs move most of this food. Understanding these SMEs and their behaviours is important to be able to design policies and programs with positive impacts on food and nutrition security. This raises the question on whether the expansion of SMEs along Africa's food supply chains can improve food and nutrition security. Read the latest PEGNet Policy Brief written by Lenis Saweda O. Liverpool-Tasie & Thomas Reardon to learn more about this question on our [website](#).

Read more

3D Seminar - Ethics in Social Science Experimentation and Data Collections

Also during fall and winter 2021/22, the [Digital Development Dialogue](#) will bring together researchers and policy makers to discuss different policies to foster development. The first session on Ethics in Social Science Experimentation and Data Collections with **Dean Karlán** (Northwestern) and **Jeanne Annan** (IRC) will take place on **Oct 28, 3 pm**. You can subscribe via this [link](#). The lectures are organized by Göttingen's Chair of Development Economics (Prof. Dr. Andreas Fuchs/ Dr. Sarah Langlotz/ Dr. Lennart Kaplan) together with several German partner organizations from development practice and research.

Register now

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE
The 3D seminar is a monthly 45-minute online forum for policy and research exchange.

Two speakers – one researcher & one practitioner – touch upon key topics in development policy with the goal of stimulating a meaningful dialogue across the theory & practice divide.
Berlin Time Zone: October (UTC+2), November-February (UTC+1)

3D 2021/22

UPCOMING DIALOGUES

Date	Speakers	Topic	Host
October 28 3PM	Dean Karlán (Northwestern) & Jeanne Annan (IRC)	Ethics in Social Science Experimentation and Data Collections	Host: C4ED
November 18 3PM	Angela Heucher (DÉVAL) & Etienne Livamba (SIE)	Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming in Development Cooperation in Fragile Contexts	Host: Déval
December 16 3PM	Skaidra Badine (ODW) & Johannes Jütting (OECD)	Data for Development	Host: Göttingen
January 27 3PM	Chris Blattman (Chicago) & Kibumso Johnson Bork (NEPI)	Preventing Crime and Violence with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: Evidence from Liberia	Host: Göttingen
February 24 3PM	Gilles Maglo (MES/DAK) & Sara Nyman (World Bank)	Prospects of Digital Platform Ecosystems for African Businesses	Host: Research Group on Development Economics

Organized by Sarah Langlotz & Lennart Kaplan in cooperation with:















Click here to register.

News from the Network

Call for Papers

Stephan Klasen Fellowships

The Faculty of Business and Economics at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen advertises **2 Stephan Klasen Fellowships** for postdoctoral researchers in development economics from low- and middle-income countries. Prof. Dr. h.c. Stephan Klasen, Ph.D. was a German development economist who has made lasting contributions to the economics of poverty, inequality, and gender in low- and middle-income countries. The Stephan Klasen Fellowship was established by the University of Göttingen on the occasion of Stephan Klasen's farewell lecture to honor his achievements for development economics research in Göttingen and his commitment for the training of young scholars. The fellowship period is April 1st, 2022 through March 31st, 2023. Application documents include an academic CV, one publication or working paper, contact details of at least two academic references and a two-page research statement. Applications should be submitted to bewerbungen@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de until **5th November 2021**. Further details and information on the requirements are provided here: <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/klasens-fellowship>.

Request for Proposal: Paper Award Economics and Governance of Global Value Chains in Africa



The emergence of global value chains (GVCs) has helped developing countries participate in, and gain from, cross-border trade. It is hoped that different value chains would help fast-track the much-needed economic development in these countries. It is a research area that stands to grow in the coming years and yet, especially in Africa that is as a whole heavily engaged in GVC, our understanding is limited. This call for papers addresses the topic of GVC in Africa and is open until **07.11.2021**. Proposals both from individuals and non-profit organizations are welcome. Researchers of African descent are particularly encouraged to submit their research proposals, applying either qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods. This paper award is organized by the German Development Institute (DIE-GDI) and part of the 'Research Network Sustainable Global Supply Chains' project funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ: www.sustainablesupplychains.org.

Learn more

Call for Papers: German Development Economics Conference

On **09.-10.06.2022**, the German Economic Association holds its annual conference hosted by the University of Hohenheim. The annual German Development Economics Conference brings together international scholars and researchers of development economics and neighboring fields. This year's keynote speeches will be provided by **Christopher B. Barrett** (Cornell University) (tbc) and **Christopher Udry** (Northwestern University). The conference is planned as a physical meeting, yet if the pandemic situation does not allow such a meeting, the organizers may switch to a fully or partially online format. If the meeting is held physically, participants will need a proof of vaccination or recovery or a negative test result. From the 15.11.2021 there will be an open call for papers available under www.entwicklungsökonomischer-ausschuss.de until **15.02.2022**. The event is supported by the KfW.

Learn more

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) - Peace and Recovery Program

The Peace & Recovery (P&R) Program supports field experiments and related research on reducing violence and fragility, promoting peace, and preventing, managing, and recovering from crises. Innovations for Poverty Action is currently accepting proposals for research related to peace and recovery. Grants are offered for full research projects and pilots, as well as grants for exploratory work, which may be of particular interest for PhD students and Postdocs. The proposal deadline is **November 8**. Further information, including a link to our application instructions, can be found on our website [here](#).

Learn more

Call for digital solutions that protect biodiversity

Approximately 70 percent of Namibians depend on biodiversity and natural resources for their lives. This is put at risk through factors such as population growth, the human-wildlife conflict, and declining tourism due to the COVID-19 crisis. To improve the situation of the concerned communities, GIZ's *lab of tomorrow* challenge "Biodiversity Protection Pays Off Digitally" was initiated. It aims to increase income for the local population and to facilitate the development of virtual tourism products and other digital solutions. Interested companies and entrepreneurs in the tourism, digitalization and biodiversity sectors can apply until **31.10.2021**. Please contact the lot team for more information!



