



Food Across Borders:

Improving Food Security Through Regional Trade In West Africa



Assessment of Volume and Value of Regionally Traded Staple Commodities

Henri P. Josserand, PhD, Consultant
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West African trade in basic staples

- Features
 - Comparative advantages – agroecological variety
 - Year-to-year variability in production, prices, (esp. Sahel)
- Extensive, historical trade in the region's main staples
 - Livestock, maize, millet/sorghum, rice, onion, cowpea



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West African trade (continued)

- Largely undocumented, poorly known
- Considered “informal”, but very large and critical to the region
- National balance sheets, policies: focused on food security as a national issue (distorted view of reality)



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Information sources

- Official statistics by country
- Value chain, market studies
- CILSS/FEWSNET studies
- USAID ATP Project:
 - Trade data collection since 2009
 - October 2012 market studies



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USAID ATP Data Collection

- Livestock, maize, millet/sorghum, rice, onion
- Collaboration with 11 professional associations
- Data collectors in main export/import markets: commodity trade flows, values
- Regional market surveys: nearly 60 markets in 12 countries (Oct. 2012)
- CILSS takes over as of 2013



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Objectives

Based on ATP data, other sources:

“To create a more comprehensive and realistic picture of regional trade in West Africa than previously available.”

- What are the flows, their volumes, values?
- Implications of regional trade for food security?



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USAID

WEST AFRICA



Flows and volumes by value chain

Livestock Trade

- Extensive, historically North-South
 - Mali to Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire
 - Burkina to Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria
 - Niger to Nigeria
- Highest value; traditionally structured
- Competition from world producers
- Evolving sector

