

Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI)

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Introduction

The Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI) is a nonpartisan think tank based in Yaoundé Cameroon. CEPI was officially launched this year in June 2022, under the Henri Kouam Foundation. With **Mr. Henri Kouam** as its president and Executive Director, and a team of **10 board members** composed of experts, directors, policy makers and civil administrators. We have begun our operations and are currently in the process of completing our main activities for the year.

Summary of Report

Registration: We registered with the Henri Kouam Foundation, under which CEPI operates. The Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI) is a think tank and innovative research center where CEPI is lodged. The registration of CEPI was met with fierce objections from some civil administrators due to its initial name that had the word “Economic”.

Website: The website was created by an Irish company and has a Word Press design. Its design, copy, picture design, and implementation training were done by an external agency. The website is now ready and we have been publishing our policy briefs, newspaper articles and policy updates.

Publications, Articles and Policy Briefs

In 2023, we published a total of 21 articles and policy briefs. We did not publish any report as we only operated for six months in 2023, but we intend to publish two reports in 2024. We have included some of these articles in the graphic below. Most of our articles tend to be republished in local newspapers to ensure that we get a wider readership and actively change minds and challenge narratives of government control. A few articles have ended up on the first page of *Defi Actuel*, raising CEPI's profile as a credible actor in public policy across Cameroon. We have called for a liberalization of markets and little government involvement in business' affairs. We have openly argued for lower taxes in the cocoa sector and have used our media engagement to that effect.

At least 45% of our policy briefs were republished in *Defi Actuel* and *Cameroon Business Today* in both English and French. However, some of our articles were not published in the websites of the newspapers but rather in the print version that is shared to policy makers and Directors in all major



miniseries. However, we attended “Royal FM” our local radio station at least twice a week. A total of 18 newspaper articles were published between June 2023 and December 2023 in local media. We gave four TV interviews and over 15 radio interviews between June and December 2023.

Figure 1: List of pertinent Newspaper Articles

Overcoming Barriers to Technology Adoption	
How is Cameroon implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) ?	
The Coup in Gabon will Disrupt Trade and Slow Investment	
The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Can Unleash Africa’s Potential	
Rules of Origin: What are they, and Why do they matter for Free Trade	

Media Advocacy

The media is an important partner for new and emerging think tanks such as us. We engage regularly with the media and have advocated forming tight and valuable relationships. We published regularly for [Defi Actuel](#), a reputable French paper and equally right for [News du Camer](#), a digital print paper that is mostly read by youths in secondary school and micro-businesses owners. We equally write for [Cameroon Business Today \(CBT\)](#). This year, we published in print and digital media at least once a month. Most of our Op-eds and policy briefs were republished in part or in full. The list of newspaper publications and news articles are found in the Table 1 below.

While we do not have access to all the print issues, we have archived all newspaper contributions here below. In the Table below, we have included a list of articles and links or issue numbers to ensure that they can be retracted if need be. Three of our webinars were reported by The Guardian Post, aimed at Anglophone audiences. Meanwhile, other articles were equally published in French in Defi Actuel

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and for the first time in our history, our volunteer called Haiwang Djamo published with Mr. Henri Kouam in a local Newspaper.

Title of Articles	Lien	Newspaper
Politiques transitoires en faveur des Pauvres peuvent Supporter L'élimination des Subventions (Énergétiques) inefficaces.	https://camepi.org/2023/12/18/politique-s-transitoires-en-faveur-des-pauvres-peuvent-supporter-lelimination-des-subsventions-energetiques-inefficaces/	Défi Actuel Issue. 338
L'Afrique devrait utiliser le financement vert pour ses besoins en infrastructures »	https://www.newsducamer.com/henri-kouam-expert-en-politiques-publiques-lafrique-devrait-utiliser-le-financement-vert-pour-ses-besoins-en-infrastructures/	News du Camer
Le Cameroun amplifie la lutte contre le blanchiment des capitaux	https://www.newsducamer.com/cameroon-amplifie-la-lutte-contre-le-blanchiment-des-capitaux/	News du Camer
Le coup d'Etat au Gabon aura un impact économique sur la sous région		News du Camer
The Coup In Gabon Will Disrupt Trade and Slow Investment	https://cameroonbusinesstoday.cm/articles/3490/fr/the-coup-in-gabon-will-disrupt-trade-and-slow-investment	News du Camer



Fundraising

Our strategy is to approach fundraising through grant applications and individual donations. We will be partnering with local businesses to support our work with a minimum donation of \$100 a year.

Grants

We have applied for two grants so far, one at *Institut Francaise* that sought to advance agriculture policy and raise awareness about climate change in the agriculture sector. We are awaiting the results from the grant application in March 2023. We have equally applied for a grant from the Atlas Network that will enable us to continue the seamless execution of our “*Trade for You*”. We have started executing our project and have so far published five policy briefs and held one event on free trade following the war in Ukraine and its impact on fertilizers and wheat. We are equally applying for an agriculture grant that will be submitted to IDRC and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This project will be completed by Mr. Dinga Tambi who will equally be the project lead.

Individuals Donations

We have successfully raised \$100 from a local construction company and are on track to raise \$1000 by the end of 2024. We aim for our work to get as much local support as international support from partners such as the Atlas Network or the IATP. We will equally seek out new partners and make sure that a total of 20 professionals donate to CEPI in 2024. The aim is to get more people interested in our work, while equally making sure they follow our work. So far, we have had introductory talks with several professionals and we have sent our slide deck to Alex Cordell, Director of Training at the Atlas Network to provide us with some feedback. This will ensure us to target our fundraising in a manner that increases donations and possibly help us reach and exceed our goal. It is important that Cameroonians support our work.

