

Projects and Research outputs

Other than the postgraduate training programmes, the training department also hosts several research projects with earmarked funding from regional and international partners. The research projects require mostly primary data from the region and are mostly undertaken by postgraduate students and members of the faculty within the network universities. Among some of these projects include:

- **Dialogues on the Future of Work in the Global South (FoWiGS), 29th June - 1st July 2021**

In March 2021, Fundación Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC), and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) entered into an agreement to collaborate in implementing the Future of Work in the Global South (FoWiGS) project for the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The initiative is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and managed by CIPPEC.

FoWiGS aims at understanding the implications of technological change on jobs taking into account the specific contexts of developing countries and disadvantaged groups within these countries, and to influence policy towards a brighter future for workers in the emerging world. One of the main milestones in the 2021 FoWiGS agenda was to jointly have CIPPEC and AERC host a virtual Sub-Saharan Africa regional event themed “Roundtable Dialogues on the Future of Work in the Global South” with the aim of developing a better understanding of the challenges regarding the future of work considering the specific context of developing Sub-Saharan Africa. Cognisant that the Future of work has its roots in the past, the idea was to bring out evidence-based narratives that take stock of existing academic and research knowledge to assess what we know and what remains to be answered, with the ultimate goal of informing policy.

On 29th June – 1st July 2021, CIPPEC and AERC held five roundtable panel dialogues. The invited researchers, academics and policy makers shared their knowledge and expertise, with a special focus on detecting the global narrative elements that need to be reconsidered when turning the attention to the Global South with focus on Sub-Saharan Africa region.

The five main areas encompassed in the respective 05 roundtable panels included:

- **Skills (Early childhood, formal education and digital skills, lifelong learning and reskilling)**, which, in emerging societies, require innovative approaches that go beyond the contents of the formal curricula and need to address problems such as infrastructure, teachers’ skills and financing.
- **Technology (Artificial intelligence, platform economies)**, which cannot be taken for granted in the developing world and requires specific policy actions to take place in an extended and inclusive manner.
- **Labour market institutions**, that require the whole institutional frameworks to be updated to capitalize the benefits and mitigate the risks that are specific to developing countries.
- **Demography and labour market**, exploring the labour market (youth bulge, demographic dividend, aging) preparedness to absorb the incoming labour force.

- **Inequality and labour market**, the implications of inequality in designing policy to promote technological change and adoption of new skills.

Expected Outputs

The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) will contribute a chapter on the future of work in the Sub-Saharan Africa region based on the findings of the virtual workshop held on 29th June – 1st July 2021.

AERC will follow closely the discussions and learnings on skills, technology, demography, labour market institutions and inequality discourse arising from the event to inform its future capacity building, policy outreach and research interventions.

FoWiGS podcast series, 29th June - 1st July 2021

(hyperlink to videos – preferably insert videos)

Joel to provide videos

[FoWiGS](#)

[\(Welcome Remarks\)](#)

[FoWiGS - Roundtable 1](#)

[\(Skills\)](#)

[FoWiGS - Roundtable 2](#)

[\(Technology\)](#)

[FoWiGS - Roundtable 3](#)

[\(Labor Market Institutions\)](#)

[FoWiGS - Roundtable 4](#)

[\(Demography and Labor Market\)](#)

[FoWiGS - Roundtable 5](#)

[\(Inequality and Labor Market
& Closing Remarks\)](#)

- **The AERC-Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Agricultural Policy Analysis for Nutrition Outcomes Project (AFPON), 2016**

In November 2016, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) partnered with AERC to support research under the “**Agricultural Policy Analysis for Nutrition Outcomes (AFPON)**” project. The aim is to generate research for informed policy development, program design and improved nutrition outcomes. To achieve the desired outputs, the AERC used its four research delivery mechanisms, Collaborative Research (CR), Thematic Research (TR), Faculty Research (FR), and Thesis Research (MSc and PhD). A total of 112 papers of which 9 are

framework papers, 15 country case studies, 22 faculty research, and 48 thesis research were supported under the programme.