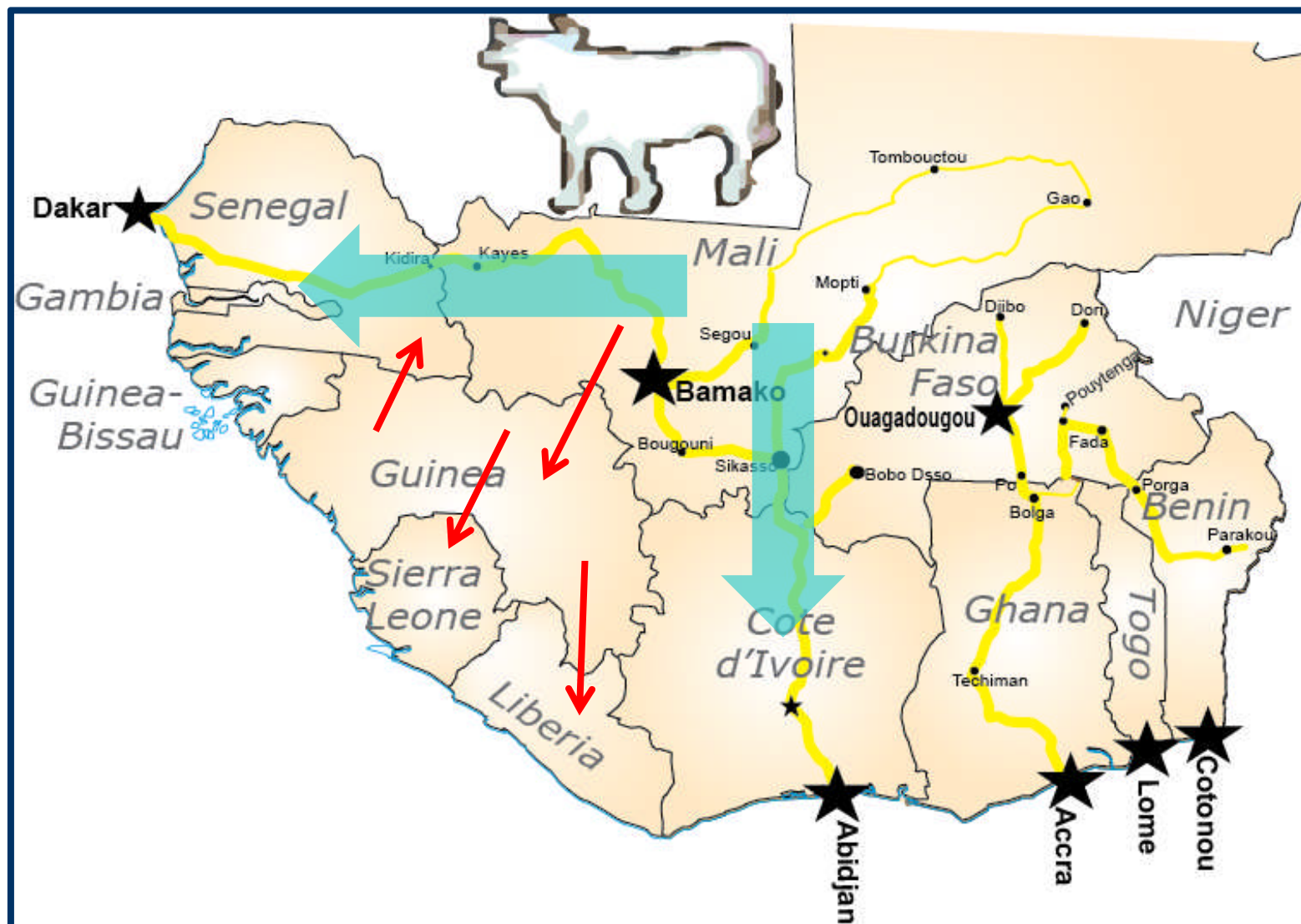


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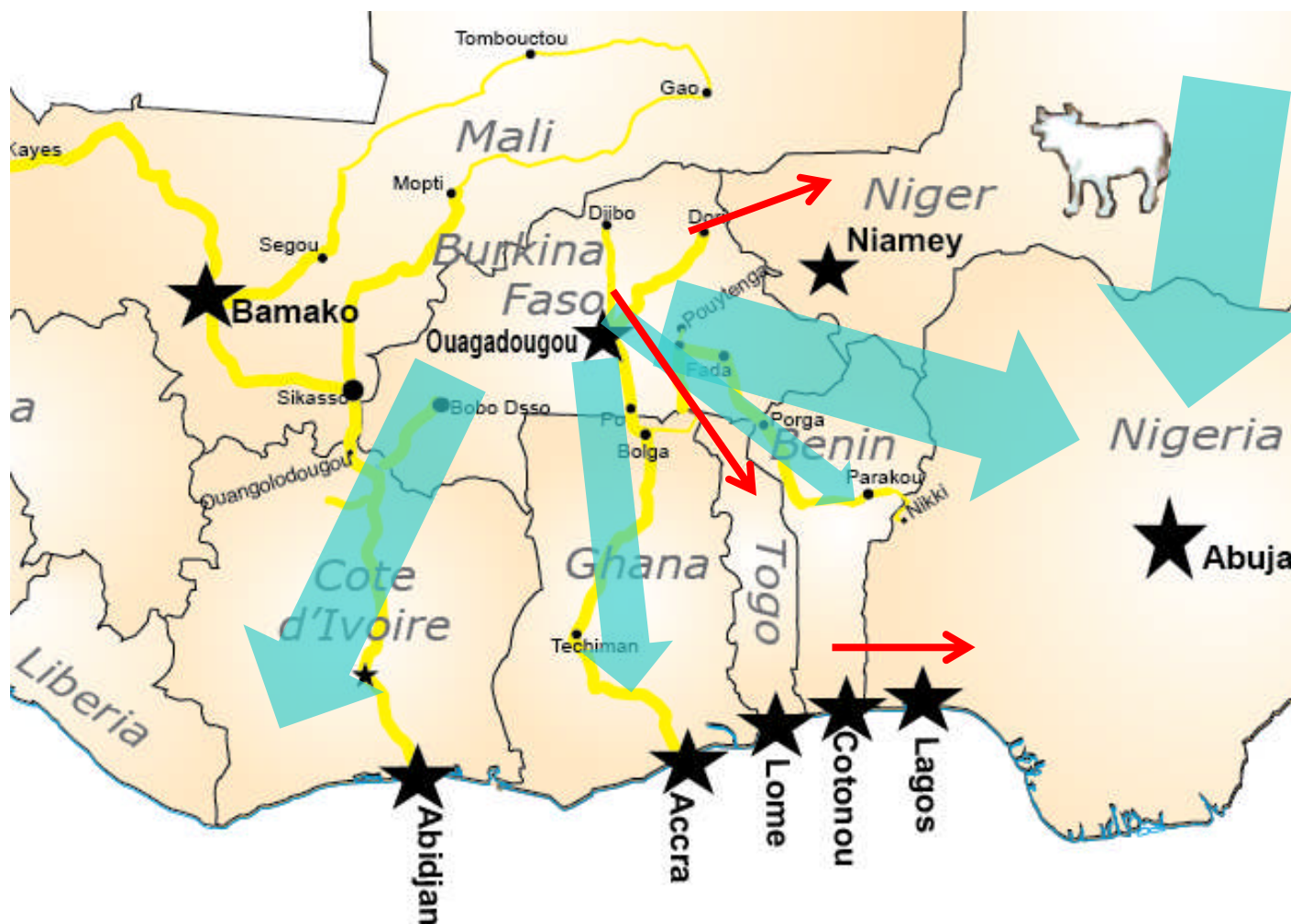
CATTLE TRADE FLOWS FROM MALI, GUINEA