Programs

In isolation, policies cannot be effective unless the people who they impact have the skills, knowledge and tools to leverage them. Take exporting under the AfCFTA, very few businesses understand how to go about exporting under the free trade agreement. Our programs seek to create change on the ground and make sure that entrepreneurs and businesses have a community where they can learn low-

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cost solutions that can advance their businesses. We have started executing four of our six projects; namely “Let’s Work Initiative”, “Trade for you”, “Green Agriculture” and “Education for All”. We have held a number of events under each program that can be found below. We attempted to organize an event under each program, but fell short due to lack of funding. Our board members have been supportive in providing initial support for banners, marketing and paying trainers.

Program	Event Name	Panelists	Attendees
Trade for You	Webinar Impact of the War in Ukraine on the Cameroonian Economy	19/08/2023	18
Let’s Work Initiative	Webinar The Effectiveness of Taxes on Cameroonian Companies	01/09/2023	15
Education for All	Webinar The Role of the Media and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Supporting Policy Outcomes in Cameroon	25/08/2023	10
Let’s Work Initiative	Webinar - Getting Started with Digital Marketing	08/09/2023	25
Green Agriculture	Webinar with World Food Programme Director A Decade of Agriculture in Cameroon: Lessons and Prospects for the Future.	15/09/2023	23
Green Agriculture - Working Group	Webinar - The Impact of Climate Change on the Farmers	24/11/2023	15
Green Agriculture - Working Group	Session de Travail - L’impact de changement climatique sur les agriculteurs	24/11/2023	7
AI Academy	In-person: Impact of AI on the Cameroonian Economy	17/12/2023	45-55



Events for the Year 2023

We had a total of eight events that have been outlined in Table 1. These events occurred under five out of six programs and took place between June and December 2023. The reports for all the events can be found below in greater detail. A majority of said events were published in the newspapers by the Guardian Post ([Report 1](#) and [Report 2](#))

Report || Webinar|| Impact of the War in Ukraine on the Cameroonian Economy || 19/08/2023

Introduction

The Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI), organized a webinar on **Saturday 19th August 2023** on the theme **“The Economic Impact of the Russia - Ukraine War on the Cameroonian Economy”** under its project **“Trade for You”**. The webinar analyzed Cameroon’s trading relationship with Russia and Ukraine, followed by the economic impact of the war, government measures to assist businesses and citizens, and targeted policy recommendations.

1. Évaluation of Cameroon’s trading relationship with Russia and Ukraine

The panelists noted that Russia and Ukraine are essential trading partners to Cameroon, even though

19th August 2023, 12:30-14:00 - Xoom



Moderator:
Bayie Kamanda Anyi,
Chercheuse, MINRESI,
Cameroon Economic Policy
Institute (CEPI)

Mr. Henri Kouam,
President/Fondateur,
Cameroon Economic Policy
Institute (CEPI)

Mr. Parfait Eppoh
Expert en commerce
international et facilitation
des échanges

we import more than we export to both countries. For example, by 2020, Russia absorbed only 0.04% of Cameroonian exports, while Russian exports to Cameroon grew from \$11.5 million to \$96 billion between 2010 and 2020. During the same period, the panelists noted that Cameroon exports fell from \$2 billion to \$118 million over the same

period. Ukraine is equally the most crucial trading partner in steel products, with over 35% of the market share in Cameroon, while China and Turkey come at 26% and 18%, respectively. Cameroon spent \$60.9 billion in 2020 to buy steel from Ukraine, underscoring its importance to construction and industrial companies.

2. How did the war in Ukraine impact the Cameroonian economy

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The war in Ukraine has directly impacted the prices of wheat and commodities. Cameroon imports 65% of its grain, 17% of its fertilizer, 8% of its hydrocarbons, and 4% of steel products from Russia. The panelist found that the price of essential commodities like bread, fertilizer, and steel rose by about 10 - 30%.

For example, the cost of bread has increased from CFA 125 to CFA 150, making breakfast more expensive and causing the average food price basket to rise. Our inflation rate of This has equally accentuated the government's decision to increase fuel prices at the pump, increasing the cost of transporting agricultural products to the market. The current account will worsen in the absence of targeted measures. Meanwhile, trade will be negatively impacted by the Russia-Ukraine war.

3. What measures did the government put in place to reduce the impact of the war in Ukraine on everyday Cameroonians

The government reduced VAT for certain domestic products and provided alternatives to Russian and Ukrainian products to local producers. Meanwhile, a special envelope was enacted to help reduce the cost of dearer food prices for consumers.

4. Recommendations

Mr. Parfait Epoh, an expert from the Ministry of Commerce, noted that the current measures are in place. But the private sector must find strategies to boost wheat production and credibly engage with existing policies to support import substitution. Mr. Kouam Henri, the Founder of CEPI, noted that we must begin reducing our exposure to external shocks by adapting with what we have. For example, cassava flour should make up at least 1/3 of all products produced with flour. This has been applied by our neighbor, Nigeria, and will reduce our reliance on foreign wheat for producing local flour while reducing our deficit with Russia.

Secondly, SONARA must continue to repay its debt on time as it is currently doing with 8 local banks, before investing in refinery capacity that will allow Cameroon to produce distilled products and other oil derivatives that can be used in local products like paint, cosmetics, etc. This will form the foundation of Cameroon's industrialization—the event moderated by Mme. Bayie Kamada of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (CNE) ended at 1:15 PM.



Report || Webinar|| The Effectiveness of Taxes on Cameroonian Companies || 01/09/2023

Introduction

The Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI), organized a webinar on Friday 1st September 2023 under the theme “*The Effectiveness of Taxes on Cameroonian Companies*”. The webinar analyzed the nature of taxes, the rationale for the current taxation rate and how companies are impacted. It concluded with targeted policy recommendations.

