



The AfCFTA's Influence on Southern African Regional Supply Chains: An Ethiopian Perspective

Mekuria Tekola¹, Yared Gebreab²

¹ Haramaya University

² Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Haramaya University

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Correspondence: mtekola@outlook.com

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Author notes

Mekuria Tekola is affiliated with Haramaya University and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Yared Gebreab is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Haramaya University and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Abstract

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to create a single market for goods and services within Africa, potentially transforming regional supply chains across the continent. A survey was conducted among a sample of Ethiopian firms to gather data on their experiences with AfCFTA-related policies and how they have affected supply chain operations. Ethiopian businesses reported that the AfCFTA has led to an increase in trade volumes by around 20% within Southern Africa, particularly for agricultural products and textiles. The AfCFTA has had a positive but uneven impact on Ethiopian firms' supply chains, with some sectors seeing significant benefits while others remain cautious or face challenges. Ethiopian policymakers should continue to monitor the implementation of AfCFTA policies closely and consider supporting measures such as capacity building for small businesses to enhance their participation in the new market environment. AfCFTA, Southern Africa, Ethiopia, Supply Chains, Trade Policies

Keywords: *African, Continental, Free Trade Area, Regional, Supply, Chains, Impact*

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