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CATTLE TRADE FLOWS FROM BURKINA FASO, BENIN, NIGER

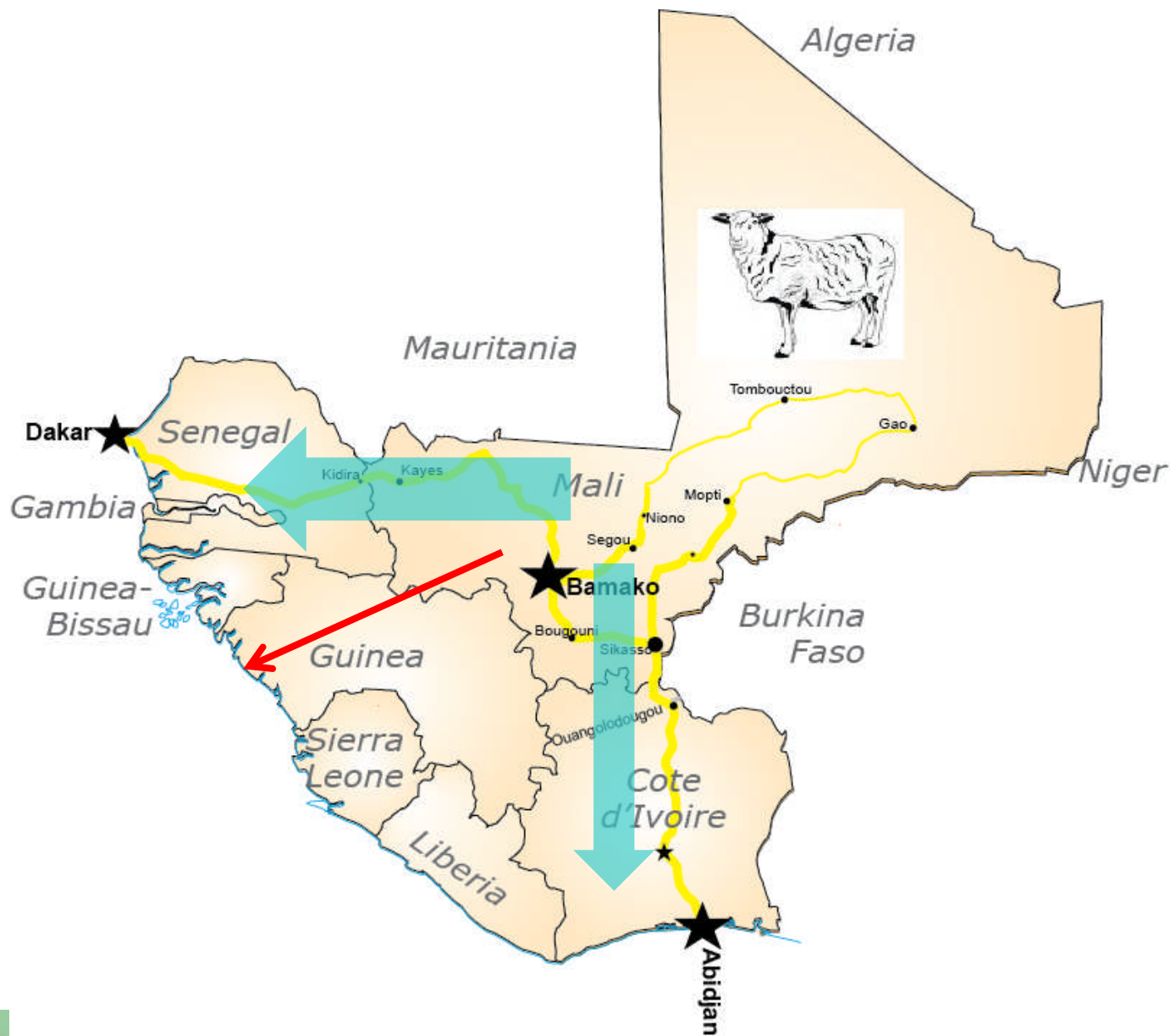


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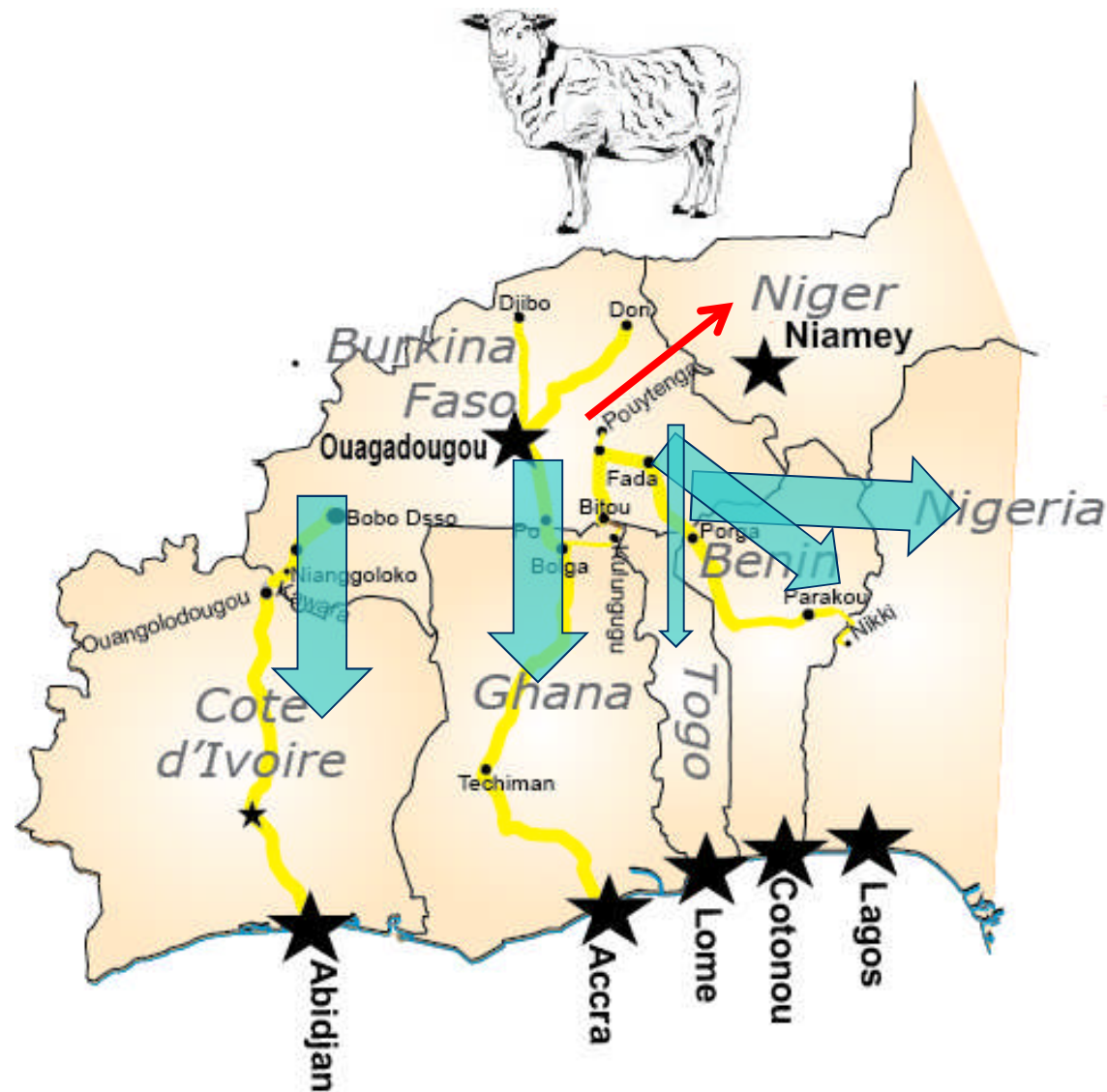
SMALL RUMINANTS TRADE FLOWS FROM MALI



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SMALL RUMINANT TRADE FLOWS FROM BURKINA FASO



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Livestock Trade: Conclusions

- Significant annual flows estimated:
 - Burkina Faso: \$212 million (official: \$54.4 million)
 - Mali: \$240 million (official \$128 million)
 - **Official statistics reflect one-third of actual flows**
- Not the entire picture
 - Not included: Niger exports, Northern Mali to Nigeria trade, Mali to Mano Union, etc.

