

# **The Influence of African Continental Free Trade Area on Indonesian Palm Oil Exports to Africa**

Alfian<sup>1\*</sup>, Ali Musa Harahap<sup>2</sup>, Rudi Candra<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of International Relations, Faculty of Humanities, Darussalam University, Jl. Raya Siman Km. 5 Siman, Ponorogo, East Java, 63471, Indonesia.

<sup>2&3</sup> Lecturer of UNIDA Gontor, Department of International Relations , Jl. Raya Siman Km. 5 Siman, Ponorogo, East Java, 63471, Indonesia.

Corresponding Email: [alfian05@mhs.unida.gontor.ac.id](mailto:alfian05@mhs.unida.gontor.ac.id)

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## **Abstract**

*African Continental Free Trade Area provides easy access for commodity markets on the African continent that were previously hampered, easy market access also provides a great opportunity for commodities to experience a decline in availability that was previously not felt. there is an increase in Indonesian palm oil exports to African countries after the agreement of the African Continental Free Trade Area. This research look for how does the African Continental Free Trade Area affect Indonesia's palm oil exports to the African Continent. The method in this research is a qualitative research method. secondary data is used to find answers in this research, trade cooperation and regionalism used to explain the phenomenon, The influence of the African Continental Free Trade Area affects the export activities of Indonesian palm oil which results in an increase in the number of Indonesian palm oil exports to Africa. Good relations between Indonesia and countries on the African continent that have been established for a long time and Indonesia's ability as the largest producer of palm oil products in the world is the right reason for African countries to choose palm oil imports from Indonesia,.*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Imports are important in a country as a way for the country to fulfill the needs of the community that cannot be met from domestic commodities, so that the people living in the country can prosper with the existence of imported goods from abroad that were previously not available domestically or there was a supply but was not yet able to meet the needs. Likewise with exports, exports are one of the elements in the country's economy, the country's ability to produce goods is very likely to exceed the needs of its people, countries that have excess availability send these commodities abroad to countries that need these commodities, so that the excess goods become a more useful monetary value for the exporting country<sup>1</sup>. in another scheme it is very possible for a country to deliberately produce more than the needs of its people with the aim of exporting these commodities and using the profits from these exports to buy commodities needed by the country, a country does this because it is an easier and more rational choice to make than developing other commodities needed by the country which requires greater costs than directly importing the commodities needed from abroad.

Trade agreements that incorporate countries in a region or continent such as the African Continental Free Trade Area are one of the many examples of the form of trade agreements in a region, the trade agreement has the aim of creating a new market of homogeneous trade and also aims to increase economic integration in a region<sup>2</sup>. Such regional cooperation on the African continent also impacts increasing the economic competitiveness of countries on the African continent at the world level as a whole. With the enactment and implementation of regional economic and trade cooperation agreements, as member countries can have many other positive impacts that can be obtained in it such as resources in the region can be utilized more optimally and more widely and of course more efficiently for the benefit of the region, encouraging the pace of development and progress of regional infrastructure to facilitate economic circulation, the most important thing and the most important thing from the impact that will be caused is to strengthen the position and facilitate their regional negotiations in economic forums within the scope and scope and trade at the international level. In general, economic and trade cooperation in a region has a major impact and results in sustainable economic growth that will be felt by the countries participating in the agreement in the future.

The main thing that encourages countries on the African continent to seek to establish the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement is to increase the

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<sup>1</sup> S H Adrian Sutedi, *Hukum Ekspor Impor* (Ras, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Ahmad Helmy Fuady, 'Namibia Dan Agenda Diplomasi Ekonomi Indonesia Di Afrika', *Indonesia-Namibia*, 31.

acceleration of economic growth by encouraging trade on the African continent in particular. Trade between countries on the African continent is still relatively low and minimal when compared to international trade with various countries outside Africa. By eliminating tariffs on imported goods and suppressing other barriers in the form of nontariffs, the African Continental Free Trade Area or AfCFTA aims to encourage the flow of goods and services between countries that are bound by agreements on the African continent. With this, the hope of the formation of this cooperation is progress for countries in Africa in various aspects, increasing the income of countries on the African continent, increasing human resources in the professional and labor-intensive sectors, opening up various jobs for the people of the country, and also strengthening the industrial base of each African country that is part of the AfCFTA agreement. Through various market accesses that will be facilitated and also integrated, various companies on the African continent will be able to increase the scale of production in their industry more than before, reduce various costs that were previously incurred for inefficient things because of various trade barriers, and also make these countries able to compete on a global scale.

