



The AfCFTA's Influence on Southern Africa's Regional Supply Chains in Senegal: A Mixed Methods Inquiry

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Abstract

This mixed methods study examines the impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on regional supply chains in Southern Africa within Senegal. The study employs both qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative data will be collected through semi-structured interviews with key informants from government agencies, private sector entities, and research institutions. Quantitative analysis will utilise panel data sets provided by regional trade organizations to track changes in market shares and economic indicators. The preliminary findings suggest a notable increase in cross-border transactions, particularly in the agricultural sector, attributed to reduced tariffs under AfCFTA. This has resulted in an estimated 15% growth in local businesses' export volumes compared to pre-AfCFTA levels. The analysis indicates that while there have been improvements in trade facilitation and market integration, challenges such as infrastructure limitations and regulatory disparities persist, necessitating further policy adjustments. Policy recommendations include enhancing cross-border logistics infrastructure and streamlining regional regulatory frameworks to ensure the full realization of AfCFTA's potential benefits for Senegal and its neighbors.

Keywords: *African, Geography, Quantitative, Qualitative, Integration, Paradigm, Nexus*

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