Cameroon Economic Policy Institute
THE ESSENCE OF CHANGE

Une Discussion sur L'efficacité des impôts sur les sociétés au Cameroun

01 Septembre 2022 12:30 - 13:30



PANELISTE

Mr. Mazou Mouliom
President, ACDC



MODERATEUR

Mr. Henri Kouam
Founder, CEPI

Participation: Gratuite - Envoyer votre renom et le thème à contact @camepi.org

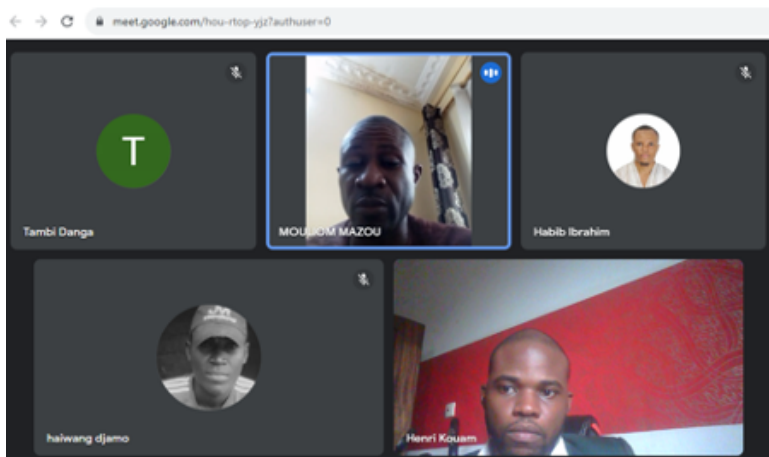
1. Assessment of Tax Rates

The total corporate tax rate in Cameroon is 33% for companies whose turnover is over 3 billion African Financial Community (XAF). For companies with a turnover of less than 3 billion CFA francs and meeting the additional criteria set by law, the tax rate is set at 27.5%. The President of “l’Association camerounaise pour la défense des droits des contribuables” said that while Cameroon’s corporation tax rate is higher than neighboring countries like Nigeria, it is necessary to ensure that the government can invest in vital infrastructure. He

encouraged businesses to pay their taxes to support Cameroon’s economic development.

He equally praised current efforts to digitize tax and said more needs to be done to ensure that businesses can easily register, declare and pay their taxes. Furthermore, he outlined that formal businesses have a duty to contribute to Cameroon’s development and the current tax rate should be seen in light of Cameroon’s development needs.

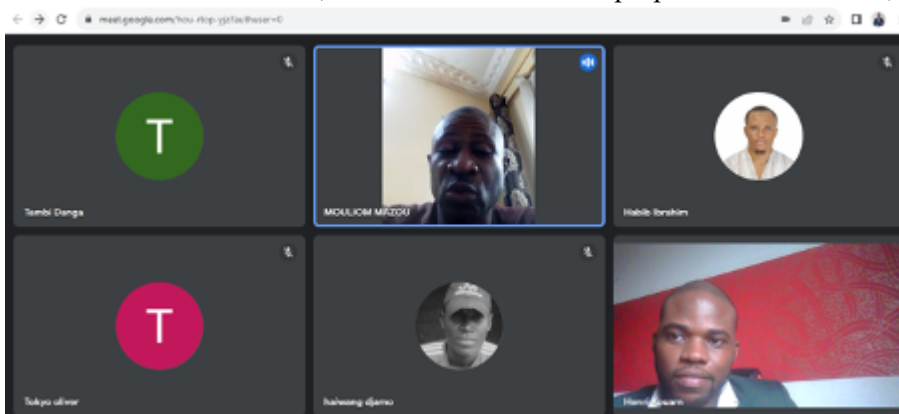
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Mr. Henri Kouam, the founder of CEPI noted that there is a minimum tax of 2.2% or 5.5% based on turnover and according to the taxpayer's tax regime. The deposit is 10% for any taxpayer not registered at a tax office. The rate of 10% is increased to 20% for forestry companies who do not possess a forestry permit duly issued by the competent authority. Mr. Henri Kouam,

illustrated that Cameroon currently has a high debt burden and infrastructure needs that must be financed. However, he advocated for a lower rate, to support business investment that can create more jobs and broaden the tax base.

M. Mouloum, the President of ACDC proposed three reforms;



- Businesses should register and declare their taxes and can approach validated centers such as that at ACDC.
- The tax system should be digitized to encourage more businesses to register.
- He recommended that civil society

organizations should sensitize citizens on the need to pay taxes to support Cameroon's economic development.

CEPI advocates for lower taxes and economic freedom, to support Cameroonian entrepreneurs and businesses as the gains from lower taxes may be invested back into the economy, creating jobs and economic prosperity.



Report || Webinar - The Role of the Media and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Supporting Policy Outcomes in Cameroon || 25/08/2023

Introduction

Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and the media are indispensable for a well-functioning democracy like Cameroon. However, there is no record of cooperation between both entities to support or achieve policy outcomes that are directly linked to economic development. As such, the Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI) conducted a webinar under the theme “ **The Role of Civil Society Organizations and the Media in Supporting Policy Outcomes**” with civil society organizations and media representatives to discuss strategies and a framework for better cooperation between both entities. The panel discussion moderated by Mr. Henri Kouam- the founder of CEPI - took place via Google Meets on the 25th August 2023.

A panelist - **Mr. Peter Nsoesie, a TV presenter at Dash Media** - noted that before civil society organizations seek to engage with the media, they should have a communication plan and develop their social media presence to ensure more impact. Secondly, he noted that the media and CSOs must reinforce governance and hold the government and other stakeholders to account.

Another panelist, Mr. Yannick Ngellewi - an **Economic Journalist at Royal FM** noted that the funding mechanisms of media reduce incentives to cooperate. He advocated for a realignment of objectives and admitted that focusing on social issues instead of economic issues can be damaging to

the debate. He outlined that human rights issues sometimes take away from more urgent debates such as living standards, access to education and health care among others.

The panelist recommended that media and CSOs debate should focus on real economic issues

Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI)

Thème : Le rôle des organisations de la société civile et des médias dans la conduite des politiques

Mr. Peter Nsoesie
présentateur TV, Dash Media

Mr. Yannick Ngellewi
Journaliste Royal FM

Mr. Henri Kouam
Fondateur, CEPI



INSCRIVEZ-VOUS AUJOURD'HUI : E-mail "Nom" et "Thème de l'événement" à contact@camepi.org

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such as the cost-of-living crisis, access to education and the improvement in our infrastructure.

