



Informal Cross-Border Trade and Regional Integration in ECOWAS from an Egyptian Perspective, 2009

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Abstract

Informal cross-border trade (ICT), a significant component of regional integration in ECOWAS, is increasingly recognised for its role in economic development and regional connectivity. A survey questionnaire was designed, administered via online platforms, and analysed using statistical software for data interpretation. The survey revealed a notable proportion (35%) of Egyptian businesses engaging in ICT with ECOWAS countries, predominantly focusing on agricultural products and raw materials. Egypt's role as an observer country influences the nature and extent of its engagement in ICT within ECOWAS. Further research is needed to understand long-term impacts and policy implications. Enhancing communication channels between Egyptian businesses and ECOWAS countries could facilitate more formalized trade agreements, thereby promoting regional integration.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, regionalism, quantitative methodology, neo-patrimonialism, informal economy*

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