

18 March 2021

Innovations Session N°3

**African Continental Free Trade
Area (AfCFTA):
opportunities for SMEs and
businesses in the agrifood
sector**



INNOVATIONS
SERIES





Pan African farmers' organisation
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الأفريقية للفلاحين

Positioning of African Farmers Organizations (FOs) in the context of the AfCFTA

Kigali, Rwanda
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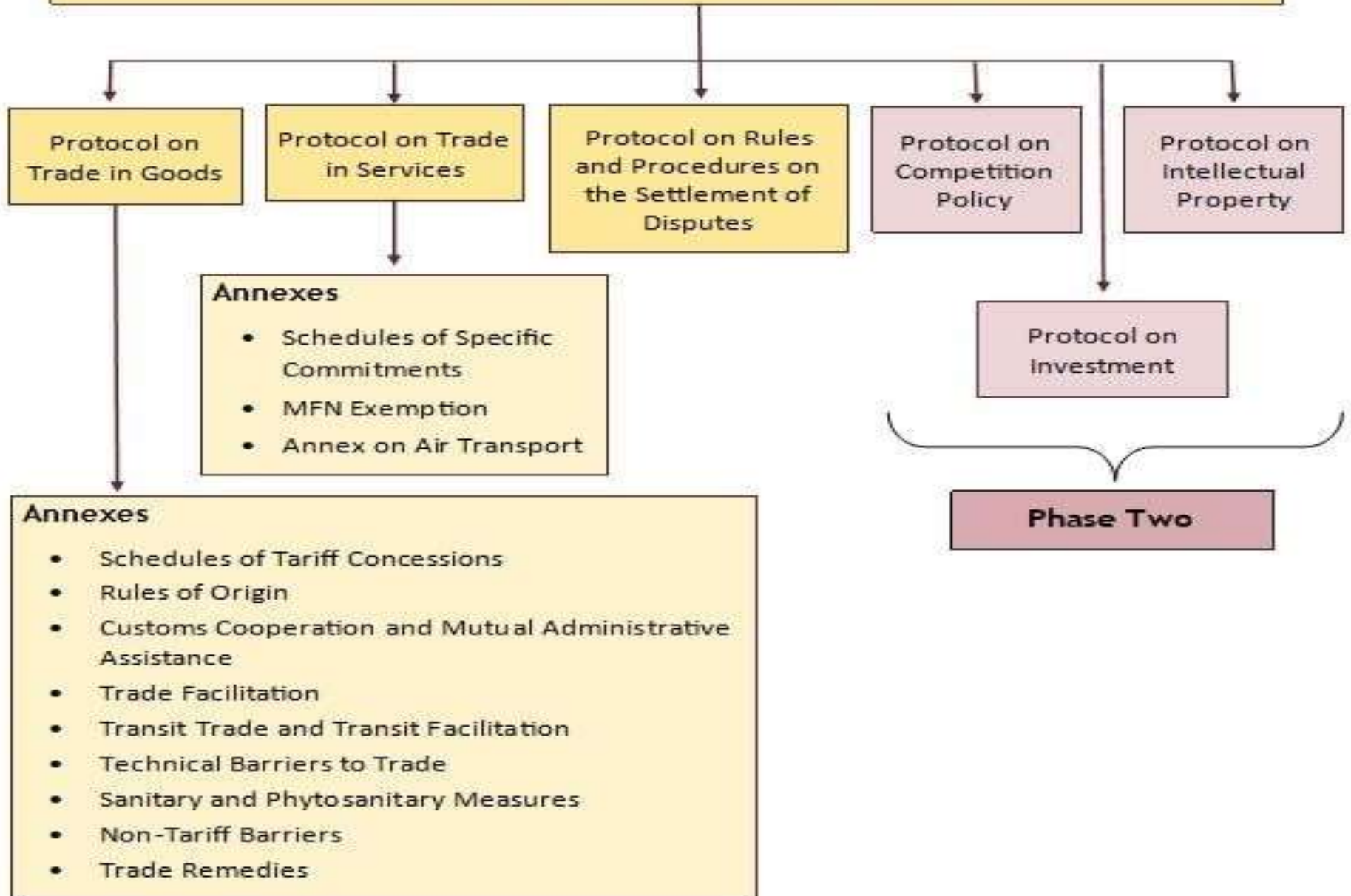
Presentation Outline

- Introduction and putting the AfCFTA in context
- The AfCFTA provisions likely to affect agriculture (directly)
- Regional Farmers Organizations' (RFOs) perceptions and recommendations
- Strategic interventions to involve FOs in the AfCFTA

Introduction and putting the AfCFTA in context

- Signed in Kigali on March 18th, 2018 the AfCFTA was then signed and ratified by 33 AU Member States as per December 2020.
- Trading under the AfCFTA officially started on the 1st January 2021.
- **Objectives and scope:** Overarching goal to create a liberalized continental market for goods and services, accompanied by free movement of persons.
- **Phase I:** Protocol on Trade in Goods; Protocol on Trade in Services; Protocol on Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes; Schedules for Tariff Concessions; Schedules of Specific Commitments for Trade in Services; and Protocol on the Rules of Origin.
- **Phase II:** dedicated to investment, competition policy and intellectual property rights and e-commerce.

Agreement establishing the AfCFTA



The AfCFTA provisions likely to affect agriculture

The AfCFTA is expected to encourage intra-African agricultural trade.

Agriculture contributes an average of 30 to 60% of GDP and about 30% of the value of exports.

The AfCFTA provisions which will have a direct impact include the following;

- Tariff Concessions: elimination/ removal of tariffs
- Elimination or reduction of quantitative restrictions
- Rules of Origin
- Rules on non-tariff barriers (NTBs)
- Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs)

Other relevant measures;

- Exclusion lists
- Trade remedies and safeguards
- Trade facilitation

Regional Farmers Organizations' (RFOs) perceptions and recommendations

1. Continued advocacy on key policy issues
2. Strengthening farmer's organizations across the African continent
3. Designing a specific support program
4. Targeted/ specific support to PAFO
5. Linking family farmers to markets and relevant value chains
6. Engaging and coordinating relevant partners and stakeholders
7. Strengthening the PAFO-AUC partnership
8. Utilizing the AfCFTA to promote food security and enhance agribusiness

Strategic interventions to involve FOs in the AfCFTA

Five (5) proposed Strategic Interventions;

1. Enhancing research for evidence based advocacy.
2. Strengthening the capacities of African FOs.
3. Strengthening partnership between the African Union Commission (AUC) and PAFO.
4. Building more partnerships and alliances with PAFO.
5. Awareness campaigns and capacity building programs.



THANK YOU!



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Thank you