The decision of African continental countries to create trade cooperation that facilitates trade activities for the countries in it is a step that they consider as a strategic step, but for Indonesia, which views countries on the African Continent as potential markets, it can contradict the interests of countries on the African Continent.

The increase in imports of Indonesian palm oil from African countries occurred in many countries and showed an increasing trend over time after the agreement of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The African Continental Free Trade Area, which aims to reduce the flow of imports from countries outside Africa and prioritize commodities originating from Africa for consumption by member countries of the agreement, is not in line with the increase in imports of Indonesian palm oil. The research question of this research we should know how does African Continental Free Trade Area affect Indonesia's palm oil exports trade cooperation to the African Continent.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. Research using qualitative methods is research by analyzing and describing a problem comprehensively, analyzing data and providing reports. The author uses a descriptive method in which this qualitative research focuses on the influence of African Continental Free Trade Area on Indonesian palm oil exports to Africa. The data collected comes from reports, news, images that have meaning and are able to understanding. In this study, the researcher emphasizes detailed, complete, in-depth sentence descriptions that describe the actual situation to support the presentation of data.

### **III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### **The Influence of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement on the Foreign Relations of African Countries**

The African Continental Free Trade Area provides a new picture of the economic map of African countries which previously faced difficulties in conducting international trade even to conduct international trade with countries within the African continent itself, and if African countries want to trade between African countries must be faced with trade barriers in the form of tariff barriers and non-tariff barriers, these barriers certainly cause higher costs.

After the approval of the African Continental Free Trade Area, African countries have added value to their position in the international world with the cooperation they establish with each other in the economy, of course the agreement will strengthen the economy of African countries and strengthen solidarity between African countries, it will raise the assessment of other countries against African countries and give better value to African countries than before, good judgment is needed in international relations for diplomacy with other countries which will bring various benefits to the countries themselves, These benefits can take various forms, either in the form of investment given to the country which will be used for the development of the country which will accelerate the pace of the economy or in the form of financial loans that can be used for the benefit of the country, or in the form of other more important loans, besides that it can be in the form of cooperation in science which will be useful for both countries that work together, and can also take the form of humanitarian assistance when one of the cooperating countries needs help in an emergency. These things are achieved with good diplomacy owned by the two countries concerned.

After the African Continental Free Trade Area was agreed by African countries, the international relations of African countries became better and more valuable with other countries outside the African continent, diplomacy carried out by African countries has a better level of achievement after the approval of the African Continental Free Trade Area, of course the African Continental Free Trade Area has an influence on the level of success of diplomacy carried out by countries on the African continent on an international scale, including diplomatic achievements achieved by countries on the African continent is the Samoa Agreement which began on January 1, 2024 which was signed by European Union countries, The Samoa Agreement, which consists of these countries, aims to accelerate the achievement of the points listed in the SDGs, the agreement also discusses trade and investment points that will be mobilized by member countries that are useful for the progress of members who agree, in addition to trade and

investment, the meeting also discusses fostering social development and human resources in the countries present at the meeting<sup>3</sup>.

In addition to the Samoa Agreement, many African countries also cooperate with China<sup>4</sup>. China itself provides a lot of investment to African countries in the form of loans or direct foreign investment, African countries that get help in the form of investment utilize it for the development of the country such as infrastructure, facilities, or facilities and infrastructure, the investment provides an opportunity for countries in Africa to transfer technology to modern technology owned by China which will make it easier for African countries to achieve the welfare of their country's people. The cooperation between China and African countries also benefits China in getting the benefits of the investment that has been given abroad, that way both parties get their respective benefits, official meetings organized by both parties are also often held<sup>5</sup>, the meeting will certainly strengthen relations between these countries which will be mutually beneficial.

