



Value Chain Development Interventions in Francophone Africa: A Review of Donor Approaches

Mira Kim Teoh, Frank Hartwich

Background and Research Question

- Agricultural value chain development in francophone Africa is traditionally shaped by the French filière - an early value chain concept with much emphasis on state control.
- Research Question:
Do value chain development projects in francophone Africa share common characteristics?

Methodology

- Desk study - Review of 20 project documents focusing on 12 different francophone African countries
- Value Chain perspectives
- Compliance with value chain standards (rated against 10 criteria)
- Comparison with initiatives in anglophone countries

Comparison

Criteria	Francophone	Anglophone
Degree to which management of the value chain is left to the state		
Focus on firm development		
Focus on governance structures		
Focus on institutional framework		
Integrated analysis		
Geographical concentration		
Technology partnering and learning		
Greening the value chain		
Focus on poverty reduction		
Focus on gender roles and gender mainstreaming		

Document focuses considerably on the respective criterion
 Document does not focus on the respective criterion

Design of Value Chain Interventions



Conclusion

- Common characteristics of value chain development projects in francophone countries exist:
 - High degree of state control - independent of commodity, country or donor
 - Strong focus on firm development
 - Strong focus on institutional frameworks
 - Neglect of governance structures
- Filière approach seems to remain influential
- Considerable deviations between francophone and anglophone countries
- Surprising neglect of environmental and gender mainstreaming considerations in both regions