West Africa (ECOWAS+) at least \$800 million/yr



Trade in maize

- Upcoming cereal – extensively produced, consumed – critical urban food
- Industrial processing on the rise
- Major flows include:
 - Several countries to Niger
 - Côte d'Ivoire to Burkina Faso, onwards
 - Ghana to Mali, Burkina Faso, onwards

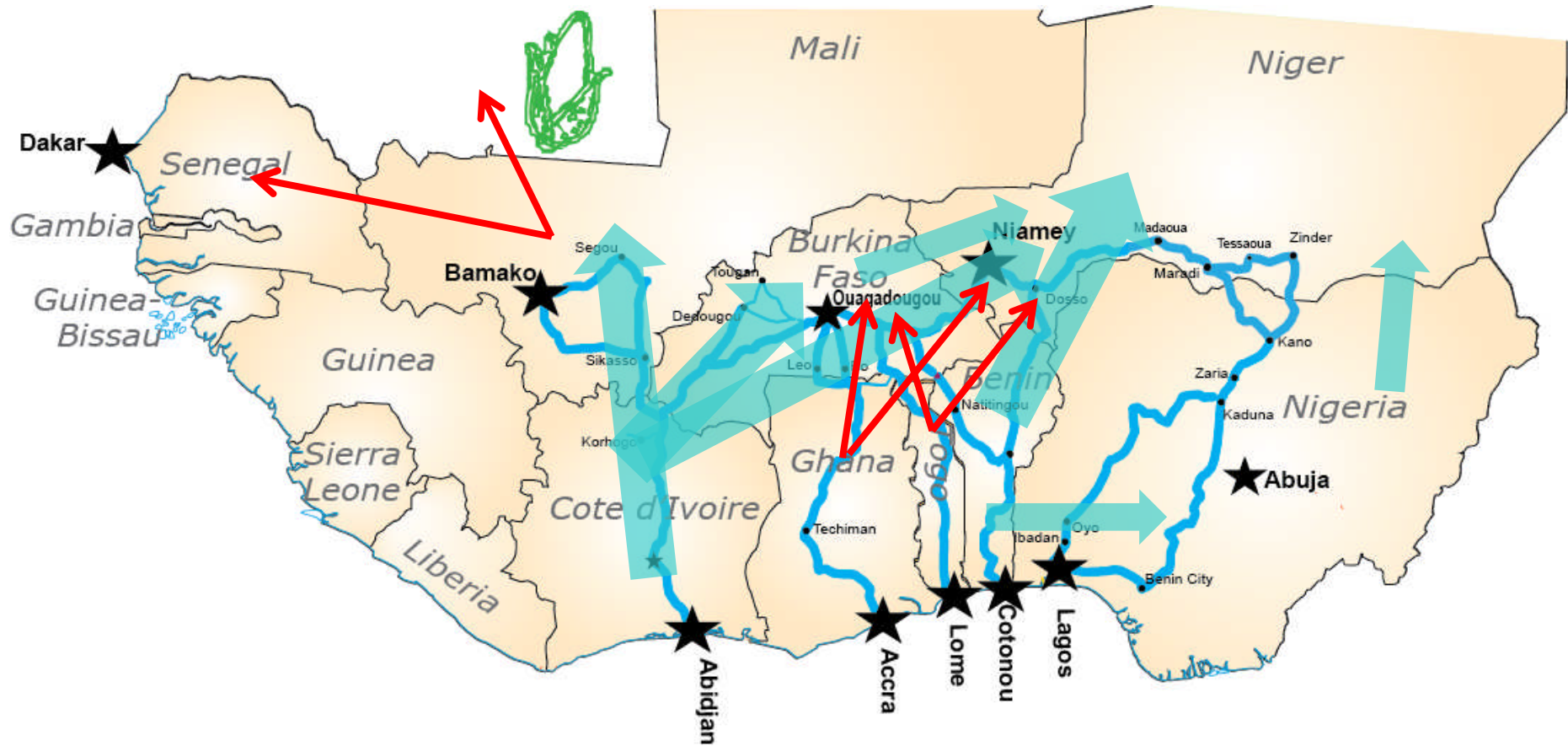


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MAIZE TRADE FLOWS FROM BENIN, Côte d'Ivoire, BURKINA FASO, GHANA, MALI, TOGO, NIGERIA



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Trade in maize: conclusions

- Many production, consumption basins
- Niger very important regional buyer
- Estimated maize flows:
 - Benin to Niger: 140,000 tons/yr
 - Nigeria to Niger: 100,000 tons/yr

Annual maize flows in West Africa: nearly 5 million tons.



