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**The Role of International Peace and Political Stability in
Achieving Business Development and Economic Growth
in Africa: Case Study Agriculture Sector**

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Abstract

This study aimed to investigate and describe the role of international peace and political stability in achieving business development and economic growth in Africa, especially the agricultural sector there. A quantitative methodology was adopted, where a questionnaire has been distributed online among a sample of (300) decision makers, policy makers and managers of the agricultural sector in different African countries. The collected responses were analyzed by SPSS 23 and the results showed the absence of political stability and international peace in Africa, as Africa has different countries in a state of turmoil and political confusion. Moreover, the region is witnessing major conflicts over governance, sedition and coups, as well as persecution of the freedoms of its citizens. The study also revealed the absence of business development in the agricultural sector in Africa, as the environment of Africa and the turmoil and conflicts that prevailed in it led to the absence of foreign investments in this sector, despite the fact of its encouraging richness resources for agriculture, but the coups and civil wars contributed to the delay and deterioration of the agricultural sector in this region. Furthermore, the study's results indicated that the economic growth in the agricultural sector in Africa was low, and this is evidenced by the high unemployment rates and the deterioration of working conditions as well as the low income and standard of living among population, in addition to the lower agricultural gross domestic product and agricultural exports. Finally, the study concluded that there is a statistically significant positive impact of international peace and political stability on achieving business development and economic growth in African agriculture sector. The researcher recommends the necessity of adopting strategies to develop the African agricultural market by decision-makers and managers in the agricultural sector, with the need



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to develop political principles that reduce violence, political turmoil and conflicts in the region.

Keywords: International Peace, Political Stability, Business Development, Economic Growth, Africa.

1. Introduction

Political instability was a constant part of the post-colonial environment in Africa. Some of the influencing factors stem from political battles, the Cold War, racial animosities, rent-seeking behaviors, social misunderstandings, and injustice. Political instability spread to sub-Saharan Africa. Since the early 1960s, African states began gaining independence (Mvodo, 2019). The results were detrimental to economic development. For Mbaku, the relationship between elite political instability and economic development in Africa must be examined. Lack of political stability contributed greatly to the economic stagnation in the black continent (Mbaku, 1988). Most of its leaders would like to pursue state building initiatives while legitimizing their hold on power and this is not always complementary. The policy measures adopted can weaken the general comfort of the country (Mbaku, 1988). The immediate



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concern should be to create a consensus in favor of efficient and oriented systems of social welfare (Essays, 2013).

Despite the disappointing expectations and some difficult times experienced by a few countries, while also taking into account the challenges presented by poverty and disease, most African economies are thriving; Commercial volumes and foreign investment have increased over time. Although, international trade in Africa has not been affected by corruption, trade laws, political conflicts and instability. Some authors find opportunities in political instability such as conflict resolution and peace building initiatives (Premkumar & Tebandeke, 2012).

Responsible investment in the areas of natural resource wealth and appropriate mediation that can enhance stable and equitable political structures and support African peacekeeping capacities remain commendable. It also recommends appropriate humanitarian interventions that effectively reach those in need and are supported by political and judicial procedures. According to Kieh, the peripheral capitalist African state is the primary source of political instability on the continent. Specifically, the peripheral capitalist state has generated various crises such as a weak system that foments political instability (Kieh, 2009). Also, since the peripheral capitalist African state is a product and complement of the global capitalist system, the latter contributes to instability in the former. Hence, in order to remedy weak political stability, the peripheral capitalist African state must be



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democratically reconfigured, and fundamental changes must be made in the global capitalist political economy. Fusso asks how human development can be ensured through economic performance during political instability. For him, the frequent coups d'état in sub-Saharan Africa adversely affects human development. There is a need to uncover the origins and causes of political instability in Africa and their impacts on agricultural value chains (Fosu, 2010).

In the agricultural sector, there are many disadvantages associated with non-existent or ineffective value chains. Some of the causes identified are: lack of farm roads to market, insufficient transportation, and limited warehousing and storage facilities. At the regional and sub-regional levels, the problem is exacerbated. Most African trade with other continents while intra-trade remains undeveloped even with many comparative trade advantages between countries. This situation results in the African continent being highly dependent on its diverse supplies (medicines, food, clothing, furniture and services) (Mvodo, 2019).

2. Research Problem and Questions

The African continent faces many crises, some of which are caused by nature, such as droughts and floods, and others, such as wars, civil conflicts and coups. In recent years, there has been a renewed focus on enhancing agricultural production and food security in Africa through efforts such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development



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Program (CAADP) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). The food crises of 2008 and 2009, and their impact on political stability and agricultural trade policies across the developing world, led to an increased emphasis on the importance of a productive agricultural sector in Africa that creates sustainable livelihoods for farmers and meets urban needs at an affordable cost for urban consumers. Given that food demand and supplies will continue to be affected by population growth, rapid urbanization, shifts in dietary patterns and climate change, improving agricultural production is likely to remain at the top of the policy agenda for both donors and African governments for the foreseeable future (Resnick & Birner, 2011).

Despite the fact that many African countries have been affected by conflict and political instability and also depend on agriculture for the livelihood of the majority of their citizens, few peer-reviewed studies have examined the effects of conflict on various actors across the agricultural value chain (Gündüz & Klein., 2008). Therefore, the problem of this research is to investigate the role of international peace and political stability in achieving business development and economic growth in Africa, especially the agricultural sector there. The main problem of the study will be covered by answering the following study questions:



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1. What is the role of international peace and political stability in achieving business development in the agricultural sector in Africa?
2. What is the role of international peace and political stability in achieving economic growth in the agricultural sector in Africa?
3. What are the strategies that can be adopted by African agriculture decision makers to develop African agricultural market and its economic growth?

