

Research published in Sustainability Journal analyzes the agriculture sector's performance in Cabo Verde under the SDGs and the Common Agricultural Policy for West Africa (ECOWAP)

Cabo Verdean researcher, Danilson Varela, in partnership with researchers from the Institute of Agronomy in Lisbon (Maria Romeiras, Filipa Monteiro, Patrícia Vidigal), and from the University of the Azores (Luís Silva) published in the Sustainability Journal (ISSN 2071-1050), a research paper that analyzes the performance of the agrarian sector in Cabo Verde under the Objectives of Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the Common Agricultural Policy for West Africa (CAADP / ECOWAP). The article entitled "Mechanisms Implemented for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture: An Overview of Cabo Verde Performance" (available at <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/14/5855>), is part of the "CV AGROBIODIVERSITY - climatic changes and plant genetic resources: the overlooked potential of Cabo Verde's endemic flora" led by Maria Manuel Romeiras, and financed by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN).

In this recent study, the researchers applied three complementary approaches to assess the evolution of the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy of ECOWAS and the Sustainable Development Goals associated with agriculture in Cabo Verde. Through semi-quantitative analyzes, the researchers identified the main policies involved in the transformation of the agricultural sector and the SDGs related to agrarian development that was implemented in Cabo Verde, comparing it with the other ECOWAS countries. On the other hand, the application of quantitative analysis through a linear regression model was used to evaluate the impact of public investments, the ECOWAP agreement, and the average annual precipitation on the growth of national agricultural production. Likewise, they calculated the food self-sufficiency in Cabo Verde. The article is distinguished for being a pioneer in the analysis of agricultural development indicators in Cabo Verde through a complementary approach mentioned above.

The integrated results suggest that agricultural development strategies, the signature of ECOWAP by the government of Cabo Verde, and political stability may explain the progress made in reducing rural poverty and improving food security. The results also show that agriculture-related SDGs in Cabo Verde are higher than the mean values obtained from the remaining West African countries, well above the top 25% WA countries. Nevertheless, Cabo Verde public expenditure into agriculture under the ECOWAP was generally below the targeted 10% of the national budget, with food import required to meet internal food demands. The results follow the economic literature, showing a positive and statistically significant correlation between government spending and agricultural production growth. However, despite the development in agricultural production, it still does not meet domestic food needs, and the country depends heavily on food imports to suppress local needs.