- Secondly, they outlined that NGOs and CSOs must share the results of their research with the media through both formal and informal networks. This will encourage servant leadership and ensure that the media and CSOs work together towards the improvement of economic policies in Cameroon.
- Media organizations must diversify their pool of experts and establish relationships with research-based institutions that can answer specific questions about Cameroon's economic development. It is important for the media and CSOs to act as watchdogs to ensure civil liberties, property rights and the economic freedoms of all Cameroonians.
- The event illustrated the need for civil society organizations and the media to set an agenda that reflects the needs, challenges and opportunities in the policy front. This will attract the attention of policy makers and allow for more inclusive policy making across Cameroon. Finally, it was noted that NGOs must disclose who their funders and partners are, to establish a relationship based on trust, transparency and openness in discussing ideas.

The Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI) reiterated its commitment to improve the quality of economic policies through fact-based research, debates, and advocacy to reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of Cameroonians.

Report || Webinar - Getting Started with Digital Marketing ||

08/09/2023

Introduction

The Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI) organized a training on Marketing titled “Getting Started with Digital Marketing” on 08 September 2023. The event was facilitated by CEPI's founder, Mr. Henri Kouam and the trainer was Mr. Mahery Zuffelato, Marketing Expert based in Paris, France.

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CAMEROON ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE
(CEPI)

Débuter avec le Marketing Digitale

GUEST SPEAKER

MODERATEUR



MAHERY ZUFFELATTO
FONDATEUR, AGENCE NEWCOLLAB



HENRI KOUAM
FONDATEUR, CEPI



FRIDAY
8 SEPTEMBER 2023



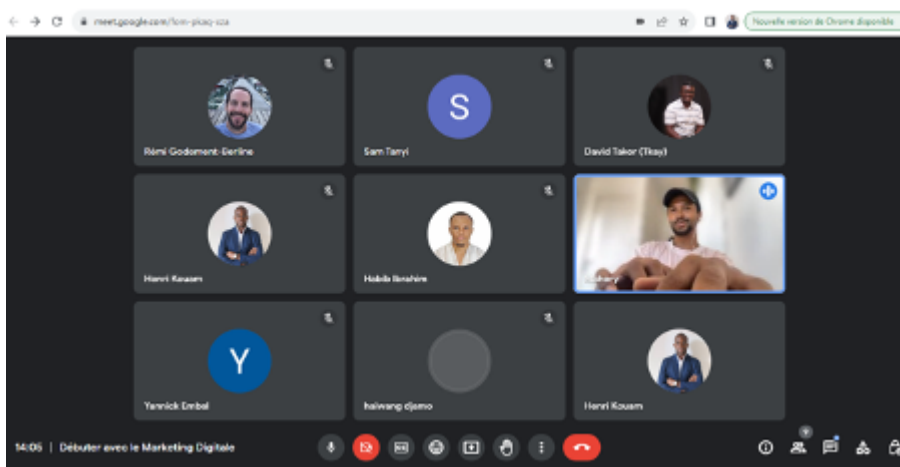
TIME
14.00 - 14.45 PM

REGISTER NOW

Send your name and the theme to
contact@camepi.org

The event took place against a backdrop of high bankruptcies in Cameroon and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that will increase competition for Cameroonian business both home and abroad. In its report on the second general business census (RGE-2) published in 2019, the national statistics institute (INS) revealed that 2,316 businesses out of 6,458 closed down between 2009 and 2016; a bankruptcy rate of about 36% over the period. INS mainly blamed this reality on the size of the company, the degree of the manager (or main promoter), and the company's legal form. According to the institute, compared with large companies (GE), a medium-sized company (ME) is almost 20% more likely to go bankrupt. The risk is 31% for a small business and 39% for a very small business.

As such, this training was designed to equip Cameroon, African and European entrepreneurs and professionals on the basics of marketing. Mr. Mahery Zuffelatto, the Marketing Expert from New Collab gave an interesting presentation that can be found on the website of Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI);



- He recommended that businesses and professionals invest in creating engaging content.
- They should use sales promotions to encourage consumers to buy their products.
- They should work with influencers and leverage new tools such as TikTok to drive traffic to their website.
- Email marketing should focus on informing and converting new customers into buyers.

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- Finally, organic content can generate real revenues for businesses who invest the time and effort to speak and reach their audience.

The event with over 25 participants from three continents concluded at 3PM and the expert's presentation can be accessed from CEPI management. Mr. Henri Kouam

thanked the participants and the trainer for their time and ended the event. The Cameroon Economic Policy Institute is a think tank of the Henri Kouam Foundation who seeks to improve the quality of economic policies through fact-based research, debates, and advocacy to reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of Cameroonians. They are reachable on all social media websites and provide free training for businesses and professionals as well as regular publications to support economic policies and the business community.



Report || Webinar || A Decade of Agriculture in Cameroon: Lessons and Prospects for the Future - 15/09/2023

Introduction

The Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI) organized a webinar on Friday, 15th September 2023, on the theme *“A decade of agriculture in Cameroon: Lessons and prospects for the future.”* under its flagship project, *“Trade for You.”* The webinar took stock of Cameroon’s agriculture policy over the last years and proposed recommendations to improve the design and implementation of agriculture policy.

Cameroon ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE (CEPI)
INSIGHTFUL DISCUSSION

Agriculture Policy Update
2023

Theme: A Decade of Agriculture in Cameroon: Lessons and Future Prospects

2:00-3:00 pm
15th September 2023

To Attend: Email your name and the theme of the event to contact@camepi.org.