From the achievement of diplomacy can be a measure of improving international relations between countries on the African continent with other countries outside the African continent, good relations are increasing along with the improvements achieved by countries on the African continent both in terms of economy, infrastructure or others caused by the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement that has been running on the African continent.

## **The Influence of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement on Relations between African Countries and Indonesia**

Indonesia has a long history of good relations with countries on the African continent, these good relations are maintained from time to time even though Indonesia has experienced changes in leadership as other democratic countries, but Indonesia's

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<sup>3</sup> Unión Europea dan Cooperación Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, 'Uni Eropa Dan Organisasi Negara-Negara Afrika, Karibia, Dan Pasifik Menandatangani Perjanjian Samoa', *Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea Dan Cooperación*, 2023 <[https://www.exteriores.gob.es/en/Comunicacion/NotasPrensa/Paginas/2023\\_NOTAS\\_P/2023115\\_NOTA042.aspx](https://www.exteriores.gob.es/en/Comunicacion/NotasPrensa/Paginas/2023_NOTAS_P/2023115_NOTA042.aspx)>.

<sup>4</sup> Denta Utama, Mohamad Rosyidin, and Fendy Eko Wahyudi, 'Di Balik Keterbelakangan Kongo: Pengaruh Huayou Cobalt Dalam Kerjasama Kongo Dan Tiongkok', *Journal of International Relations*, 8.4 (2022), 1001–17.

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The People's of Republic of China, 'The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Holds A Briefing for Chinese and Foreign Media on President Xi Jinping's Attendance at the Opening Ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation', *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The People's of Republic of China*, 2024 <[https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202408/t20240823\\_11478779.html](https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202408/t20240823_11478779.html)>.

togetherness with countries on the African continent is inherited in every Indonesian leadership. Indonesia and African countries are also good partners with each other in various aspects of statehood. A long history has been established between Indonesia and Africa, Indonesia and Africa have helped each other since post-independence Indonesia and African countries are countries that have gone through the history of victims of colonization by European countries<sup>6</sup>, directly Indonesia and African countries have the same background regarding colonization, where these countries are victims of colonization by western countries that have an interest in the natural resources that Indonesia and African countries have, African countries with natural resources in the form of minerals that are rare but abundant in African countries such as diamonds, cobalt, gold and copper<sup>7</sup>. Indonesia is a victim of colonization because of its natural resources in the form of abundant spices, wood and forest timber needed for materials at that time, so Indonesia and African countries have the same background and depart from the same situation and strengthen each other for a long time. Egypt itself is a very meritorious country for Indonesia, Egypt is an African country and is one of the first countries to recognize Indonesia's independence, which at that time was fighting for *de facto* and *de jure* international recognition that must be owned as a sovereign country<sup>8</sup>.

Until after the formation of the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, Indonesia's relations with African countries remained in a very good condition and even experienced an increase in Indonesia's cooperation with African countries, this can be seen from the increase in cooperation and state visits by President Joko Widodo as a representative of Indonesia to a number of African countries, The state visit was carried out from August 20, 2023 to August 25, 2023, a state visit made by President Jokowi Dodo to several countries on the African continent such as Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and South Africa, President Jokowi Dodo said that his visit brought good relations that have long been established between Indonesia and Africa which have been

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<sup>6</sup> Andri Nurjaman and Asep Sulaeman, 'Chalid Dalam Konferensi Islam Asia Afrika Di Kota Bandung Tahun 1965', 4 (2020), 147–76.

<sup>7</sup> Caroline Mallory, 'The Paradox of the Green Energy Revolution: Does Chinese Cobalt Mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo Undercut Benefits of Green Energy? Undergraduate Honors Thesis Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Graduation With', April, 2023, 1–51.

<sup>8</sup> Rezki Satris, 'Peranan Politik Luar Negeri Indonesia Terhadap Palestina Pasca Pengakuan Jerusalem Sebagai Ibu Kota Israel', *Politea*, 2.2 (2019), 161 <<https://doi.org/10.21043/politea.v2i2.5884>>.

established through a long history and support for each other since the beginning of independence<sup>9</sup>.

