

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND INTRA-REGIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN WEST AFRICA

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ECONOMICS

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## **DECLARATION**

I, Lofinmakin, Ayinke Busola hereby declare that this dissertation is my original work and that no portion of this work has been or will be submitted in support of an application for another degree or qualification of this or any other university or other institution of learning.

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Signature and Date

## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this research work, written by LOFINMAKIN AYINKE BUSOLA was supervised and approved in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master of Science (M.Sc.) Degree in Economics from the Department of Economics and Development Studies, College of Business and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this research work to God Almighty, to my Dad, Mum, current and future family.

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## **ABSTRACT**

There has been an increase in West Africa trade on the global value chain but not so on the intra-regional level. This study which is motivated, among others, by the debate on the role of Economic integration as a determinant of bilateral trade performance, provides an empirical investigation on the effects of trade cost, trade policy and infrastructure quality on bilateral trade flows in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for the period 2006 to 2015. The augmented gravity model of trade was adopted to explain the effect of economic integration in facilitating and promoting intra-regional agricultural trade flow; which was estimated using the following estimation technique such as pooled regression, one-way fixed effect, 3-way fixed effect, least square dummy variable, panel fixed effect, panel random effect and Poisson Pseudo-Maximum Likelihood techniques. Results from the various estimation technique shows that weighted average distance (trade cost) has a negative relationship on intra-regional trade while the stock of regional road infrastructure has a positive relationship. The study recommends that ECOWAS finances should be invested in improving road transportation to boost intra-regional agricultural trade instead of developing free trade zones to help facilitate intra-regional agricultural trade in the region.