Evolution of the structure of trade in Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa from 1995 to 2019

Jacques Berthelot (jacques.berthelot4@wanadoo.fr), SOL, December 9, 2020

These slides accompany the word document “In spite of its many sponsors, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) goes into the wall”:

I - External and internal trade of the world's continents from 1995 to 2019

II - External and internal trade of the major regions of Africa from 1995 to 2019

2.1 - Contradictions in African REC States according to UNCTAD and EU EPAs

2.2 - Percentage of extra-African trade in world trade

2.3 - Percentage of intra-African trade in their world and African trade

2.4 - Percentage of African intra-REC trade in their African trade

III - Trade in agricultural products, manufactured goods and fuel-minerals-metals

3.1 - Classification of products

3.2 - Distribution of Africa and SSA exports and imports between products

IV - The growing manufacturing trade deficit in Africa and SSA

V - Trade in fuels, minerals and metals in Africa and SSA from 1995 to 2019

VI - Agricultural and Food Trade in Africa and SSA from 1995 to 2019
Rate of intra-continental trade in world trade from 1995 à 2019

- UE28
- Europe
- Asie
- Amérique
- Afrique
- ASS
- AFN

Echanges totaux, Exportations, Importations
Rate of intra-continental trade in world trade in 2019

- UE28: 65,40% Exportations, 64,70% Importations
- Europe: 67,10% Exportations, 66,10% Importations
- Asie: 60,50% Exportations, 61,50% Importations
- Amérique: 45,50% Exportations, 39% Importations
- Afrique: 14,80% Exportations, 14,20% Importations
- ASS: 17,60% Exportations, 16,60% Importations
- AFN: 5,80% Exportations, 4,40% Importations

Total: 65,00% Exportations, 64,70% Importations

Total exportations are higher than total importations for all regions.
In surplus until 2012 (except in 2009), Africa has been in deficit since 2013: $92 bn, but less than in 2016 ($143 bn).
Trade of all products of Sub-Saharan Africa: 1995-2019

SSA accounts for only 15% of Africa's deficit in 2019 while it accounted for 61.8% of imports and 70.8% of exports.
Total world exports of African regions: 1995-2019

In million dollars

The average on the right is for all years from 1995 to 2019 and therefore does not imply a decrease after 2019.
World exports of Sub-Saharan African regions: 1995-2019

The average on the right is for all years from 1995 to 2019 and therefore does not imply a decrease after 2019.
The average on the right is for all years from 1995 to 2019 and therefore does not imply a decrease after 2019.
World imports of the SubSaharan regions: 1995-2019

In million dollars

The average on the right is for all years from 1995 to 2019 and therefore does not imply a decrease after 2019.
Share of African regions in world exports from 1995 to 2019

ASS/monde: 0.69% (moyenne 1995-2019), 0.74% (1995), 0.63% (2019)
AO/monde: 0.91% (moyenne 1995-2019), 0.44% (1995), 0.63% (2019)
AE/monde: 0.21% (moyenne 1995-2019), 0.19% (1995), 0.25% (2019)
AC/monde: 0.47% (moyenne 1995-2019), 0.22% (1995), 0.39% (2019)
AU/monde: 0.56% (moyenne 1995-2019), 0.63% (1995), 0.54% (2019)
Share of African regions in world imports from 1995 to 2019
The rate of regional self-centered trade has strongly decreased from 1995 to 2019 except for Southern Africa whose rate is close to that of West Africa.
Within sub-Saharan Africa, the hierarchy of regional export integration ranks West Africa first, followed by Southern Africa, East Africa, and Central Africa.
Within sub-Saharan Africa, the hierarchy of regional import integration ranks West Africa first, followed by Southern Africa, East Africa, and Central Africa.
The percentage of agricultural exports has fallen sharply since 1995, although it has risen sharply since 2012, while the percentage of agricultural imports has stagnated, without being compensated by more exports of manufactured products, but only by more exports of fuels, minerals and metals (slide 20), reflecting a stagnation of specialization in the export of unprocessed primary products in an "extractivist" economy.
Distribution of African exports between agricultural products, manufactured and fuel-metals-minerals products: 1995 to 2019

Produits agricoles | Produits manufacturés | Combustibles-minerais-métaux

1995:
- Produits agricoles: 20.51%
- Produits manufacturés: 25.82%
- Combustibles-minerais-métaux: 53.67%

2019:
- Produits agricoles: 15.60%
- Produits manufacturés: 23.11%
- Combustibles-minerais-métaux: 61.29%

Moyenne:
- Produits agricoles: 20.16%
- Produits manufacturés: 20.16%
- Combustibles-minerais-métaux: 66.95%
Distribution of African imports between agricultural products, manufactured and fuel-metals-minerals products: 1995 to 2019

- **1995**
  - Produits agricoles: 18,67%
  - Produits manufacturés: 69,86%
  - Combustibles-mineraux-métaux: 11,47%

- **2019**
  - Produits agricoles: 16,74%
  - Produits manufacturés: 64,75%
  - Combustibles-mineraux-métaux: 18,51%