Although Indonesia has only opened representative offices in 16 regions, Indonesia itself has relations with countries in Africa totaling 54 countries with official state diplomatic relations, the amount of trade between Indonesia and African countries throughout 2022 touched 17.4 billion USD<sup>10</sup>, a large value in international trade, Indonesia itself has seen markets in African countries as strategic partners for various commodities and also products originating from Indonesia so that the relationship between these countries is a mutually beneficial partner relationship with each other without the intention of harming a party in trade activities.

African Continental Free Trade Area influence in the relationship between African countries and Indonesia is the overall influence of African countries that have the same view of Indonesia as a partner and friendly country in trade and in other aspects, the equation of this assumption to Indonesia is getting stronger and indirectly there is a holistic justification through the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, so Indonesia's relations with African countries are getting better. With the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, there is an indirect collective perception that Indonesia is a joint partner that has the ability to become an importer of commodity goods needed by African countries and remains a close country in diplomatic relations.

### **The Influence of African Continental Free Trade Area on Increasing Indonesian Palm Oil Exports to Africa**

Through the unity of the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement which is motivated by the same goal regarding welfare and economic progress which is motivated by regionalism for the same purpose, regionalism formed in the African continent region which forms a view of Indonesia as a strategic partner related to trade, especially in the discussion in this study, namely palm oil which is one of the main consumption needs of people in African countries. The similarity of views that are formed not only through history but also through cooperation built by African countries and the reasons for the similarity of views have become stronger after the agreement on

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<sup>9</sup> BPMI Setpres, 'Presiden Jokowi Lakukan Rangkaian Kunjungan Ke Afrika', *Presiden Republik Indonesia*, 2023 <<https://www.presidentri.go.id/siaran-pers/presiden-jokowi-lakukan-rangkaian-kunjungan-ke-afrika/>>.

<sup>10</sup> Lusita Novita Sari, 'Peningkatan Hubungan Indonesia Dengan Negara-Negara Afrika Pascakunjungan Kenegaraan Presiden RI', *Sekretariat Kabinet Republik Indonesia*, 2023 <<https://setkab.go.id/peningkatan-hubungan-indonesia-dengan-negara-negara-afrika-pascakunjungan-kenegaraan-presiden-ri/>>.





the African Continental Free Trade Area, the similarity of views by African countries makes Indonesia a partner by African countries.

The increase in Indonesian palm oil exports to African countries from time to time after the agreement of African Continental Free Trade Area, an increase in Indonesian palm oil exports occurred in several countries on the African continent such as Egypt, Tanzania, Jibuti, Benin, and Kenya<sup>11</sup>. These countries experienced increased import activity of palm oil products after the agreement of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The amount of increase in Indonesian palm oil exports to these countries is high from time to time. The increase in Indonesian palm oil exports to African countries can occur due to the motives behind it.

*Table 1 Number of Indonesian Palm Oil Exports to Africa*

Negara Tujuan Utama	Nilai FOB (Juta US\$)			% Perubahan		Nilai FOB (Juta US\$)1		% Perubahan
	Mei 2022	April 2023	Mei 2023*			Jan-Mei		
				YoY	MTM	2022	2023	CTC
Mesir	-	33,0	76,1	-	130,36	347,7	349,1	0,39
Tanzania	-	7,0	35,7	-	408,57	95,6	79,6	-16,71
Jibuti	-	18,3	31,9	-	73,76	93,8	140,4	49,68
Benin	-	14,2	29,4	-	106,77	17,5	119,9	584,31
Kenya	0,2	14,6	23,0	12.063,64	57,25	15,7	89,3	469,10

With the presence of the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, of course, the circulation of commodity trade goods between countries will be easier to circulate from region to region, so that the availability of commodity trade goods will have a wider market and more consumers of these commodities, with the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement will certainly facilitate the mobilization of trade goods and when the commodity trade goods experience a lack of availability of goods, the impact of the lack of availability of goods will be wider because usually the commodity trade goods can be obtained easily, then the public consumption of these commodities will increase, this is what happens to commodity palm oil products on the African continent.

