

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Food systems for the future
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Rice supply, demand, and trade
Keyword 2	: Value chain analysis
Keyword 3	: Markets and market integration
Title of Entry	: Impact of ECOWAS Common External Tariffs on Food Security and Nutrition in West Africa
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	<p>: Western African consumers increasingly rely on rice as a source of calories. Per-capita rice consumption and its share in per-capita caloric intake in West Africa has grown 22 percent in ten years since 2001-03. Increasing per-capita consumption and high population growth result in a significant growth in aggregate rice demand in the region, which increased from 11 million metric tons (mmt) of milled rice in 2006 to 18.5 mmt in 2016, or 6 percent a year. As dramatically exposed during the 2008 food crisis, achieving food security has traditionally been challenging for West African governments. With the aim to consolidate the process of regional integration and ensure food security, the Economic Community of West African countries (ECOWAS) are engaged in the creation of a Customs Union. Member countries negotiated a common external tariff currently under implementation. The CET is organized into five different tariff bands of 0%, 5%, 10%, 20% and 35% to accommodate the large variations in protection granted across the region. The implementation of the CET represents a challenge to many individual ECOWAS countries since it may generate significant and potentially destabilizing welfare distribution impacts. The objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of ECOWAS CET on the rice sectors and the food security situation of member countries, and the spillover effects on the international market using a supply-chain, partial, spatial equilibrium model of the global rice economy calibrated to the prevailing market conditions in the period 2013-2015. The findings highlight the impact of the CET on rice production, consumption, bilateral trade, and consumer, producer, and government welfare at the regional and global level, and the potential policy implications of such changes.</p>

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