Learn
more

Events



EADI Virtual Dialogue: Indebting the Green Transition - critical notes on the Expansion of Green Bonds in the South

Green bonds are among the most recent financial instruments to 'join the ball' of financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation. **Tomaso Ferrando** from the Institute of Development Policy (University of Antwerp, Belgium) will provide a multi-disciplinary and critical overview of green bonds as socio-legal financial constructions that risk to reproduce historical patterns of uneven development. The event will take place on 3rd November 2021 at 3 pm CET.

Register now



EADI: Development studies and climate change - ways forward for curriculum building

This workshop for academic coordinators of Development Studies programmes will discuss how programmes in Development Studies could include a stronger component relating to climate change so that it becomes as legitimate a building block as other components. Challenges related to inter- or trans-disciplinarity will also be discussed, given that a change in study programmes implies greater familiarity with disciplines outside the traditional frame of 'social sciences'. Read more and register before 12 November.

Register now



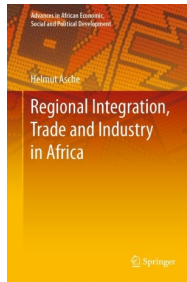
PEP - Development Economics Skills Webinars

The Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) has been hosting a new series of free Development Economics Skills Webinars. The last event will take place on 25th November at 12 pm UTC and will cover "[The effect of labor unions on efficiency and inequality: The case in Latin America and the Caribbean](\"https://www.pep-net.org/development-economics-skills-webinars-session2\")". Recordings of past events are available on the Development Economics Skills Webinars page: [https://www.pep-net.org/development-economics-skills-webinars-session2](\"https://www.pep-net.org/development-economics-skills-webinars-session2\").

GIZ - Youth Challenge "Think Like an Entrepreneur" starts

Implemented by GIZ and UNICEF, the Digital Youth Marketplace "Yoma" proposes a new way of engaging youth in inclusive on- and offline opportunities for skills development, community engagement, and employment. The interactive platform offers individualised and gamified learning to earning pathways, aligning young people's aspirations, potentials, and the market demand. One of Yoma's core offerings are Youth Challenges, which encourage young people to proactively engage with global developments to take a leading role in their local communities. The next Youth Challenge called "Think Like an Entrepreneur" will be launched globally on November 8. Currently, Yoma is incubated by the South African NGO RLabs. Since July 2020 to date, more than 250,000 youth participated in Yoma offerings.





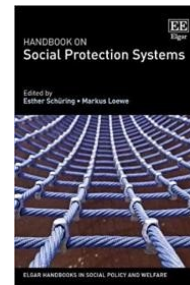
Regional Integration, Trade and Industry in Africa

PEGNet's advisory board member Prof. Helmut Asche recently published his book "[Regional Integration, Trade and Industry in Africa](#)" within the Advances in African Economic, Social and Political Development book series. It studies past and current integration policies in Africa, discusses how African regions could foster new manufacturing industries and value chains across the continent, and examines the role of international trade agreements in promoting economic development in Africa.

[Read more](#)

Handbook on Social Protection Systems

In a three year's effort, Esther Schüring (Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences), and Markus Loewe (German Development Institute), have edited the [Handbook on Social Protection Systems](#), which is available as a hardcopy book, a global free access e-book and as a free multimedia app optimised for access on mobile phones. The handbook is both an introductory reading for students and practitioners and a compendium of issues that are of interest to social protection experts. It gives a comprehensive and globally relevant overview of the instruments, actors and key design issues of social protection systems, as well as their application and effects in practice. The main focus is on system building, which includes harmonisation across social protection programmes and delivery mechanisms but also external linkages to other policy fields such as taxation, humanitarian aid and livelihood approaches. Moreover, it addresses the need to prepare social protection systems for future challenges such as demographic change, globalization, automation, climate change, and pandemics.



[Read more](#)



GIZ - New Toolbox helps to reform the business environment

The Investment Climate Reform Toolbox is a publication for policymakers and the private sector in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and beyond. It responds to common challenges faced by those working to develop a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable business environment. It includes practical tools that require limited resources and time to apply, with step-by-step guidance and lessons learned from applying them, as well as hands-on materials and templates. Given the relevance of Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) throughout the reform process, the toolbox contains designated tools for PPD design and evaluation, as well as a focus on PPD integration across all other tools. In addition, tools with a focus on gender and sustainability are included.

[Learn more](#)



GIZ - Publication on 'Governance of TVET and new work'

A publication on 'Governance of TVET and new work in development cooperation: strengthening TVET systems to meet new requirements' has been released by the GIZ's Sector Project TVET on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It shines a light on the challenges that educational policy in partner countries is facing in connection with the digital transformation of work and concludes with four theses combining the theoretical, conceptual considerations with the analysis of examples in selected countries.

[Learn more](#)

UNESCO-UNEVOC TVET Leadership Programme

UNESCO - UNEVOC launched the online edition of its 2021 TVET Leadership

Programme on 7 September 2021, under the theme *'Skills for the digital transformation: How TVET institutions can respond to future demands'*. Participants included 31 TVET leaders and managers from 25 countries and 16 UNEVOC Centres. In the second batch, from 3 to 24 November, 30 TVET leaders and managers from 24 countries and 12 UNEVOC Centres. Learn more about TVET [here](#).

[Learn more](#)



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