Our speakers

WANJIA KAARIA
Representative & Country Director, World Food Programme

NANCY NALOVA
Founder & Board Chair, NAN-AGRIC

ITUE HANSEL
Executive Director, Centre For Rural Action

HENRI KOUAM
Executive Director, Cameroon Economic Policy Institute CEPI

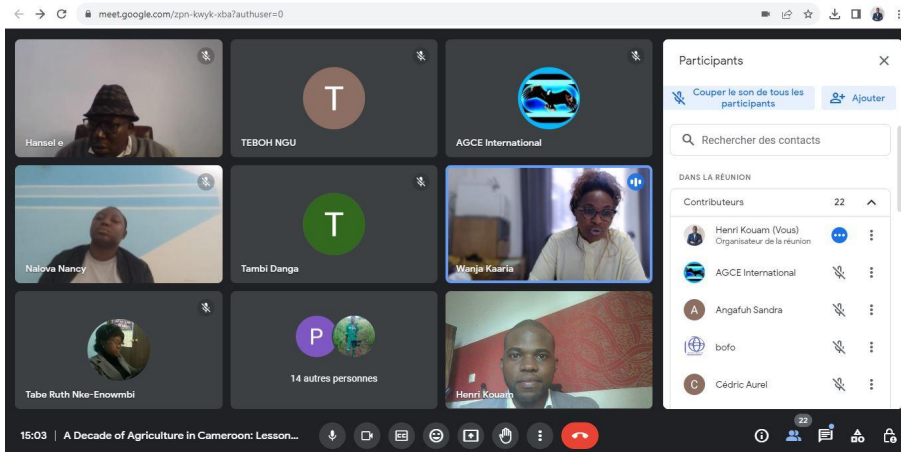
It was moderated by the Founder of the Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI), **Mr. Henri Kouam**, and the panelists include **Mme. Wanjia Kaaria**, Country Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), **Miss Nancy Nalova**, Founder of Nan-Agric, and the Executive Director of Center for Rural Action, Mr. Itua Hansel. The event occurred against rising food prices in Cameroon; over 45% of the workforce is still employed in the agriculture sector and the sector's 17% contribution to GDP.

Cameroon’s agriculture policy was designed and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, IRAD, and multinational partners represented by the World Food Programme

at the event.

According to Mme. Wanjia Karia, Country Representative of the World Food Program, noted that they have engaged in strategic partnerships with the Cameroonian government, such as the global

food security cluster, the international alliance against hunger, and the coordination of many other activities, designed to build capacity, advocate for inclusive environmentally friendly policies and innovative practices.

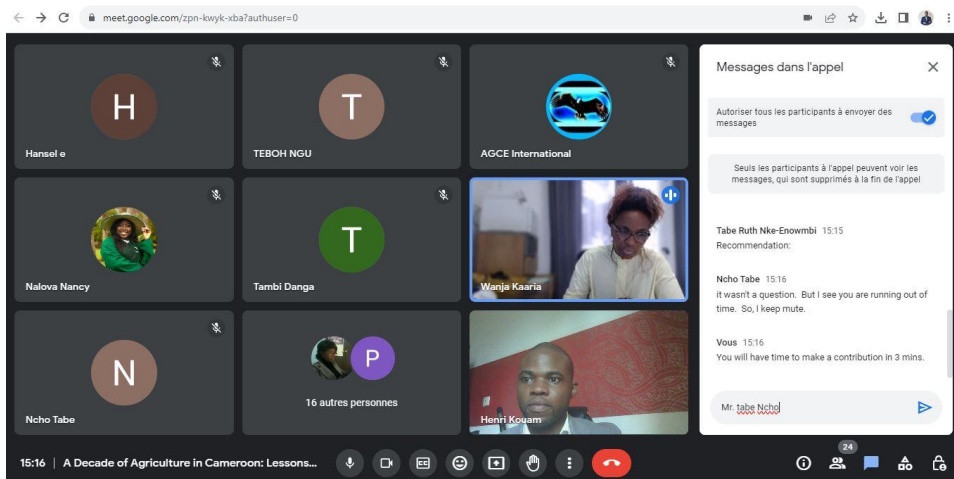


Mr. Henri Kouam, the founder of CEPI, noted that the government had undertaken several programs between 2010 - 2023, namely;

- *National Agricultural Extension and Agricultural Research Program (PNVRA)*
- *Competitiveness of Agricultural Operations Improvement Program (ACEFA)*

- *Grassfield Participatory and Decentralized Development Project (GP-DERUDEP).*
- *Rural Development Project in the Region of Mount Mbappit.*
- *Plantain Sector Re-launch Program (CSRP)*
- *The MINFI provision of a 200 billion FCFA guarantee for SMEs who lend from banks and microfinance institutions in 2023*

Recommendations



- Mme. Wanja Karia, Country Representative of the World Food Program, applauded CEPI's initiative that brought over 70 Agriculture grassroots associations, businesses, and think tanks in Cameroon at this event and encouraged all actors to work better together to improve agriculture policy.

- The other panelists recommended better capacity building and sensitization from the government and institutions like CEPI.
- They equally called for all projects, financing, and programs to be quantifiable to enable us better to

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measure the impact and effects of agriculture policies.

IMPORTANT:

CEPI has formed a network of 70 agriculture organizations and businesses across Cameroon, who will accompany policymakers in decision-making through evidence-based analysis and events. The Founder encouraged all associations to spread the word about Cameroon's largest agriculture network to support economic development and improve food security.

