les dossiers d'**AGROPOLIS**
INTERNATIONAL

Expertise of the scientific community

Societies
and sustainable
development

Contribution of the social sciences

Number 7

ICARE thematic research project:
impact of the opening-up of markets on territorial development in livestock production regions of developing countries

International trade agreements forced most developing countries to lower their customs barriers. Is there a risk that these trade regulations will marginalize some livestock farmers? Few field studies have been carried out to document this process. The aim of this project was to gain insight into the impact of market opening policies on the location of livestock farming activities and thus on territorial development dynamics. The main working hypothesis is that current trade policies lead to territorial imbalances when they are not offset by other types of public action.

This hypothesis is being tested via the project in selected fields in West Africa (ECOWAS zone) and East Africa (IGAD zone). Economic integration and market opening policies have been applied in recent years in these two regional units and seem to be having a substantial impact on the livestock production sector. Several scales are involved: regional units, countries, production areas and farms.

The methodological challenges concern integration of the 'market access' concept in territorial development approaches (including land and resource management and social organization concepts). This is based on different evaluation instruments, ranging from mapping tools to mathematical modelling of farmers behaviour and analysis of the impact of policy changes on the studied systems.

The project is supported by a network of partnerships already established with research teams in both the North and South, and is aimed at developing new sector-based and marketing policies to foster sustainable development of livestock production areas. It is also supported by the transversal Animal Production Economics and Policy research group (CIRAD) to broaden the research area and shift the discussion to an international level.

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The emergence of rural mini-dairies, whereby milk is collected daily from farmers, thus ensuring their inclusion in marketing channels (here close to Kolda, Senegal)

G. Duteurtre © CIRAD

information systems, spatial analysis, geography, environmental sciences and territorial development. The ultimate aim of this research unit is to manage spatial information in order to boost knowledge and management of environments and territories.

Spatial information is managed using an approach that integrates the entire chain: spatial data acquisition techniques, data processing, spatial and temporal analysis, translation of this data into relevant information for subsequent transfer to stakeholders, methods for analysing organizational, sociological and political processes associated with information sharing.

UMR TETIS investigates issues of interactions between information

production, training and support of stakeholders, provides support for project development and implementation, while favouring the apprenticeship process which contributes to enlightening, streamlining and 'rationalizing' stakeholders' viewpoints.

There are three main lines of research:
■ Analysis of spatial structures and spatiotemporal dynamics
■ Remote sensing, spatial data acquisition and processing
■ Information system design
■ Territorial information and development.

A fifth line is devoted to training (20% of the unit's activities): primary training of engineers, Master's courses,

PhD training, continuing professional training, etc.

Several research programmes concern societies and sustainable development:
■ *Territoire de Thau* project (Syndicat mixte du Bassin de Thau, France)
■ European projects: Periurban landuse relationships–Strategies and sustainability impact assessment tools for urban-rural linkages, Landuse policies and sustainable development in developing countries, Synchronising information for local-national participatory natural resources management (SINREM; Guatemala, Honduras, San Salvador) and Dialogos Brazil (Amazon)
■ *Conception d'observatoires de pratiques territorialisées* project (COPT) •••