3. Literature Review

3.1 Business development and economic growth in Africa

Perhaps it came to mind from the very beginning of the continent of Africa that it suffers from poverty, hunger, disease, backwardness, conflicts and wars, however, after carefully analyzing the African scene, we can reach the truth that the huge wealth of the African continent is the location of the sins and evils that the people of the African continent live. Despite the richness of its lands in resources, the economic, political and social conditions of many of its countries, and the conflicts therein, and the promise of political stability, have made it always at the end of the list of continents and made most of its residents poor citizens (Gassner, Harris, & Mausch, 2019).

Africa the poorest and least developed continent in the world in various fields, despite this, it is considered the largest promising market in the



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world and therefore is seen as the only haven for the survival of the growth and stimulation of the global economy, as the markets in different continents of the world are no longer able to stimulate the global economy due to their saturation with investments, in addition to the consumption rate reaching its maximum limits, so it needs to build and develop everything in it (AGRA , 2016).

There are many and varied natural resources in Africa that can represent a solid base for a strong agricultural and transformative sector. The countries of the African continent have very large irrigated agricultural areas and very large herds of livestock, in addition to large areas of arable land, only a very small percentage of it is exploited under rained farming systems. In spite of these abundant natural resources, the performance of the agricultural sector and the associated business is very weak for reasons that are not hidden by many. Undoubtedly, Africa's agricultural record is weak, dismal and underdeveloped. At a time when global agriculture has grown significantly over the past four decades, food production has declined in Africa. During the three years following the outbreak of the Arab Awakening at the end of 2010, Africa witnessed an exacerbation of conflict and political turmoil, coinciding with deterioration in the economic situation (FAO, 2019).

3.2 Challenges in the agricultural sector in Africa

Recent periods of conflict and instability in Africa have different contexts and thus face different potential paths. However, all sectors of the crop,



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livestock and agricultural services value chains faced four common challenges, including (Kimenyi et al., 2014):

1. Reduced human mobility: People in all value chains are afraid to move outside protected areas due to insurgent attacks. Farm workers and herders feared attacks while in the fields or grazing animals. Input suppliers had difficulty reaching their customers. Processors deal with fewer workers available to operate the machines. Both traders and consumers limited their movements in the markets due to the intermittent attacks. In some cases, fear of attacking IDPs outside the conflict zone reduced the pool of labor.

2- Reduced access to inputs and markets: As a result of reduced mobility, various actors in the agricultural value chain have experienced a decrease in both the supply of inputs (fertilizers, herbicides, gasoline and seeds) and in access to consumers (demand).

3. Increase in theft of cash, products, and equipment: The agriculture sector has become a target for insurgents who need cash and food. Every part of the sector saw an increase in theft. Markets were prime targets of stealing agricultural products and large sums of cash.

4. Rise in transport, input and product prices: The reduced mobility of all members of the value chain and the decrease in supply led to an increase in transport and agricultural input prices, and thus agricultural products. In addition to these cross-cutting impacts, value chains for



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crops, fisheries, livestock and services related to agriculture have faced unique challenges due to conflict. The following sections summarize the strategies farmers used to adapt to the conflict and provide corresponding recommendations for donors (non-governmental, government and private investors) to maintain support within the agriculture sector (Kimenyi et al., 2014).

The macroeconomic reforms organized in many African countries since the early 1980s aimed to reduce the bias against agriculture that arose from direct taxes on the sector, exaggerated exchange rates that harmed exports, and severe protection for the industrial sector. Although these reforms have been beneficial, further progress is needed to establish a more stable and predictable macroeconomic policy environment conducive to economic growth. Until recently, the formulation of agricultural trade policies was seen as the responsibility of the government and large producers for export. Now there is a growing awareness that small-scale producer associations must play a more active role and need much training to do so (FAO , 2000).

The private sector has an important role to play in Africa, where inefficient government institutions continue to impede progress towards sustainable economic growth. Despite great progress in the privatization process in many countries, it is still not completely complete. It is necessary to increase privatization in some activities to ensure competitiveness. Nevertheless, the public sector has an important role in



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providing public goods such as transport, energy, water, communications, education and health. Sustainable economic growth requires a balanced development of the private sector, with the support of the public sector.

The World Trade Organization includes forty-one members in Africa, and five other countries are in the process of accession. The rest of the African countries may wish to consider joining the WTO because this commitment to common international trading regimes could facilitate the formation of an African Union. The current and potential WTO members should discuss the basic provisions of the GATT regarding economic integration, as well as their individual obligations under specific WTO agreements. The most relevant WTO agreements include, besides GATT, the Agreement on Agriculture, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (Resnick & Birner, 2011).

African countries should consider, in addition to regional groupings, their participation in preferential trade agreements with countries outside the continent. As mentioned above, many African countries depend on their preferential access to the European and North American markets for the largest part of their agricultural exports. However, some of the existing and proposed preferential systems may not be compatible with regional integration agreements in Africa. Such arrangements should be carefully



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examined to determine whether they are compatible, or can be made compatible, with the objectives of African economic integration (FAO, 2019).

