CODESRIA

TITLE: Agrarian transformation and agricultural development in times of climate change: A household-level comparative analysis in Benin and Nigeria

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SUMMARY

With a population highly dependent on rain-fed agricultural activities, West Africa has been identified as one of the most vulnerable regions to be affected negatively by climate change. Consequently, building the resilience of farm livelihood systems through adaptation strategies to climate change has become a major challenge for policy-makers. To overcome this challenge, relevant and targeted policy interventions are necessary. However, paucity of information about the Agrarian Transformation (AT) and Agricultural Development (AD) going-on at the household-level with regards to climate change is still an issue. Most of the studies on climate change adaptation focused only on farm-level strategies to the neglect of the transformation and development involved in the internal characteristics of the livelihoods of the farm household as a whole. Therefore, improving the knowledge base on household livelihoods system and its transformation and development under different socio-economic scenarios and climate dispositions will be of great importance to literature and policy. Against this background, the proposed project aims to address the following questions: 1) what are the household-level AT and AD due to climate change? 2) what are the socio-economic determinants of identified AT? and 3) what are the socio-economic determinants of identified AD? The study will be conducted simultaneously in Benin and Nigeria through field surveys on a sample of farm households. Both primary (e.g. households' socio-economic characteristics i.e. structure, activities, access to credit, etc., AT and AD in relation to climate change) and secondary data (e.g. time series data on rainfall and temperature) will be used for the study. Content analysis, descriptive statistics and econometric tools will be used to carry out a comparative analysis of AT and AD due to climate change among households within and between Benin and Nigeria. Accordingly, the project will highlight areas of convergence and divergence characterizing AT and AD in Benin and Nigeria. The outcome of the study is expected to advance the horizon of current literature on agrarian transformation as encompassed by on-farm climate change adaptations and social adjustments by farm households. Furthermore, the findings will serve as a basis for policy recommendation towards a better understanding and promotion of sustainable climate change adaptation.