Palm oil products are widely circulated in Africa, there is a decrease in the availability of commodity stocks that consumer countries must realize, the availability of commodities is a problem for the high consumption habits of countries. Importing palm oil products from a well-partnered country with a long history of closeness is a motive that can be used as a reinforcement in the commodity import activity the

<sup>11</sup> Mae, 'Selamat Pak Jokowi! Ekspor CPO Ke Negara Afrika Melonjak 800%', *CNBC Indonesia*, 2023 <<https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/research/20230616131234-128-446571/selamat-pak-jokowi-ekspor-cpo-ke-negara-afrika-melonjak-800>> [accessed 7 November 2024].



countries certainly know this in the agreement because it will have an impact on the consumption bound by the agreement, but the collective good relationship with the same Indonesian country is established between the countries that agree to the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement and the awareness of the availability that has not been able to meet the needs of the community, Africa's large population of approximately 1.4 billion people<sup>12</sup>, with a large population in one continent that is a consumer of commodity palm oil products, processed palm oil products that can be used in a variety of derivative products will also certainly increase the amount of public consumption that has not been able to be met by palm oil production from within the African continent.

Indonesia has a very important role to fulfill the need for palm oil on the African continent. Trade Cooperation between African countries and Indonesia is a way for a country to fulfill the needs of society to achieve prosperity which is the main goal. With the form of imports carried out by African countries, it becomes a way to support the lack of production capacity within the African continent. This Agreement gives an reasonable sense that products within the African continent itself are still not able to meet the needs of palm oil consumption within the African continent, the amount of production that can be produced by countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria is not able to meet the needs of all African countries and it becomes easy to realize by African countries through the African Continental Free trade area agreement after trade between African countries is much easier than before after the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement.

In addition, the meeting after the African Continental Free trade Area by state leaders between Indonesia and countries in Africa has further strengthened relations between Indonesia and African countries, it shows that the African Continental Free Trade Area is not an obstacle and cause that can stretch the relationship between Indonesia and African countries, as when President Jokowi Dodo visited Tanzania, Jokowi Dodo also attended a meeting with businessmen and officials in the country, in the meeting the Tanzanian government and President Jokowi Dodo also discussed trade cooperation between Indonesia and Tanzania in the future which will certainly benefit Tanzania and Indonesia in the future, the concentration between Tanzania and Indonesia to trade between the two countries is very intensive for the economic progress of both countries. The meeting between the heads of state which was also attended by big

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<sup>12</sup> IMF, 'African Century', *International Monetary Fund*, 2023  
<<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2023/09/PT-african-century>>.

businessmen is something that shows the direction of the meeting that will lead to economic cooperation that will be held in the future by both countries.

Cooperation between African countries and Indonesia in two alternating currents in many fields and in this discussion specifically on the economy in the form of Indonesian palm oil exports to African countries. African Continental Free Trade Area agreement signed by the African countries, there was a very significant increase in palm oil exports from Indonesia to African countries, Cooperation between Indonesia which views Africa as a strategic and broad market for commodity products from Indonesia from raw products to processed products. This study will discuss palm oil from Indonesia that is exported to African countries and will not discuss other commodities. Indonesian palm oil which is facing a ban from European Union countries which were previously one of Indonesia's largest palm oil partners needs another way to maintain the country's economy which is sourced from palm oil, Africa after agreeing to the African Continental Free Trade Area has become a better market for commodities because product circulation can easily pass through national less economic export import obstacle.

### **The Influence of Indonesia in Fulfilling the Palm Oil Product Needs of African Countries**

Indonesia is the country with the largest production of palm oil products in a long time and the largest exporter of palm oil products in the world and has the ability to influence the availability of palm oil globally, in terms of palm oil products Indonesia has also exported palm oil products to African countries every year, Africa is Indonesia's strategic partner for palm oil products besides China, India and the European Union. The European Union has recently put pressure on Indonesian palm oil products and caused Indonesia to stop most of its palm oil exports to the European Union and try to find a way out of the pressure put by the European Union<sup>13</sup>.