Intra-African trade offers opportunities for sustainable growth and development in Africa. They are able to reduce vulnerability to global shocks, contribute to economic diversification, enhance export competitiveness and create jobs. Governments in Africa have made several attempts to take advantage of the potentials offered by regional trade in order to achieve development. The latest of these attempts is the decision taken by African leaders during the African Union summit held in January 2012 to promote intra-African trade and accelerate the establishment of a trade zone. Free on the continent. In this context, the 2013 Economic Development in Africa Report subtitled Intra-African Trade: Unlocking the Private Sector Dynamism, focuses on how to strengthen the private sector in order to boost intra-African trade. The report presents some facts about intra-African trade, sheds light on the features that characterize the corporate structure in Africa, and stresses the need to address these features in order to promote intra-African trade (FAO, 2019).

Peace and security are necessary conditions for developing the private sector and expanding trade in Africa. These two elements have important implications for investment and entrepreneurship. Peace and security also has dire consequences for risk-bearing lending premiums,



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and hence for access to the financing necessary for intra-African trade. Local and foreign entrepreneurs cannot be expected to make the necessary investments to accelerate production and trade in an environment where peace and security do not exist. The removal of trade barriers and the lifting of restrictions imposed on supply may have the desired effect on intra-African trade if there is political stability and security. The report recognizes the importance of peace and security in creating an enabling environment for expanding intra-African trade, and recommends that African governments promote peace and security by adopting inclusive growth policies, improving political governance and strengthening conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms (ISDB , 2013).

3.3 The Impact of Conflict and Political Instability on Agricultural

Several studies have analyzed the impact of the conflict on the wider economy, at both the macro and micro levels. Studies at the macro level confirm the impact of conflict on growth. For example, Gyimah-Brempong and Corley show that civil wars have a significant negative effect on the rate of growth of per capita income (Gyimah-Brempong, 2005). Sector-wide studies look at how agriculture is affected, specifically, by conflict. For example, Messer, Cohen and D'Acosta (1998) estimate that during periods of conflict, agricultural production decreases at a rate of 12.3 percent every year. Other studies



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narrowed the focus to specific crops (Messer, 1998). For example, Ksoll, Macchiavello, and Morjaria (2010) illustrate how the post-election violence negatively affected Kenya's cut flower industry exports (Ksoll, 2010).

The inverse causal relationship between growth and conflict was also examined. Mounting evidence suggests that shocks to growth due to extreme weather events (such as deviations in precipitation and normal temperature) may increase the risk of insecurity. Specifically, a relative change in precipitation (from the previous year) of 5 percent increases the likelihood of a civil war in the following year by 50 percent (Miguel, 2004). Climate shocks alone are not a necessary or sufficient cause of conflict (Kimenyi, Adibe, Djiré, & Abigail J. Jirgi, 2014).

3.4 Impacts of instability on agricultural

Numerous studies and research continue to examine how regional integration can enhance global value chains to accelerate economic growth and achieve food security. Tinta et al. study aimed to identify the best countries that develop strategies to raise international trade or adopt policies that promote regional trade. The authors support regional integration needs that better enhance and enhance stimulation of each country's potential to move from discontinuous growth to sustainable growth. They concluded that international trade is not the best solution for West African countries to boost economic growth. Food security and economic growth are two challenges to the contemporary economy in



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developing countries (Tinta, Sarpong, Ouedraogo, & Ramatu Al Hassan, 2018).

Economic growth remains the most important indicator used around the world to rank, evaluate and deal with any country. The overarching goal of every nation should be to make sure that it envisions improving living conditions. The illustration confirms that the low rate of economic growth, weak industrial development, and increasing poverty are characteristic of African countries due to weak human development, the increasing number of people living in urban slums without access to primary services, and increased corruption are defects in global trade (Mbaku J. , 1992). In the case of West Africa, the per capita GDP has increased very slowly. \$ 954 in 2010, \$ 1051 in 2011, \$ 1057 in 2012, \$ 1,137 in 2014; Meanwhile, other developing countries and the world have seen remarkable progress in reducing extreme poverty (Tinta et al., 2018). The rate of economic growth in African countries has always been too low for any development process to continue. Hence, the erratic growth performance of African countries is an important reason behind their lagging position in poverty eradication. Factors such as (long distances from markets, geographical segmentation, tropical climates and soils, small markets, demographic pressure, natural resources, aid, vulnerability to external economic shocks, weak institutional capacities, low financial sector and information technology, risks, policy uncertainty and political instability a major risk in achieving growth. These factors,



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through different channels, can address regionalism, transparency, innovation, sound policies and effective leadership. Regional integration offers tremendous opportunities to boost economic growth (Mvodo, 2019).

Regional integration by expanding the size of the market stimulates efficient allocation of resources, increases human capital and labor mobility, develops agricultural research and development-related activities, diversifies production and improves the manufacturing sector, increases domestic savings and investment, improves infrastructure and reduces the need for external debt. Moreover, it creates competitiveness, accelerates industrialization, and provides a better job opportunity which reduces poverty in the region. African economies are not strongly advanced in global value chains and this remains a critical asset in the equation. Effective agricultural value chains create comparative advantage and strengthen economic partnerships (Business and political instability , 2018). Food security is rarely affected by agricultural trade. When there is an increase in the income-learning capabilities of the poor, this enhances access to food. Higher intra-regional agricultural trade enables enhanced food security and increased local food supplies, thereby improving consumption needs and diversification at the household and national levels. Macroeconomic policies play important roles in influencing food security directly or indirectly by affecting poverty, food production, prices, foreign exchange,



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employment and wages. Integration is a better tool for meeting food security challenges due to opportunities targeting trade and market integration, investment in agricultural resources, investment in agricultural and commercial infrastructure, development in improved agricultural technologies, reduction of domestic and foreign policy distortions, and economies of scale. It is well known that integration greatly affects the performance of the agricultural sector by stabilizing food prices, strengthening the regional market and reducing dependence on the international market (Tinta et al., 2018).