- **Moyenne**
  - Produits agricoles: 16,36%
  - Produits manufacturés: 66,47%
  - Combustibles-mineraux-métaux: 17,47%
Distribution of SSA exports between agricultural products, manufactured and fuel-metals-minerals products: 1995 to 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Produits agricoles</th>
<th>Produits manufacturés</th>
<th>Combustibles-mineraux-métaux</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23,81%</td>
<td>51,19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>17,30%</td>
<td>17,71%</td>
<td>64,99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moyenne</td>
<td>15,47%</td>
<td>17,78%</td>
<td>66,75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Distribution of SSA imports between agricultural products, manufactured and fuel-metals-minerals products: 1995 to 2019

Produits agricoles  Produits manufacturés  Combustibles-minerais-métaux

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>13,86%</td>
<td>72,33%</td>
<td>13,81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>15,71%</td>
<td>63,94%</td>
<td>20,35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moyenne</td>
<td>14,75%</td>
<td>66,47%</td>
<td>18,78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The percentage of manufactured imports in Africa's total imports has been on average 3 times higher than that of exports, and this percentage has changed little since 1995, hence the need for a self-focused strategy.
The percentage of manufactured imports in total SSA imports was on average 3.4 times that of exports, percentage little changed since 1995, and that of exports of manufactured products fell more than that of imports, further reducing competitiveness.
Trade of African manufactured products from 1995 to 2019

Exportations | Importations | Solde

In million dollars

Source: UNCTAD
Exportations
Importations
solde

Trade of SSA manufactured products: 1995-2019

in million dollars

Source: UNCTAD
Per capita trade deficit in $ in manufactured products of Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa from 1995 to 2019

Source: UNCTAD and UN population data base
Increasing deficit of African trade in manufactured products according to their technological level: 1995-2019

Forte intensité de main-d’œuvre  | Technologie faible  | Technologie moyenne  | Technologie élevée  | Solde total
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---

Deficits in medium- and high-tech products are 2.8 times higher in 2019 than those of low labour-intensive products and low technology and those of medium technology were superior to those with high technology but this gap has been narrowing since 2013.
Deficits in medium- and high-tech products are 2.7 times higher in 2019 than those of low labour-intensive products and of low technology and those of medium technology have increased more than those of superior technology since 2014.
Distribution of trade deficit of Africa and SSA in manufactured products according to their technological level from 1995 to 2019

Afrique
Afrique subsaharienne
The percentage of manufactured products of average and high technology is slightly higher (2.8%) in 2019 than in the 1995 to 2019 period and only slightly higher over the two periods in Africa at the 1995-2019 average.
Africa's share of fuel, minerals and metals (FMM) exports in its total trade was 4.2 times higher on average than the % of imports but has decreased to 3.6 times since 2015. And the drop in the % of exports since 2012 has not resulted in a significant drop in imports.
SSA's share of exports of fuels, minerals and metals in its total exports was 3.7 times higher on average than the SSA's share of its FMM imports in its total imports, but has decreased to 3.5 times since 2015.

Source: CNUCED
Comments on Africa and SSA trade in agricultural products from 1995 to 2019

Slides 32 to 35 present the annual evolution of agricultural trade – including food products and agricultural raw materials - and slides 36 to 40 detail the evolution of the trade of food products, with or without coffee-cacao-tea-spices.

Relatively balanced from 1995 to 2003, Africa's agricultural trade deficit has increased until 2013 ($35.8 bn), then reduced to $18.9 billion in 2019. The percentage of its agricultural exports in its total exports has declined significantly since 1995 but has been rising since 2012 when the percentage of agricultural imports has stagnated.

On the other hand, SSA's agricultural trade was in deficit only in 2008 and from 2012 to 2014, with a surplus declining from €7.8 billion in 2017 to €4.4 billion in 2019.
African agricultural trade (in food + agricultural raw materials) from 1995 to 2019

In million dollars

Exportations  Importations  Solde

Source: UNCTAD
The percentage of agricultural exports has fallen sharply since 1995, although it has risen sharply since 2012, while the percentage of agricultural imports has stagnated, without being offset by more exports of manufactured goods but only by more exports of fuels, minerals and metals (slide 20).

Source: CNUCED
SSA agricultural trade (food + agricultural raw materials) from 1995 to 2019

Source: UNCTAD
Africa's food trade has been consistently in deficit since 1995 (and much earlier) with a maximum of $41 billion in 2014, reduced to $23.6 billion in 2019.

In 2019, Africa's food imports accounted for 87.7% of agricultural imports and food exports 78.2% of agricultural exports.

However, without trade in coffee-cacao-tea-spices (CCTS), which are not basic food staples and which have had little effect on imports, the food deficit of Africa would have reached $112 billion in 2019, 4.7 times more than its agricultural trade deficit.

SSA has been running a food deficit since 2005, with a maximum deficit of 14 billion in 2012, down to $4.8 billion in 2019. But without the CCTS, the deficit would have been at 76.5 billion in 2012 and still at $64.5 billion in 2019.

Without CCTS, West Africa would have faced a deficit since 1995 ($1.2 billion) and of 5.9 billion from 1995 to 2019, of which $9.2 billion in 2019. Environmental damage of cocoa and the slavery of Sahelian children on the plantations require a reduction in production.
Africa’s food trade from 1995 to 2019

Exportations | Importations | Solde

In million dollars

Source: UNCTAD
Sub Sahara’s food trade from 1995 to 2019

Source: UNCTAD
SSA’s food trade without coffee-cocoa-tea-spices: 1995-2019

Exportations  Importations  Solde

In million dollars

Source: UNCTAD