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Millet/sorghum trade

- Production and trade over wide areas (rain-fed, unpredictable)
- Both long-distance and localized trade
- Some key trade flows
 - Nigeria/N. Benin to Niger
 - Sahel to coastal countries, Mali → Senegal
- Industrial processing of sorghum rising

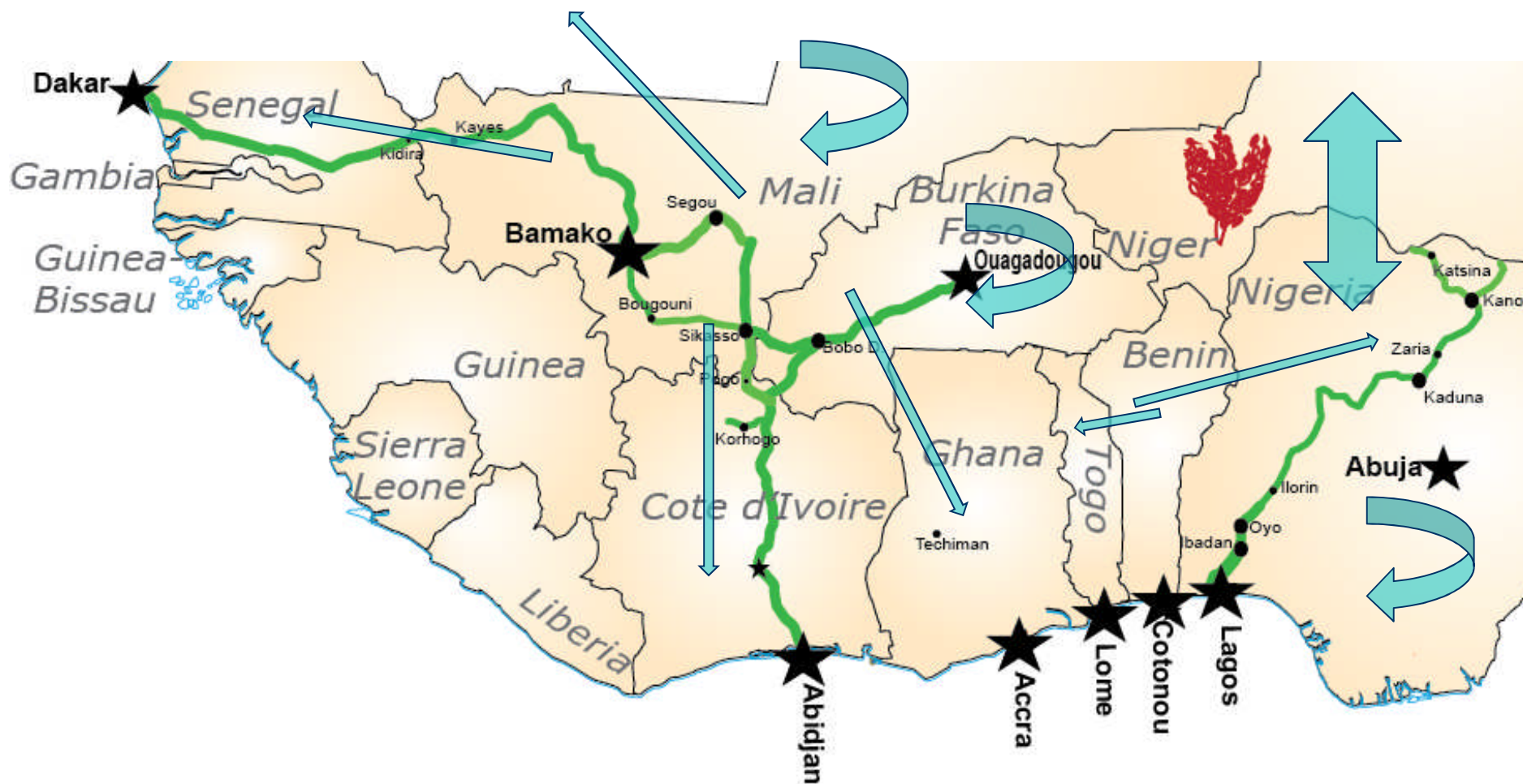


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MILLET/SORGHUM TRADE FLOWS FROM BENIN, BURKINA FASO, NIGERIA, MALI



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Rice

- Second most imported cereal in the region – imports to rise further
- Relatively low production, localized parboiled rice trade
- Important trade flows:
 - Mali to Mauritania, Senegal, Niger, others
- Huge market potential, especially in western part of the region