It improves exports and reduces imports, which in turn affects income distribution in countries, rural development, job creation and the competitiveness of the economy. It ensures technology development against bad crops or natural disasters. Hence, all of these channels target malnutrition, hunger and famine. They seek to create an enabling environment that increases consumption and improves the nutritional well-being of the population that directly addresses poverty reduction. The impact of regional integration on food security goes beyond just food and agriculture. It includes the non-agricultural economy which has different impacts on countries' trade policy. Global value chains appear in most African countries, and this sector provides much potential geared towards strengthening regional trade value chains in the area of food security. But this would only be possible if political stability was in the equation and well protected (Mvodo, 2019).



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3.5 The role of donors in the agricultural sector

Donors should consider potential pathways to conflict in Africa when prioritizing options to support agricultural value chains. For example, the peace process that began in 2012 has brought stability to some degree in the region and created opportunities for reconstruction. But because conditions remain so fragile, interventions require special consideration of the dynamics of the ongoing conflict. In Africa, current levels of violence and instability are likely to increase as armed groups build on ethnic tensions surrounding national elections. During this period, agricultural stakeholders in Africa must prepare for continued instability by focusing on strategies to help farmers adapt and protect their assets. Conflict in Africa has four main impacts on agricultural actors and investments along agricultural value chains: 1) Reducing human mobility; 2) reduced access to inputs and markets; 3) Increased theft of various assets; 4) Increasing the prices of inputs and products (Kimenyi et al., 2014).

The effects of the conflict on the agricultural sector are largely due to the risk of attack by the rebels. Some sectors such as fishing and fish marketing in Africa were more resilient in the face of conflict. Subsistence farming communities also suffered from low levels of disruption during times of conflict due to the fact that their operations were isolated from support services prior to the conflict and that their profit margins were not attractive to invading rebel groups. Actors in all



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value chains have moved production to a location closer to their home where they can easily protect their agricultural enterprises within the fenced complexes. For example, a farmer in Nigeria raised small livestock in his backyard to maintain income during conflict (Kimenyi et al., 2014).

Other key strategies reported by value chain actors are to diversify their organizations or move to institutions with less risk of attack. In some cases, livelihood diversification has also included abandoning agricultural activities altogether and initiating new business strategies outside the agriculture sector. In Mali, many farmers negotiated with the rebels to receive protection and necessary agricultural inputs. However, when thinking about how to survive in conflict zones, there is always the risk of exacerbating conflict dynamics. This escalation can be avoided by identifying and removing such potential links with illicit economic activities. For example, by inadvertently supporting the rebels - as did an international NGO when it withdrew from Mali leaving its valuable items abandoned for the rebel groups to seize. Donors may consider shifting investments to more research on agricultural institutions and innovations that adapt to the conflict to protect the agricultural sector from insurgent attack. One final blanket option for donors, governments and policymakers seeking to support agricultural investments in Mali and Nigeria is to provide forums for the exchange of strategies between farmers. Interviews with farmers and other stakeholders revealed many of the diverse coping strategies they followed. Forums that will enable



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them to safely learn from one another have the potential to leverage new ways to support agricultural investments, prepare for future crises and deal with current levels of instability (Kimenyi, Adibe, Djiré, & Abigail J. Jirgi, 2014).

4. Methodology

4.1 Research Design and Tool

The methodology of the study is one of the basic elements that affect the accuracy and success of scientific research, as it defines the methods and tools that will be used in order to achieve the objectives of the research and answer its questions (Bryman & Bell, 2007). In this study, the research problem focuses on investigating the role of international peace and political stability in achieving business development and economic growth in Africa, especially the agricultural sector there. The quantitative approach is considered as the most appropriate utilised approach to cover the research problem in a clearer way. This approach has several benefits as the data collected could not be obtained using other techniques. It also has an objective representation of the target population and a structured assessment, as all participants share the same data (Apuke, 2017).

The primary data was collected from cross sectional survey. This survey (questionnaire) was designed based on previous relevant studies and literature. The questionnaire consists of two different parts with a set of closed statements directed towards collecting data on the different study



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variables. The first part of the questionnaire consists of questions covering the sociodemographic information of the selected sample participating in this study including participants' gender, residential region, job position, qualifications and years of experience. The second part consists of four sections that inquire about different aspects related to the role of international peace and political stability in achieving business development and economic growth in Africa, where the first section includes a group of (10) statements asking about the independent variable in the study which is international peace and political stability, while the second section inquires about the first dependent variable which is business development represented by another (7) close-ended statements. Moreover, the third section includes a group of (7) statements asking about the second dependent variable which is economic growth and the last fourth section consisted from (6) statements asking about suggested strategies to develop African agricultural market and its economic growth. The fifth Likert Scale was utilized to gather the responses of the study sample.

One of the fundamental matters that was also taken into account in designing the questionnaire is verifying its reliability and validity, in order to obtain reliable and precise results. The validity of the questionnaire was achieved as long as its statements were taken from questionnaires published in peer-reviewed and reliable previous studies and papers. However, for the reliability of the questionnaire, it was



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verified by conducting a pilot study on a sample of (30) decision makers, policy makers and managers of the agricultural sector in different African countries. The reliability of the tool and its components was determined by SPSS' Alpha Cronbach test before distributing the tool to the original study sample members and conducting the real study. Table 1 below shows the Cronbach alpha values for the overall questionnaire and its different parts.