Report || Webinar - The Impact of Climate Change on the Farmers || 24/11/2023

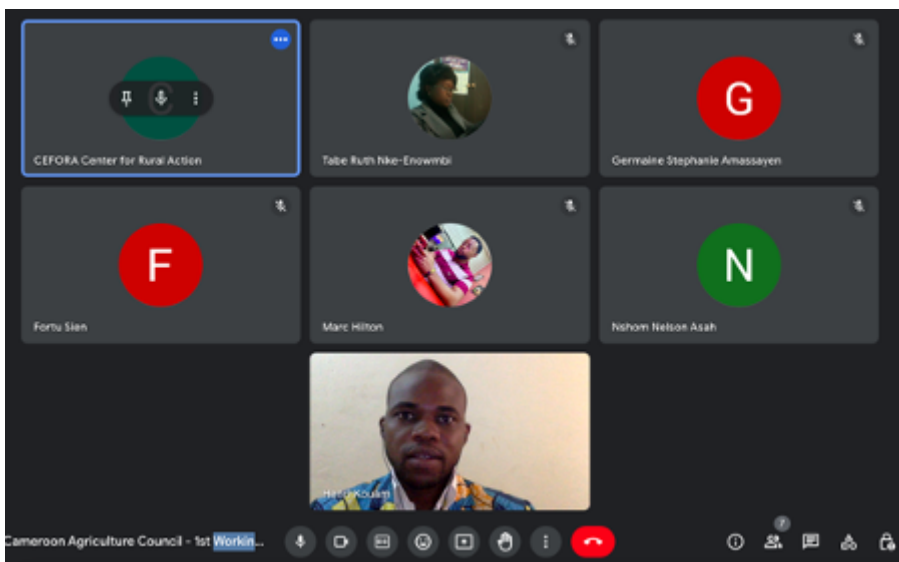
Introduction

Climate change has a direct impact on more than 70% of the population whose livelihood depends directly on agriculture. As such, the Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI), a think tank, conducted its first working session with Cameroon's Agriculture Council and held a session under the theme "The Impact of Climate Change on Farmers". The group of 17 participants were facilitated by **Mr. Henri Kouam- the founder of CEPI** - via Google Meets on 24th November 2023.

The panelists found that the socioeconomic impact of climate change shocks is hurting both the structural poor and the close to 40% of vulnerable households in Cameroon. Women, especially those living in conflict areas or indigenous groups, are more severely hit by climate change because they account for 75% of workers in the informal agricultural sector and are primarily responsible for the welfare of their households and food security.

Mrs Tabe Ruth, Head of FORUDEV noted that climate change is impacting cassava production in Batoke while production in the Oyomodjock and Akwaya area have been equally impacted negatively due to climate change. Climate change is causing people to leave their farms and move to crowded or climate-sensitive areas, which is equally causing production to fall. Members of Cameroon's Agriculture Council recommended the following.

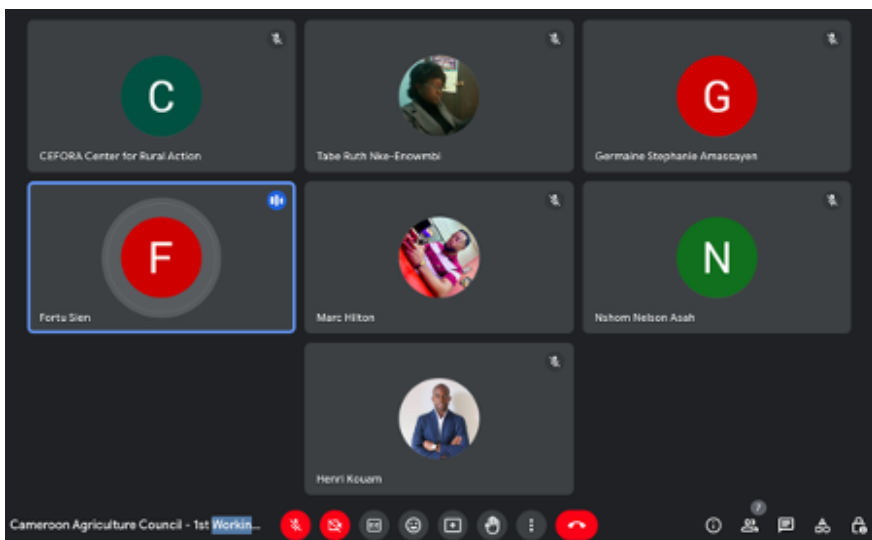
- **Mr. Itua Hansel from the Center for Rural Action** - We should improve technical support and advisory for farmers, while using aid to support start-ups and small-scale holders.



- **Miss. Tabe Ruth, from FORUDEV** argues that at least 500 farmers should be trained in each region on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Her collaborator, Mr. Fortu Sien finds that mixed cropping could improve soil resilience, allowing
- **Mr. Fortu Sein:** On-farm training and intercropping to maximize soil nutrients that can

improve climate change resilience. Instead, mono-cropping, Nitrogen-intensive crops like soy and beans to be grouped together in cultivation. This will allow regions to adapt cultivation to their changing and local climate.

- **Mr. March Hilton** from Get Your Farmers CIG and Germain Steph from Agri-AI, based in Yaoundé recommend investment in rural infrastructure, irrigation and storage solutions.
- Finally access to credit, the promotion of agro-forestry and land management and regularity of data collection and reporting were recommended by Cameroon's Agriculture Council. The



Founder of CEPI, **Mr. Henri Kouam**, noted that monthly or quarterly data collection and reporting will support policy design and implementation. The Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI) aims to improve the quality of economic policies through fact-based research, debates, and

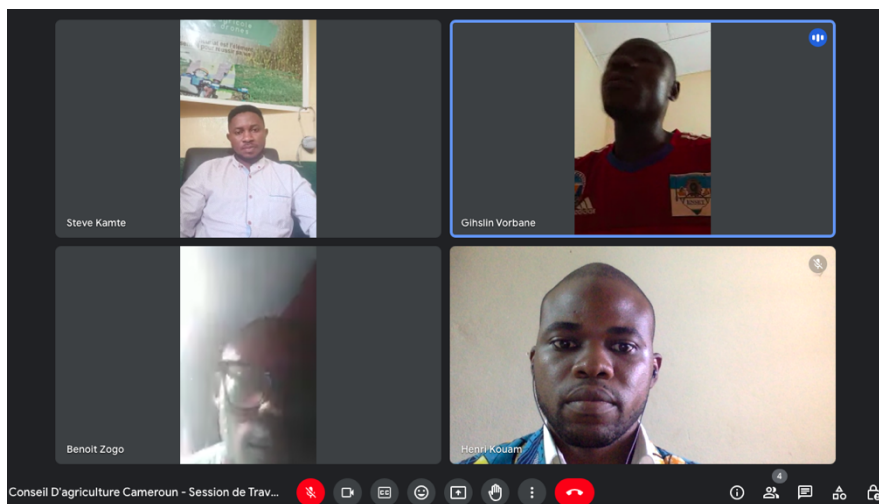
advocacy to reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of Cameroonians.

