



Analysis of Informal Cross-Border Trade and Regional Integration in ECOWAS in Niger: An African Perspective

Dr Vincent Bradley^{1,2}, Sara McLean^{3,4}, Gerard Jackson^{1,4}

¹ National Institute of Agricultural Research of Niger (INRAN)

² Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey

³ Islamic University of Niger, Say

⁴ Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey

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Correspondence: dbradley@gmail.com

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Author notes

Dr Vincent Bradley is affiliated with National Institute of Agricultural Research of Niger (INRAN) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Sara McLean is affiliated with Islamic University of Niger, Say and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Gerard Jackson is affiliated with National Institute of Agricultural Research of Niger (INRAN) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

This study addresses a current research gap in African Studies concerning Informal Cross-Border Trade and Regional Integration in ECOWAS in Niger. The objective is to clarify key debates, identify practical implications, and outline a focused agenda for scholarship and policy. A mixed-methods design was used, combining survey and interview data collected over the study period. The analysis indicates persistent structural constraints alongside emerging local innovations; however, evidence remains uneven across contexts and sectors. The paper argues for context-specific approaches and stronger empirical foundations in future research. Stakeholders should prioritise inclusive, locally grounded strategies and improve data transparency. Informal Cross-Border Trade and Regional Integration in ECOWAS, Niger, Africa, African Studies, survey research This structured abstract provides a standardised summary to support rapid screening, indexing, and assessment of scholarly contribution.

Keywords: *Informal Cross-Border Trade and Regional Integration in ECOWAS, Niger, Africa, African Studies*

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