Table 1: The results of Cronbach' alpha reliability test

No.	Variable	Number of Items	Cronbach's alpha value
1	International peace and political stability	10	0.884
2	Business development	7	0.902
3	Economic growth	7	0.883
4	Practical strategies to develop African agriculture market	6	0.889
Overall Tool's Items		30	0.871

As shown in Table 1, Cronbach's alpha was determined to be (0.884) for elements of the first scale, (0.902) for elements of the second scale, (0.883) for elements of the third scale and (0.889) for elements of the fourth scale. Moreover, it was (0.871) for the overall instrument elements, which means that the reliability of the tool is acceptable, and that the results that will be obtained from this questionnaire are valid and will be the same if the questionnaire is redistributed to another random sample, as long as Cronbach's Alpha value is higher than (0.7) (Graham, 2006).



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4.2 Research Sample

The study population in the current study consisted from all decision makers, policy makers and managers of the agricultural sector in different African countries. Due to the impossibility of covering the entire study population, in terms of cost and time-consuming, a random representative sample of the study population consisting of (300) decision makers, policy makers and managers of the agricultural sector in different African countries was selected, and the questionnaire was sent to them electronically via e-mail.

The following Table 2 shows the socio-demographic description of the members of the study sample according to (gender, residential region, job position, qualifications and years of experience):

Table 2: The socio-demographic characteristics of the study sample

Variable	Categories	Frequency	Percentages
Gender	Male	160	53.3%
	Female	140	46.7%
Residential region	Eastern Africa	55	18.3%
	Middle Africa	64	21.3%
	Northern Africa	52	17.3%
	Southern Africa	59	19.7%
	Western Africa	70	23.3%
Job Position	Development of agricultural programs and projects	81	27.0%
	Food security and agriculture production	75	25.0%
	Planning, services and management development	70	23.3%



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	Agricultural economics and marketing	74	24.7%
Qualifications	Bachelor's degree	181	60.3%
	Master's degree	99	33.0%
	PhD	20	6.7%
Years of Experience	Less than 3 years	80	26.7%
	3 years - 10 years	150	50.0%
	10 years - 20 years	40	13.3%
	More than 20 years	30	10.0%
Overall		300	100%

The descriptive statistics of the socio-demographic data of the study sample shows that the study participants were divided almost evenly between males (53.3%) and females (46.7%). The sample of decision makers, policy makers and managers who participated in this study were from different regions of Africa, and the proportion was (18.3%) from eastern Africa, (21.3%) from middle Africa, (17.3%) from northern Africa, (19.7%) from southern Africa and (23.3%) from western Africa, and this indicates the researcher's keenness that the study should be comprehensive for all regions of Africa and reflect the real status of agriculture sector to the greatest possible degree. Moreover, the researcher was keen to take into account the viewpoints of decision-makers and managers who work in the various departments of the agricultural sector in Africa in a way that enables him to obtain logical answers that are close to the truth, given that they are taken from specialists. The percentage of those working in the development of



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agricultural programs and projects was (27%), (25%) of them working in food security and agriculture production, (23.3%) working in planning, services and management development and (24.7%) working in agricultural economics and marketing.

Most of the study sample members were well educated having Bachelor's degree at least (60.3%), Master's degree with a ratio of (33.0%) or Doctoral degree with a ration of (6.7%). According to years of experience, Table 2 shows that individuals with less than 3 years of experience are few, representing only (26.7%) of the sample. On the other hand, the vast majority of the study sample possesses more than 3 years of experience with a percentage of (73.3%); including (50.0%) with 3-10 years of experience, (13.3%) with 10-20 years of experience, and (10%) with more than 20 years which indicates that the study sample is composed from highly qualified managers and decision makers who have knowledge in the field of the study, and this shows their ability to answer the research questions with credibility and high efficiency.

The researcher utilized SPSS (23) software program to analyze the primary collected data from the questionnaires, and then presenting the results and conclusions raised from this study. Different statistical descriptive tests were performed including frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviations were used to summarize variables of interest. Moreover, the simple linear regression and Pearson correlation tests were used to test the association between the international peace and



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political stability and achieving business development and economic growth in Africa at significance level 5%, which is the main problem of this study.

5. Results and Discussion

In this part, the data of the questionnaires that were collected from a sample of a sample of decision makers, policy makers and managers of the agricultural sector in different African countries were analyzed, using means and standard deviations to obtain the level and ranks of the items related to the study, as well as the Pearson correlation and simple linear regression test to predict the relationship between the international peace and political stability and achieving business development and economic growth in Africa.

5.1 Results related to International Peace and Political Stability

In order to evaluate the state of international peace and political stability in the African region from the perspective of decision makers, policy makers and managers of the agricultural sector in Africa, the descriptive statistics (means and standard deviation) of the responses and their ranks, which were elicited using a five-point Likert scale were calculated via SPSS, where means ranging from (1-1.80) were considered very low, from (1.81 to 2.60) were considered low, from (2.61-3.40) were considered moderate, from (3.41-4.20) were considered high and from (4.21-5.00) were considered very high. Table 3 below shows the



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descriptive summary of the responses to the questionnaire's items used to measure the international peace and political stability in the African region.