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FRENCH - Rapport || Session de Travail - L'impact du changement climatique sur les agriculteurs au Cameroun || 24/11/2023

Introduction

Le changement climatique a un impact direct sur plus de 70% de la population dont les moyens de subsistance dépendent directement de l'agriculture. Ainsi, le Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI), un groupe de réflexion, a organisé sa première session de travail avec le Conseil de l'agriculture du Cameroun sur le thème "L'impact du changement climatique sur les agriculteurs". Le groupe de 17 participants a été animé par M. Henri Kouam - le fondateur du CEPI - via Google Meets le 24 novembre 2023.



Les panélistes ont constaté que l'impact socio-économique des chocs du changement climatique affecte à la fois les pauvres structurels et près de 40% des ménages vulnérables au Cameroun. Les femmes, en particulier celles qui vivent dans des zones de conflit ou des groupes autochtones, sont plus durement touchées par le changement climatique car elles représentent 75 % des travailleurs du

secteur agricole informel et sont les premières responsables du bien-être de leurs ménages et de la sécurité alimentaire. La gouvernance et l'implémentation des politiques agricoles ont été suggérées comme la cause de ralentissement du développement.

Le changement climatique a un impact sur la production de manioc à Batoke, réduisant le rendement des cultures dans la majeure partie du Cameroun. La production dans les régions d'Oyomodjock et d'Akwaya a également été affectée par le changement climatique. Le changement climatique pousse les gens à quitter leurs fermes pour s'installer dans des zones surpeuplées ou sensibles au climat, ce qui entraîne une baisse de la production et les expose à des risques.

Les membres du Conseil de l'agriculture du Cameroun ont formulé les recommandations suivantes.

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- Nous devrions améliorer l'assistance technique et les services de conseil aux agriculteurs, en utilisant l'aide pour soutenir les start-ups et les petits exploitants.
- Nous devrions former au moins 500 agriculteurs dans chaque région à l'adaptation au changement climatique et à l'atténuation de ses effets. Son collaborateur, M. Fortu Sien, estime que les cultures mixtes pourraient améliorer la résistance des sols, ce qui permettrait aux cultures de mieux résister au changement climatique.
- La formation à la ferme et la culture intercalaire permettent de maximiser les éléments nutritifs du sol, ce qui peut améliorer la résistance au changement climatique. Au lieu d'une monoculture, les cultures à forte intensité d'azote, comme le soja et les haricots, sont regroupées. Cela permettra aux régions d'adapter les cultures à l'évolution du climat local.
- Nous devrions soutenir des investissements plus importants dans les infrastructures rurales, l'irrigation et les solutions de stockage.
- Nous devrions tirer parti de la technologie pour mieux mettre en œuvre les politiques, réduire la centralisation et soutenir les petits exploitants afin d'assurer un développement régional et national à grande échelle.
- Enfin, l'accès au crédit, la promotion de l'agroforesterie et de la gestion des terres, ainsi que la régularité de la collecte des données et des rapports ont été recommandés par le Conseil de l'agriculture du Cameroun. Le fondateur du CEPI, M. Henri Kouam, a noté que la collecte et la communication de données mensuelles ou trimestrielles soutiendraient la conception et la mise en œuvre des politiques.

Le Cameroon Economic Policy Institute (CEPI) a pour objectif d'améliorer la qualité des politiques économiques par le biais de recherches, de débats et de plaidoyers fondés sur des faits, afin de réduire la pauvreté et d'améliorer les moyens de subsistance des Camerounais. Il a mis en place un groupe de travail pour accompagner le gouvernement dans la conception et la mise en œuvre de la politique agricole.

Members: Mr. Steve Kamte, Mr. Ghislain Vorbane, Mr. Pierre Steve, Benoit Zogo.



Finances

60% of our website was paid by a donor, directly to the company and we paid the remainder. Our donor paid the equivalent of 500,000. The other costs were funded by Mr. Henri Kouam. At present, we do not have a website, so payments had to be done Ad-Hoc. However, there are receipts being prepared for all expenses from relevant institutions.

Budget Line	Amount (FCFA)
Website	1,700,000
Marketing	250,000
Banners	160,000
Webinars and Working Sessions	200,000
Speakers	100,000
Research	50,000
Total	2,460,000

Social Insurance: We have registered for our social security number and are awaiting confirmation from the relevant authorities. We hope this will be ready by January 31st 2024.

Tax Number: Our tax number is now ready, enabling us to operate according to the rules and regulations of Cameroon. This will equally ensure that we

Meet Our Partners!

The Initiative for African Trade and Prosperity (IATP) is a project under the Institute for Economic Affairs. They have helped CEPI in editing articles related to free trade and will likely become an external reviewer for our free trade reports. The IATP equally republished our articles and we hope they can provide some support for articles that are published in the local media. So far, we try to publish at least 12 articles on free trade each year to raise awareness about key issues relating to free trade and economic freedom.

Phoenix Group Ltd: This is a construction company that is committed to sustainable development in Cameroon and climate change. They are equally interested in more supportive policies for businesses such as low taxes and a more digitized tax system. They have pledged to support CEPi with \$100.

Laboratoire d'informatique et de Technologie Éducatif (LITE): LITE is a program under “Ecole Normale” the national center for teacher education. They aim to provide technologies that can improve access to learning and make it easier for teachers and students to interact. CEPI is working with them under the “Education for All” program.