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Onion trade

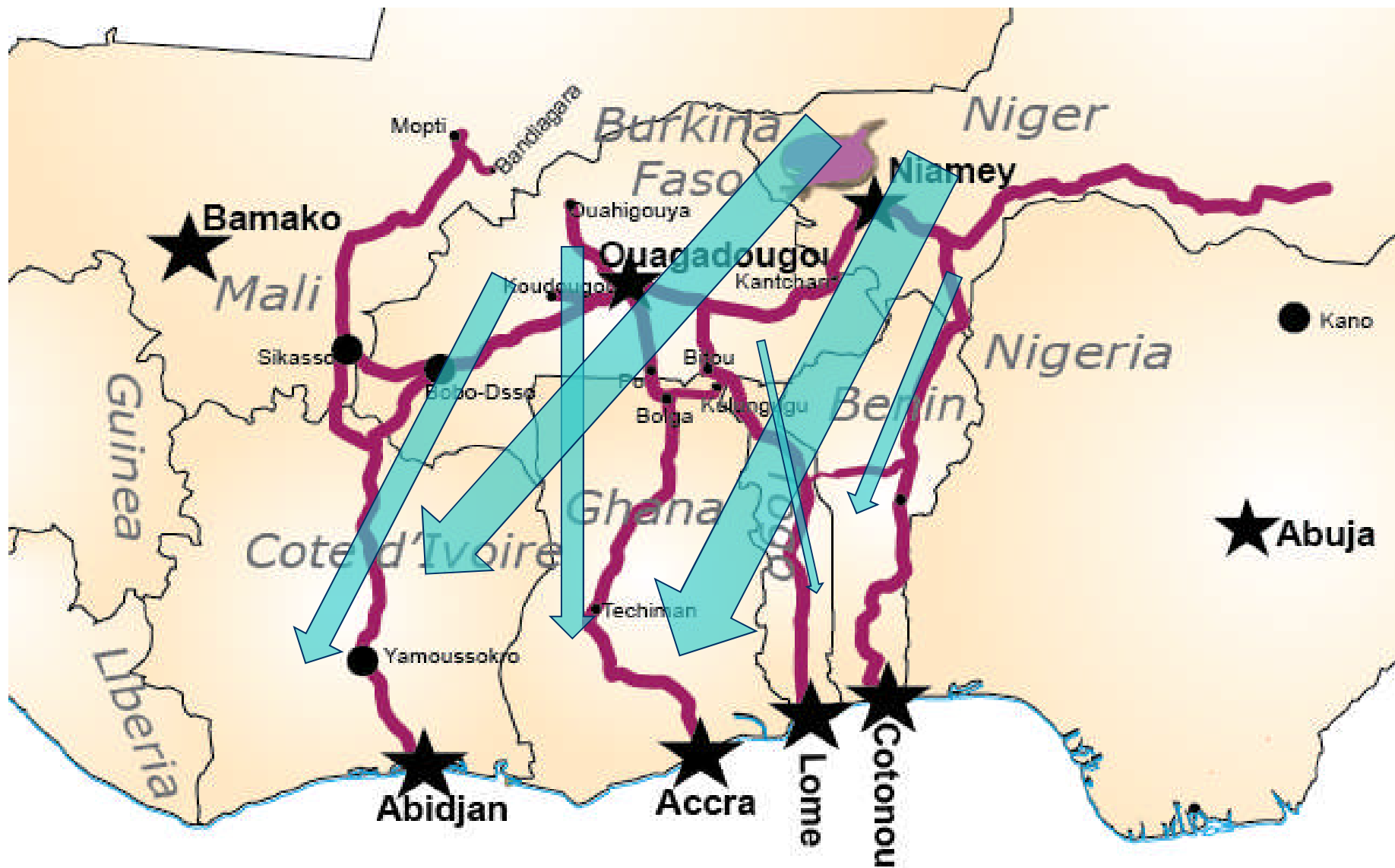
- Historical north-south long-distance trade
Producing countries Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali
- Central corridor flows: 350,000 tons, great potential
- Strong world market competition
- Undeveloped value chain; potential for conditioning, processing