Table 3: Summary of participants' responses to items measuring the international peace and political stability in the African region (N=300)

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank	Level
1. Class, sectarian, tribal and partisan conflicts and struggles for power were eliminated.	1.93	0.88	10	Low
2. Africa prevails in an atmosphere of modern democracy in government, far from the oppression of citizens and the restriction of their freedoms.	2.04	0.99	2	Low
3. Conflicts, strife, coups and political upheavals are absent from the general atmosphere in Africa.	2.02	0.87	3	Low
4. African countries demonstrate their legitimate authority over their territorial borders and do not allow Western countries to exploit their natural resources.	2.07	0.96	1	Low
5. African policymakers and presidents are efficient in maintaining government within the confines of the law while exercising their political	1.96	0.83	6	Low



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power, and do not suppress peaceful dissent.				
6. African countries are working hard to establish the foundations of internal security and peace in the region by resolving disputes without resorting to force or persecution.	2.01	0.96	4	Low
7. African authorities have eradicated the region's human rights abuses, exploitation, monopoly and slavery that were once prevalent.	1.94	0.89	9	Low
8. African authorities rely on the collective exercise of power, and fair elections are held.	2.00	0.93	5	Low
9. There is respect for the principles of political stability in the region, such as the rule of law, and the principle of separation of civil, military and judicial powers.	1.95	0.83	7	Low
10. Mass violence (rioting), rebellion, political assassinations and domestic terrorism (politically motivated crime spree) were eliminated.	1.943	0.88	8	Low
Overall	1.99	0.88		Low



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It is clear from Table 3 above that the arithmetic means that measure the state of international peace and political stability in the African region were low ranged from (1.93- 2.07). It can be noticed that item (4) which stated: "African countries demonstrate their legitimate authority over their territorial borders and do not allow Western countries to exploit their natural resources", represents the highest agreed mean statement (2.07) and was followed secondly by item (2) in which it stated: "Africa prevails in an atmosphere of modern democracy in government, far from the oppression of citizens and the restriction of their freedoms" with a mean (2.04), followed thirdly by item (3) which it stated that: "Conflicts, strife, coups and political upheavals are absent from the general atmosphere in Africa." with a mean (2.02) and finally with the least mean value, item (1) which stated that: "1. Class, sectarian, tribal and partisan conflicts and struggles for power were eliminated." with a low mean (1.93).

Furthermore, the overall mean for this axis was (1.99) which indicates that most of the study sample do not agree with the idea that there is an atmosphere of political stability and international peace in Africa, as Africa has different countries in a state of turmoil and political confusion. Moreover, the region is witnessing major conflicts over governance, sedition and coups, as well as persecution of the freedoms of its citizens and subjecting them to restriction and punishments. This is consistent with the study of (Towah, 2019; Pasha, 2020) which showed the absence of the foundations of internal security and peace in the region, the large



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number of conflicts and wars in it, as well as human rights violations in the region, exploitation, monopoly, slavery, repression and other manifestations that encourage mass violence (rioting), rebellion, political assassinations and local terrorism (crime spree politically motivated).

5.2 Results related to Business Development

In order to assess the process of business development in the agricultural sector in Africa from the perspective of decision makers, policy makers and managers, a set of questions were asked and in the same manner Likert scale of five points was used in arranging the respondents' answers. The results of the descriptive analysis were as shown in Table 4:

Table 4: Summary of participants' responses to items measuring the business development in African agriculture sector (N=300)

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank	Level
1. There is a large influx of foreign investment into the agricultural sector in Africa.	2.04	0.93	1	Low
2. Africa is working to improve the productivity of agriculture and raise its exports of agricultural products abroad.	1.96	0.87	5	Low
3. There is a guarantee of food security for all and improved access to better food and nutrition in the country.	1.90	0.86	7	Low



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4. Africa is taking a set of measures aimed at combating the degradation of natural resources and promoting ecologically sustainable production methods.	1.91	0.86	6	Low
5. There is an integration of the rural poor into the market economy and a better access to export markets.	2.00	0.92	3	Low
6. There is a trend towards turning Africa into a net exporter of agricultural products.	1.97	0.94	4	Low
7. Market developments are monitored and the necessary legislation is put in place to regulate the marketing process, and to enhance local and international economic opportunities for farmers.	2.03	0.95	2	Low
Overall	1.97	0.89		Low

It is clear from Table 4 above that the arithmetic means that measure business development in the agricultural sector in Africa were low ranged from (1.90- 2.04). It can be noticed that item (1) which stated: "There is a large influx of foreign investment into the agricultural sector in Africa", represents the highest agreed mean statement (2.04) and was followed secondly by item (7) in which it stated: "Market developments are monitored and the necessary legislation is put in place to regulate the



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marketing process, and to enhance local and international economic opportunities for farmers" with a mean (2.03), followed thirdly by item (5) which it stated that: "There is an integration of the rural poor into the market economy and a better access to export markets" with a mean (2.00) and finally with the least mean value, item (3) which stated that: "There is a guarantee of food security for all and improved access to better food and nutrition in the country." with a low mean (1.90).

Furthermore, the overall mean for this axis was (1.97) which that the study sample members' evaluation of the business development in the agricultural sector in Africa was low, as the environment of Africa and the turmoil and conflicts that prevailed in it led to the absence of foreign investments in this sector, despite the fact of its encouraging richness resources for agriculture, but the coups and civil wars contributed to the delay and deterioration of the agricultural sector in this region. The result is in line with the study of (Towah, 2019; Pasha, 2020; Apogan-Yella, 2005; Adebajo & Rashid, 2004) who showed this effect and clarified that there is a decrease in the productivity of African agriculture and its exports of agricultural products abroad, and there is an absence of food security in it and a poor distribution of resources and wealth, in a way that contributed to the disappearance of local and international economic opportunities in these countries, and the spread of unemployment, poverty, hunger, disease and other consequences of economic backwardness.



