



**Help food move freely
in West Africa.**
Know the rules.
Follow the rules.
Enforce the rules.

The USAID ATP and E-ATP projects are working to increase agricultural trade within West Africa, in partnership with the ECOWAS Commission and the regional value chain associations.

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How-To Guide for Traders and Transporters

*Moving Staple Foods Between
ECOWAS Countries*



ECOWAS Free Trade Foods:
Cereals, Animal products,
Fruits and vegetables,
Roots and tubers



ECOWAS
CEDEAO



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WEST AFRICA

BORDERLESS
Removing trade borders in West Africa

To report violations of the ECOWAS rules

Contact:

ECOWAS Commission
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Sy Alain Traoré, syalaintraore@yahoo.fr

Value Chain Regional Associations:

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Ghana National Association of Poultry Farmers
Kofi Henaku, henakes2001@yahoo.com

CIC-B (maize, millet-sorghum, rice)
Soumaila Sanou, cicb@fasonet.bf

Poultry Association of Nigeria
Onallo Samuel AKPA, poultassocnig@yahoo.com

UOFA (poultry)
Alimata Sawadogo Keita, alimatakeita@yahoo.fr

COFENABVI (livestock/meat)
Dr. Ba Moussa Coulibaly, bamoussacoulibaly@yahoo.fr

West Africa's farmers have the right to trade freely in their own countries and across borders.

West Africa is expanding food production under the Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa (ECOWAP). All 15 ECOWAS Member States are bound by rules that let basic foods move freely across their borders. Food must move freely for all to benefit. When there is road harassment or illegal payments, it drives up the cost of food for everyone.

**YOU can help food move
freely:**

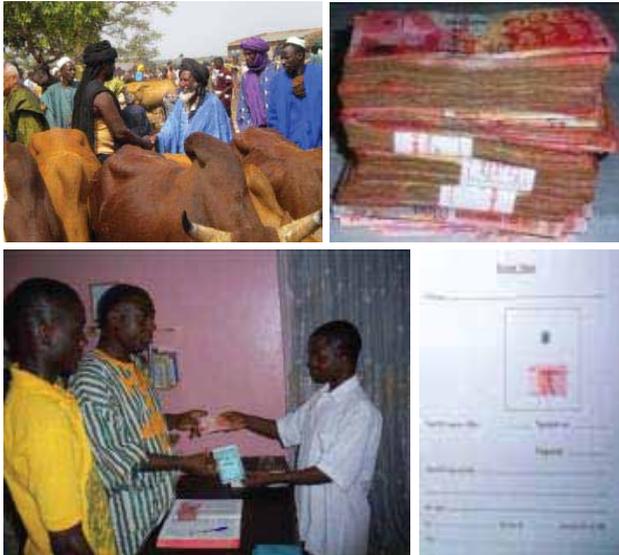
- Know the rules
- Follow the rules.
- Enforce the rules.



Always Collect Receipts

Be sure to ask for receipts for the following:

- Staple foods purchased for trade-transit
- Cost of transportation
- Freight forwarder fees (*transitaires*)



Know Your Rights!

Watch out! You may be asked for some documents that are not necessary under ECOWAS rules.

The ECOWAS ISRT Logbook is **not necessary** for the product, but is **necessary** for the vehicle. Staple foods are **not subject** to Customs duties or transit fees under A/P4/5/82—the ECOWAS Inter-State Road Transport Convention.



The Certificate of Origin is also **not necessary** for trade in staple foods between ECOWAS countries under ECOWAS Regulation A/P1/1/03.



Quick Reference:

ECOWAS Rules for Trading Staple Foods across Borders

ECOWAS Rules for Staple Foods Trade

- Customs Duties? **NO**
- VAT or sales tax? **NO**
- Statistical tax? **NO**
- Computerization fee? **NO**
- Freight forwarder fee? **YES**
- Transit fee? **NO**
- Weighbridge fee? **YES**
- Official road tolls? **YES**



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When Exporting

Before loading the truck, collect the Customs Export Declaration form and receipt. Collect the waybill (*lettre de voiture*) from the local shipper's office.

Collect the Phytosanitary Certificate and receipt.

For livestock, birds and meat products, obtain the Veterinary Certificate

When Importing

At the border, the freight forwarder will help you file with Customs the Import Declaration and the Temporary Import Permit for the vehicle.



Arriving at the destination market, pay the market entry fee to the market organization.



Road expenses

Duties & charges

Truck hire

Food purchased

Quick Reference:

Document List for Trading Staple Foods

Documents for Transporting Staple Foods

- ECOWAS Brown Card (insurance) **REQUIRED**
- Export declaration **REQUIRED**
- Veterinary/sanitary certificate **REQUIRED**
- Waybill **REQUIRED**
- National and international driver's licenses **REQUIRED**
- Certificate of origin **NOT NEEDED**
- ISRT Logbook **REQUIRED** for vehicle (but **no** transit fee)
- International Card for merchandise transport **REQUIRED**
- International Transhumance Certificate **REQUIRED** (live animals)