ATLAS Network: We are on track to become an Atlas partner. At present, we are completing the courses that are required for all CEPI staff members. Currently, four staff are enrolled and are set to complete the first training by the end of next year. The Atlas Network vision is of a free, prosperous, and peaceful world where the principles of individual liberty, property rights, limited government, and free markets are secured by the rule of law. Atlas Network increases global prosperity by strengthening a network of independent partner organizations that promote individual freedom and are committed to identifying and removing barriers to human flourishing.

Nordic Africa Institute: The Nordic Africa Institute ensures that African and Nordic decision-makers work effectively together to improve the equality, dignity and welfare of people across contexts in Africa. They will be reviewing our report on Agriculture set to be submitted in March 2024.

Our partners will be instrumental in helping us build capacity as a new think tank and build the credibility needed to influence policy in Cameroon. We will ensure that we work closely with our partners to better understand how to influence policy and become the most reputable think tank in Cameroon.

Policy Win

POLICY WIN: Cameroon has launched a new platform to collect data from companies "econjuncture.cm". This platform will be used to collect quarterly data on revenues, production, investment and number of employees etc.



*Policy Win: Government
Launches new Platform to collect
data from Companies.*

*CEPI recommends digitization of
taxation and data collection from
companies between 2020 – 2023.*

"When we collect data from companies, we can better understand how policies are affecting their operations, leading us to advocate for better policies and improved outcomes" [Henri Kouam](#), Founder . We are excited at CEPI as we have repeatedly called for digitized data collection



to support policy formulation and implementation.

What did we do?

CEPI used a mix of advocacy and events to call for more actions from the government to digitize data collection from companies to ensure that we have a better understanding of the effect of policies. This did not happen in isolation and CEPI worked with its partners across civil society and the media to bring light to this issue. We equally published articles on our website to that effect. Below are a list of our actions;

- ❖ We recommend reducing information asymmetry for exporters- -
<https://camepi.org/.../how-can-cameroon-farmers-benefit.../>
- ❖ In this webinar, we called for the digitization of tax and data collection procedures -
<https://shorturl.at/uBCR1>
- ❖ Kelly Mua and our founder Henri Kouam argue that digitization in Cameroon will boost productivity and governance - <https://shorturl.at/kmEV7> (Article from 2020)
- ❖ In this event with grass root tax CSO #ACDC, we argue for a digitized system that can support both data and revenue collection -
<https://x.com/CameroonCepi/status/1718231385758941681?s=20>

Meet the Team

We are blessed to have a committed team of experts and volunteers who share our vision and contribute towards making it a reality. In 2024, we have been getting organized and will ensure that at least 30 policy briefs are published in 2024.



M. Pierre Oyono Mvogo is a Research fellow and Ph.D. candidate in political science at EUROMED University in Fez, Morocco. He holds a master's degree in international relations with a specialization in regional integration and management of community institutions from the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC).

M. Mouliom Mazou is a Research Fellow and the President of the “Association Camerounaise pour la defense des droits des contribuable”. President of the Cameroon Association for the Defense of Taxpayers’ Rights. Proposal. His many proposals have contributed to current tax reforms, such as the extension of the validity of the taxpayer card from 2 to 10 years, the creation of a tax regime for digital startups and several pleas that have contributed to the improvement of tax administration services in favor of taxpayer.



his community

M. Habib Ibrahim is a Research Assistant and holds a Bachelor’s degree in Geography from the University of Buea, building a strong foundation in understanding the world and its intricate landscapes. He has actively engaged with numerous organizations, taking on diverse responsibilities. Serving as Head of Commission, Teaching and Predication, and External Relations Officer in organizations such as CAMSU Buea, YALI Network, TYDACAM, and CEPI, Habib has showcased his ability to collaborate, inspire, and make a positive impact within



M. Haiwang Djamo Ferdinand is a Research Assistant and a student at the University of Maroua. He holds a Master’s degree in Basic Private Law from the same university. His great compassion for human beings undoubtedly forged his passion for humanitarian work. It was then that he became leader of ENJEAL NYS AGRO (Coordination de l’Extrême-Nord), an organization which, in addition to agropastoral activities, is also involved in humanitarian action, where he works as project coordinator. He is currently a volunteer at CEPI (Cameroon Economic Policy Institute), an organization that seeks to improve the quality of economic policy in Cameroon. He works there as an analyst and articles editor.



M. LANGMI ESUA DEGHA is a Research Fellow and holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Economics. He is a final year Ph.D. and a research fellow in Mathematical Economics at the University of Yaoundé II. He also graduated from the financial division of the National School of Administration and Magistracy in 2015 as an Inspector of Prices, Weights, and Measures. His professional experience in the Center Regional Brigade of Controls and the Anti-fraud of the Ministry of Trade has enabled him to relate economic theories to the country's realities.



M. Nkontchou Ghislain is our Reviewer and Language Editor and a Student at Baruch College, Master's in International Affairs expected in 2024. Experienced advocate for vulnerable populations as an aide, evaluator, rapporteur, and conference organizer. Earned a MA in Business Law at Yaoundé Soa II in Cameroon. Seeking internship or part-time work in crisis management or advocacy for vulnerable populations. Skills and training include advocacy training, conference management, and staff training. Fluent in French and English.



Dr. Tii Nchofoung is a Research Fellow and he earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Dschang in Cameroon and a certification in Administration from Cameroon's National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM). He works as an administrator and researcher for the Cameroonian Ministry of Trade, as well as a research associate at the European Xtramile Center of African Studies (EXCAS) in Belgium. He previously served as a Visiting Scholar for the Association for Promoting Women in Research and Development in Africa (ASPROWORDA) in Cameroon and the Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diasporas at York University.

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Dr. Herve Alain Napi Wouapi is a Research Fellow and currently works at the Department of Agricultural Extension , Université de Dschang. Herve does research in Qualitative Social Research, Social Policy and Urban/Rural Sociology. Their current project is ‘Commitment to Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and other related risks in Africa’. he is currently a Research Fellow who focuses on agriculture and rural development.