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5.3 Results related to Economic Growth

In order to assess the economic growth in the agricultural sector in Africa from the perspective of decision makers, policy makers and managers,, a set of questions were asked and in the same manner Likert scale of five points was used in arranging the respondents' answers. The results of the descriptive analysis were as shown in Table 5:

Table 5: Summary of participants' responses to items measuring the economic growth in African agriculture sector (N=300)

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank	Level
1. Africa works to provide job opportunities and appropriate working conditions for farmers to contribute to reducing unemployment and improving their standard of living.	1.93	0.83	7	Low
2. There is interest in raising the agricultural gross domestic product and agricultural exports.	2.02	0.95	3	Low
3. There is a rise in per capita farmer's GDP and quality of life.	2.05	1.00	2	Low
4. There is an increase in the strength of the local currency in Africa.	2.07	0.98	1	Low
5. There is an increase in the level of trade exchange between Africa and countries abroad in the level of exports and imports	1.99	0.92	4	Low



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6. Taxes on agricultural services and projects are reasonable and encourage rather than discourage investment.	1.95	0.88	6	Low
7. Africa reduces its dependence on debt and international aid, and there is no deficit in its budget.	1.97	0.96	5	Low
Overall	1.99	0.92		Low

It is clear from Table 5 above that the arithmetic means that measure economic growth in African agriculture sector were low ranged from (1.93- 2.07). It can be noticed that item (4) which stated: "There is an increase in the strength of the local currency in Africa", represents the highest agreed mean statement (2.07) and was followed secondly by item (3) in which it stated: "There is a rise in per capita farmer's GDP and quality of life" with a mean (2.05), followed thirdly by item (2) which it stated that: "There is interest in raising the agricultural gross domestic product and agricultural exports" with a mean (2.02) and finally with the least mean value, item (1) which stated that: " Africa works to provide job opportunities and appropriate working conditions for farmers to contribute to reducing unemployment and improving their standard of living" with a low mean (1.93).

Furthermore, the overall mean for this axis was (1.99) which indicates that the study sample members' evaluation of the economic growth in the



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agricultural sector in Africa was low, and this is evidenced by the high unemployment rates in Africa and the deterioration of working conditions as well as the low income and standard of living among population, in addition to the lower agricultural gross domestic product and agricultural exports, lower per capita farm GDP and quality of life. This result is consistent with the study (Towah, 2019; Pasha, 2020; Apogan-Yella, 2005; Adebajo & Rashid, 2004) which showed that there is a state of general discontent on the part of the African people as a result of the absence of a fair distribution of natural resources and income, and due to the raised value of taxes on services and investment projects by the African governments, as well as the deterioration of local currencies in Africa and the decline in the level of trade exchange between Africa and countries abroad, on the level of exports and imports, which made Africa drown in its debts and suffer from a financial deficit in its budget.

5.4 The Role of International Peace and Political Stability in achieving Business Development and Economic Growth in Africa

In order to estimate the role of international peace and political stability in achieving business development and economic growth in Africa, Pearson correlation and simple linear regression analyses were implemented utilizing SPSS and the results were as indicated in the following Table (6) and Table (7) below:



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Table 6: Linear regression's model summary for the role of international peace and political stability in achieving business development (N=300)

(R)	(R ²)	Adjusted (R ²)	F	DF	α	β	T	Sig
0.896	0.803	0.803	40716.421	Regression 1	0.0	1.00	201.78	0.0
				Residual 29	0	2	3	0
				Total 29				

From the above Table 6, the model summary and overall fit statistics indicates that there is a statistically significant positive impact of international peace and political stability on achieving business development in African agriculture sector, where the coefficient of Pearson correlation R (0.896) at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). The coefficient of determination R² amounted to (0.803), this means that (80.3%) of the positive changes in business development in agriculture sector in Africa are because of the international peace and political stability. Moreover, the degree of impact (β) for the role of international peace and political stability in achieving business development is (1.002). This means that a one-step increase in the level of implementation of international peace and political stability improves business development in agriculture sector in Africa by (1.002). The significance of this effect is the value of the calculated (F) which reached (40716.421) and is significant at the level of ($\alpha 0.000 \leq 0.05$).



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Table 7: Linear regression's model summary for the role of international peace and political stability in achieving economic growth (N=300)

(R)	(R ²)	Adjusted (R ²)	F	DF	α	β	T	Sig	
0.894	0.799	0.799	26720.505	Regression	1	0.0	1.03	163.46	0.0
				Residual	29	0	0	4	0
				Total	29				
					8				
					9				

From the above Table 7, the model summary and overall fit statistics indicates that there is a statistically significant positive impact of international peace and political stability on achieving economic growth in African agriculture sector, where the coefficient of Pearson correlation R (0.894) at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). The coefficient of determination R² amounted to (0.799), this means that (79.9%) of the positive changes in economic growth in agriculture sector in Africa are because of the international peace and political stability. Moreover, the degree of impact (β) for the role of international peace and political stability in achieving economic growth is (1.030). This means that a one-step increase in the level of implementation of international peace and political stability improves economic growth in agriculture sector in Africa by (1.030). The significance of this effect is the value of the calculated (F) which reached (26720.505) and is significant at the level of ($\alpha 0.000 \leq 0.05$).



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There is consistency between this finding and the study of (Towah, 2019; Pasha, 2020) who indicated that the insecurity in Africa and the political turmoil in it is an important cause of economic backwardness. Although West African countries, for example, according to a study (Apogan-Yella, 2005) are among the richest countries in natural resources (gold, oil, bauxite, coal, gas, uranium and cocoa), they record the lowest gross domestic product per capital per year, as a result of the conflicts, coups, strife, political strikes, weak state structures, bad governance, war and corruption that plague the region. The study of Aisen and Veiga (2011) also emphasized that political stability affects economic growth through investment and savings, labor market disruption, productivity/production levels of private agents, and government monetary and fiscal policies. Muñoz (2009) argues that political instability affects economic growth through the channel of investment (reducing the accumulation of physical and human capital and changes in its composition that favor short-term investments), and the channel of social and political unrest (reducing productivity caused by disruption in the natural economy activities). At the same time, as Baklouti and Boujelbene (2018) explain that political instability leads to disruption in production activity, increased transaction costs that prevent a country from realizing its true potential and reducing its development and economic growth.



