The African Development Perspectives Yearbook fills a gap in the literature on Africa’s development problems. Experts from African institutions and regional organisations, from international organisations, from universities and research institutions, from governmental and non-governmental organisations, and from the donor community analyse issues and report on problems and solutions, on new policies, programmes, projections and visions, and on new and ongoing projects in and for Africa. Various levels of action that are relevant for Africa’s development are considered in this Yearbook – the international community in its relations to Africa, interregional and national issues of Africa’s development, but also local projects and local development achievements are documented.

Africa’s development perspectives are therefore analysed and commented from the global to the local space, by presenting analytical surveys and policy statements, declarations and programmes of international, regional, national, and voluntary organisations and associations. It is also the purpose of the African Development Perspectives Yearbook to establish a news-and-information network, and a forum for international communication on Africa’s development perspectives.

The African Development Perspectives Yearbook Volume XIX:

Africa’s Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration - Towards New Trade and Investment Policies

In Volume 19 of the African Development Perspectives Yearbook with the title “Africa’s Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration – Towards New Trade and Investment Policies” major strategic and policy issues are analysed. The guiding issue is how to make trade and investment policies in Africa relevant for structural change. It is asked how these policies can support structural transformation through more policy coherence, strict implementation of programmes and a future-oriented development management approach. So far these policies are not fully coordinated with other key policy areas, like sector policies, competition and technology policies, private sector policies, regional and spatial policies, labour and equity policies, and policies to strengthen global value chains. Also severe implementation problems have affected the impact of trade and investment policies. The lack of future-oriented trade and investment policies has led to a number of missed opportunities.

The focus is, first, on new trade policies in Africa for structural change. The framework of coherent and comprehensive trade policies is presented; the role of international organisations in promoting agricultural export trade is analysed; and the divergence between planned and actual export diversification strategies is discussed. Second, another focus is on new investment policies in Africa for structural change. It is investigated how investment policies could be redirected towards major economic sectors, like agriculture and manufacturing. It is also asked how oil-exporting countries can strengthen their industrial policy towards export diversification. It is also analysed how global value chains can be strengthened by appropriate policies.

Third, there is a section with book reviews and book notes being related to the themes of volumes 18 and 19. Complementary to Volume 19 is Volume 18 with the title “Africa’s Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration – Towards Transformative Regional Integration”. Based on Africa’s deep rooted structural problems the key aspect of a more transformative regional integration process is how to promote structural transformation by adapted strategies and policies for the whole region.

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978-3-643-90785-1

www.lit-verlag.ch