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## NEWS

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### [An Explanation of the Determinants of Bribery in Benin's Transborder Trade](#)

AGRODEP released a new [working paper](#) this month. "[An Explanation of the Determinants of Bribery in Benin's Transborder Trade](#)" by Sami Bensassi, Joachim Jarreau, and Cristina Mitaritonna examines whether the quantity and/or quality of goods traded through informal cross-border trade play a role in the determination of informal taxes. The paper posits that better understanding how informal taxes are determined will help policymakers and local authorities reduce informal cross-border trade.

### [Natural Resource Curse in Africa: Dutch Disease and Institutional Explanations](#)

A second new [working paper](#), "[Natural Resource Curse in Africa: Dutch Disease and Institutional Explanations](#)" was authored by Richard Mulwa and Jane Mariara. The paper examines the impact of natural resources on Africa's economic growth and seeks to determine the factors causing the apparent natural resource curse in the region. The paper finds that institutional factors like government effectiveness and corruption, as well as market mechanisms (i.e., Dutch disease effect), explain the curse in African economies.

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## DEVELOPMENTS

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### [Africa South of the Sahara Food Security Portal](#)

The [Africa South of the Sahara Food Security Portal](#) recently added new data and several new visualizations to its homepage interactive map feature. The national fertilizer price visualization presents data for six countries (Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia), while the local fertilizer price visualization presents data for three towns within Kenya. Additional local-level data is currently being gathered.

The policy decision visualization provides the data on trade, market, agriculture, health, infrastructure, and development policies in 36 countries. The visualization links to FAO's Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA) tool.

Finally, the market access visualization links to data from the [HarvestChoice](#) program and presents information regarding travel time to markets, agro-ecological zones, and more.

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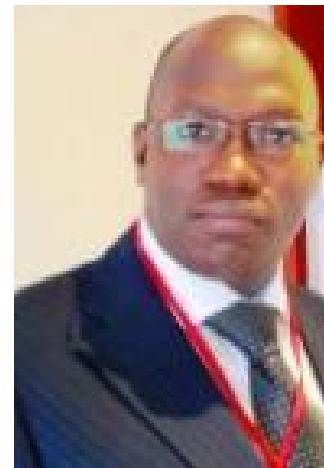
## FEATURED MEMBERS



**Dr. Leila Baghdadi** is a citizen of Tunisia. She joined AGRODEP in November 2012. At present, Leila is an Assistant Professor at the Tunis Business School, University of Tunis. She holds a B.A. in Economics from the University El Manar, an M.A. in Economics from the Paris School of Economics, and a Ph.D. in Economics from the Paris School of Economics. Before joining the University of Tunis, she worked for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). She specializes in development economics and economic modeling.



**Dr. Charles Nhemachena** is a citizen of Zimbabwe. He joined AGRODEP in April 2013. At present, Charles is Senior Research Specialist at the Human Sciences Research Council. He holds a B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics and Extension from the University of Zimbabwe, an M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics and Extension from the University of Zimbabwe, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, Rural Development, and Extension from the University of Pretoria. He specializes in development economics.



**Dr. Bernard Kiplimo** is a citizen of Kenya. He joined AGRODEP in July 2015. At present, Bernard is a Lecturer in the School of Business and Economics, Moi University. He holds a B.Sc., an M.Sc., and a Ph.D., all from the School of Business and Economics, Moi University. His areas of interest include value chain development, rural-urban governance, and the management of change in rural and urban areas.

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