

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816677903321
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Titolo	Food Systems in Africa : : Rethinking the Role of Markets // Gaelle Balineau
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. : , : The World Bank, , 2021
ISBN	1-4648-1589-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (164 pages)
Collana	Africa Development Forum
Altri autori (Persone)	BauerArthur KesslerMartin MadariagaNicole
Disciplina	338.76640025673
Soggetti	Food industry and trade - Africa, West Food supply - Africa, West
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	Rapid population growth, poorly planned urbanization, and evolving agricultural production and distribution practices are changing foodways in African cities and creating challenges: Africans are increasingly facing hunger, undernutrition, and malnutrition. Yet change also creates new opportunities. The food economy currently is the main source of jobs on the continent, promising more employment in the near future in farming, food processing, and food product distribution. These opportunities are undermined, however, by inefficient links among farmers, intermediaries, and consumers, leading to the loss of one-third of all food produced. This volume is an in-depth analysis of food system shortcomings in three West African cities: Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire; Rabat, Morocco; and Niamey, Niger. Using the lens of geographical economics and sociology, the authors draw on quantitative and qualitative field surveys and case studies to offer insightful analyses of political institutions. They show the importance of "hard" physical infrastructure, such as transport, storage, and wholesale and retail market facilities. They also describe the "soft" infrastructure of institutions that facilitate trade, such as interpersonal trust, market information systems, and business climates. The authors

find that the vague mandates and limited capacities of national trade and agriculture ministries, regional and urban authorities, neighborhood councils, and market cooperatives often hamper policy interventions. This volume comes to a simple conclusion: international development policy makers and their financial and technical partners have neglected urban markets for far too long, and now is the time to rethink and reinvest in this complex yet crucial subject.