The project is at its tail end of implementation, with priority given to publication of research outputs. Selected papers are proposed for publication in a Special Issue of the *Food Policy Journal*. *The African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* (AfJARE) and the *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development* (AJFAND) will also publish other AFPON papers in their special issues.

- **The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI), 2019**

In March 2019, AERC began implementation of the Programme of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI) which is supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project facilitates CMAAE MSc thesis research, PhD thesis research, and faculty research. The research themes include mechanization; automation and skill development in agricultural production and food processing; digitalization in agriculture, food, and nutrition; and enhancing opportunities for the youth in the rural economy, among others. The project has a total of 31 research grants, of which 15 are MSc thesis research, 11 are faculty, and 5 are PhD research projects. The research projects are scheduled for completion by 31 December 2021.

- **The AERC-BMGF Project to Strengthen East Africa Community Policy and Response to the COVID 19 Pandemic, 2020**

The AERC signed a grant agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in June 2020 to implement the project on strengthening a harmonized policy response and administrative actions to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 in the East African Community Countries, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, and South Sudan. The project seeks to minimize societal and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by generating knowledge for evidence-based advice to inform policy and strategies; mainstreaming gender in the crisis response; regulatory harmonization, coordination, and regional surveillance of the pandemic to minimize supply disruptions and cross-border trade; fostering global and intra-regional transfer of best practices; and intra-regional exchange of technical expertise needed to address the crisis.

The project is coordinated by AERC and jointly implemented with the EAC Secretariat, East African Healthcare Federation (EAHF), East Africa Business Council (EABC), Shippers Council of East Africa (SCEA), and Federation of East Africa Freight and Forwarders Association (FEAFFA), among others. The project is implemented by a Steering Committee with the support of five Technical Working Groups on health, trade, transport and logistics, research, and policy. The project is scheduled for completion by 31 December 2021. Following the virtual Regional Policy Forum held on 25-26 May 2021, a raft of policy and administrative actions were distilled for possible implementation by the EAC Member States.

Another output of the project was the flagship report on the impact of the COVID-19 on the EAC trade, which was produced in partnership with the TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) and the AU United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The report was virtually launched on 17 February 2021, receiving lots of interest among the business community, private

sector and EAC government Ministries. Several stakeholders including the Kenya Association of Manufacturers and the East Africa Business Council requested for dedicated presentation of this report to their organizations. The report is titled [“Waving or Drowning? The Impact of COVID 19 on East African Trade”](#).

- **[The AUDA-NEPAD Inventory of Social Economic Land Data in Africa \(ISELDA\) Project, 2019-2021](#)**

In June 2019, AERC partnered with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA) – New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) to collate socio-economic data on land and propose a land data improvement strategy in 10 African member countries, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia, and Uganda. The project was successfully completed on 30 June 2021. For each of the 10 countries, a land data inventory report, a land improvement strategy report, and a policy note were produced. An overall synthesis report covering the 10 countries was also produced. The project helped to improve governments policy making on land issues working with stakeholders in land and natural resources and supported country ministries of land, agriculture, planning and national development, among others to develop country help [desks/online portals](#) where data on land would be accessed.

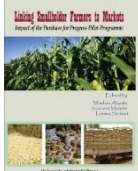
Research and Policy Outputs

	<i>Food Policy</i> special issue on 'The nutritional impacts of agricultural, food and nutrition policies in Sub-Saharan Africa', Forthcoming.
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	The Future of Work in the Global South: The case of Sub-Saharan Africa.
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	<u>Waving or Drowning? The Impact of COVID-19 on East African Trade, 2021.</u>
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	<u>Special issue of the <i>African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics</i> (AfJARE), Volume 14 Number 2, June 2019.</u>
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	<u>Linking Smallholder Farmers to Markets: Impact of the Purchase for Progress Pilot Programme, <i>University of Nairobi Press</i> (UONP), 2017.</u>
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Theses Repository	(hyperlink to direct to the repositories) • PhD • Masters <u><i>Collaborative Masters Programme in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE) - AgEcon Search (umn.edu)</i></u>
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