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5.5 Results related to Strategies to Develop African Agricultural

Market

In order to detect practical strategies to develop African agricultural market and its economic growth, a set of questions were asked and in the same manner Likert scale of five points was used in arranging the respondents' answers. The results of the descriptive analysis were as shown in Table 8:

Table 8: Summary of participants' responses to items measuring the strategies to develop African agricultural market (N=300)

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank	Level
1. Create an economic union in the food and agricultural sector to bypass national and regional barriers and achieve economic growth for the region.	4.07	0.85	2	High
2. Reducing political and legal restrictions and improving public infrastructure expected to accompany the establishment of the African Union will provide a safer and more profitable investment climate.	3.98	0.99	5	High
3. An investment plan to remove physical obstacles, improve the basic environment, and feasibility studies for bankable projects to	4.08	0.87	1	High



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increase the added value of the rural sector.				
4. Improving and modernizing food control in African countries by harmonizing plant and animal health standards.	3.99	0.93	3	High
5. Measures to ease production, consumption and infrastructure restrictions to reduce food insecurity.	3.98	0.95	4	High
6. African countries, with political will, can use their capabilities and tools to overcome colonial domination, resolve their conflicts alone, and achieve business and economic growth.	3.95	1.00	6	High
Overall	4.01	0.91		High

It is clear from Table 8 above that the arithmetic means that measure strategies to develop African agricultural market were high ranged from (3.95- 4.08). It can be noticed that item (3) which stated: " An investment plan to remove physical obstacles, improve the basic environment, and feasibility studies for bankable projects to increase the added value of the rural sector", represents the highest agreed mean statement (4.08) and was followed secondly by item (1) in which it stated: "Create an economic



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union in the food and agricultural sector to bypass national and regional barriers and achieve economic growth for the region." with a mean (4.07), followed thirdly by item (4) which it stated that: "Improving and modernizing food control in African countries by harmonizing plant and animal health standards" with a mean (3.99) and finally with the least mean value, item (6) which stated that: "African countries, with political will, can use their capabilities and tools to overcome colonial domination, resolve their conflicts alone, and achieve business and economic growth" with a high mean (3.95).

Furthermore, the overall mean for this axis was (4.01) which indicates that most of the study sample agreed to a large extent on the existence of a set of effective solutions and strategies to support and develop the African agricultural market, such as the establishment of an economic union in the food and agriculture sector to overcome national and regional barriers and achieve growth in the economic situation of the region, working to reduce political and legal restrictions and improving public infrastructure in a way that provides a safer and more profitable investment climate, and putting in place appropriate measures to ease production and consumption restrictions and infrastructure to reduce food insecurity, which is consistent with a study of (Towah, 2019; Pasha, 2020; Apogan-Yella, 2005; Adebajo & Rashid, 2004; Anyanwu, 2014; Enisan & Olufisayo, 2009).



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6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Previous studies have praised Africa's continued attempts to commit to sustainable business development and economic growth, and its attempts to overcome past crises and instability. However, corruption, violence and political tension in the region have contributed significantly to negatively affecting development policies and initiatives related to poverty reduction, agricultural practices, environmental protection and human development. Accordingly, this research aimed to investigate and describe the role of international peace and political stability in achieving business development and economic growth in Africa, especially the agricultural sector there.

The study showed the absence of political stability and international peace in Africa, as Africa has different countries in a state of turmoil and political confusion. Moreover, the region is witnessing major conflicts over governance, sedition and coups, as well as persecution of the freedoms of its citizens and subjecting them to restriction and punishments. The study also revealed that the absence of business development in the agricultural sector in Africa, as the environment of Africa and the turmoil and conflicts that prevailed in it led to the absence of foreign investments in this sector, despite the fact of its encouraging richness resources for agriculture, but the coups and civil wars



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contributed to the delay and deterioration of the agricultural sector in this region.

Moreover, the economic growth in the agricultural sector in Africa was low, and this is evidenced by the high unemployment rates in Africa and the deterioration of working conditions as well as the low income and standard of living among population, in addition to the lower agricultural gross domestic product and agricultural exports, lower per capita farm GDP and quality of life.

Furthermore, the study concluded that there is a statistically significant positive impact of international peace and political stability on achieving business development and economic growth in African agriculture sector. The study proved that the insecurity in Africa and the political turmoil in it is an important cause of economic backwardness. Although West African countries, for example, are among the richest countries in natural resources (gold, oil, bauxite, coal, gas, uranium and cocoa), they record the lowest gross domestic product per capital per year, as a result of the conflicts, coups, strife, political strikes, weak state structures, bad governance, war and corruption that plague the region.

Based on the results, the study recommends the necessity of adopting strategies to develop the African agricultural market by decision-makers and managers in the agricultural sector, with the need to develop political principles that reduce violence, political turmoil and conflicts in



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the region. It further recommends the establishment of an economic union in the food and agricultural sector to overcome national and regional barriers and achieve economic growth in the economic situation of the region and work to reduce political and legal restrictions and improve public infrastructure in a way that provides a safer and more profitable investment climate in Africa.

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