

## Is Ghana's agricultural development trajectory really so different from that of its neighbours?

For those of you familiar with the history of the African independence movements, Ghana was the third sub-Saharan country to gain its independence—in 1957, after Liberia (1847) and Sudan (1956)—following boycotts and civil disobedience driven by Kwame Nkrumah. Ghana has a distinct profile in West Africa, having been a pioneer in the Pan-Africanism movement and having helped spearhead the Tricontinental Conference, which voiced the first demands for a more equal multilateralism.

As an English-speaking country that has also been a member of the International Organisation of La Francophonie since 2006, Ghana differs from its neighbours in many ways. The country is often cited as a model for its political pluralism, democratic achievements and stability in an increasingly complex regional-security context. Its economy appears to be more liberal and oriented towards the private sector and agri-business. In terms of international development aid, the authorities are promoting a Ghana Beyond Aid policy and turning more to international loans and investment. Ghana's high food dependency, however, makes the country vulnerable to volatility in global agricultural prices. And food insecurity is still a challenge that needs to be overcome, with undernutrition affecting 5.5% of the population.

Those differences with Ghana's French-speaking neighbours—which Inter-réseaux's members are more familiar with—in and of themselves justify dedicating an issue of Grain de Sel to Ghana, ten years after having dedicated an issue to Nigeria. This issue is a continuation of the network's work on rural development, agriculture and food in Ghana, which led to the publication on 21 November 2019 of a special bulletin de veille on Ghana, available on Inter-réseaux's website. Several articles draw comparisons between Ghana and its neighbours, starting with Ivory Coast and its geographic similarities. Since independence, however, they have had opposite political and economic development trajectories.

The objective here is to examine the similarities with a neighbouring country, and the differences in the agricultural development trajectories of a model that sometimes appears to be completely at variance with the orientations of French-speaking countries in West Africa. This is also a bilingual issue, available in French and English.

Inter-réseaux decided to kick off 2020 by giving Grain de Sel a brand-new look, and our publications committee would love to hear your feedback.

François Doligez, president  
Ninon Avezou, magazine manager

1. "Nigeria: a look at the Agricultural Giant of West Africa", Grain de sel, no. 51, 2010.

2. "Agricultural and Rural Development in Ghana" Thematic newsletter, november 2019 - <http://bit.ly/2SqX2Hd>

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This is also the last issue coordinated by Ninon Avezou, whom Inter-réseaux would like to thank for his contribution to Grain de Sel.