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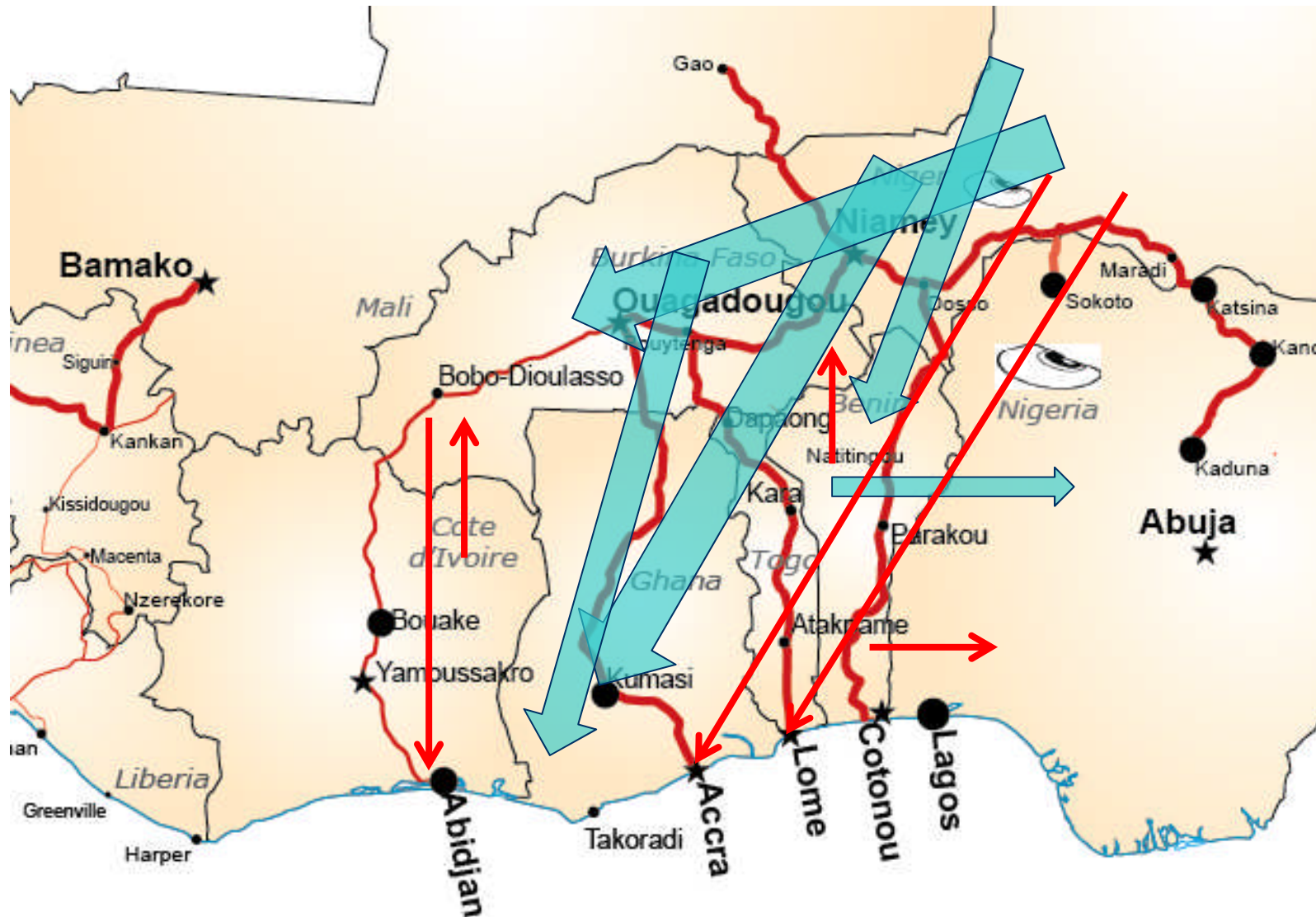
ONION TRADE FLOWS FROM NIGER AND BURKINA FASO



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COWPEA TRADE FLOWS



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Conclusions

- What determines regional trade flows?
Economic growth, security, openness
- Regional trade promotes food security:
The case of Niger, rising commodities
- Remaining obstacles:
Infrastructure, road blocks, informal bans, limited access to banking, credit, currency exchange



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Prospects 2030, Challenges

- Population growth, urbanization, higher incomes
- Transformation of agriculture, already underway
- Changes in trade patterns: livestock, grains, rice, tubers, onions, palm oil
- Investments needed in human capital, infrastructure (hard and soft)
- Expect tensions: removal of obstacles, higher food prices, unprecedented population movements



Thank you!



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