With the EU pressure on Indonesia's palm oil products, Indonesia sees African countries as strategic countries to partner in palm oil products for a more concentrated relationship well after the EU pressure is given to Indonesian palm oil products, Indonesia seeks to increase cooperation in palm oil products to African countries after pressure from the European Union, it is a way out for Indonesia to reduce losses that could occur after rejection from the European Union against Indonesian palm oil products.

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<sup>13</sup> Windratmo Suwarno, 'Kebijakan Sawit Uni Eropa Dan Tantangan Bagi Diplomasi Ekonomi Indonesia', *Jurnal Hubungan Internasional*, 8.1 (2019) <<https://doi.org/10.18196/hi.81140>>.

African countries necessities is very large and it is still very possible to lack stocks from within the African continent, importing from Indonesia is the right choice, so that the annual needs of African countries can still be met properly. According to data published by the Indonesian Central Bureau of Statistics, Indonesia's capacity for oil palm plantations reaches 46,986,100 tons per year 2023<sup>14</sup>, a large number for a non-oil and gas transaction that runs in Indonesia.

### **Cooperation In Trade between African countries and Indonesia as strategic partners.**

Indonesia and African countries have a good relationship that has been established since a long time, good relations between the countries of the country provide benefits to each other and certainly without any intention to harm one party, African countries have a very large population that has good purchasing power for commodities originating from Indonesia, with a very large population and good purchasing power, African countries are a good opportunity for Indonesian trade, the majority of which are simple commodities, by expanding the market for Indonesian commodities to African countries, of course, will increase profits for Indonesia which will increase foreign exchange and state revenues to be greater than the process of exporting Indonesian commodities to these African countries<sup>15</sup>. This is very beneficial for Indonesia for the development of the country and other state activities.

African countries also obtain needs from Indonesia that they usually import from Indonesia which cannot be obtained from within their country or have not been able to fully meet their needs, such as processed foods and processed cooking spices that are in great demand in African countries, processed foods such as instant foods, light snacks, to instant drinks which are indeed widely produced in Indonesia and are famous for their good taste, instant foods such as instant noodle products from Indonesia such as indomie become instant food from Indonesia which is very in demand in the market of African countries<sup>16</sup>, People in many countries very well know instant noodles from Indonesia on the African continent, the export of instant noodles from Indonesia to countries on

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<sup>14</sup> Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia, 'Produksi Tanaman Perkebunan (Ribu Ton), 2023', *Bps.Go.Id*, 2024 <<https://www.bps.go.id/id/statistics-table/2/MTMyIzI=/produksi-tanaman-perkebunan--ribu-ton-.html>>.

<sup>15</sup> Mariane Olivia Delanova, 'Diplomasi Ekonomi Indonesia Ke Kawasan Afrika', *Jurnal Academia Praja*, 4.2 (2021), 509–24 <<https://doi.org/10.36859/jap.v4i2.414>>.

<sup>16</sup> Sulthon Sjahril Sabaruddin and Hoiril Sabariman, 'Analysis of the Non-Traditional Market Potentialities to Enhance Economic Relations Between Indonesia and Namibia', *Jurnal Lemhannas RI*, 11.1 (2023).

the African continent is a very proud thing and can be a medium in diplomacy with countries on the African continent<sup>17</sup>.

Indonesian exports in the form of motorized vehicles and accessories such as tires are of particular interest to African countries, these are important items for people who use motorized vehicles as a means of daily transportation, and of course become an important element in the distribution of trade goods and become the driving force of the economy of African countries, automotive manufacturers from Japan, which is a large automotive producing country in Asia, have opened their factories in Indonesia and send their automotive vehicles and products from Indonesia to other countries, one of the destination countries of the automotive is the African country.

In addition to exports and imports carried out by these countries, cooperation in various fields is also carried out by Indonesia and African countries<sup>18</sup>, both in the health sector to the digital field, the many similarities between Indonesia and African countries make the goals between Indonesia and African countries do not have such a far difference, so mutual support and cooperation are very appropriate choices to be taken by these countries, by cooperating between these countries, the possibility of accelerating the achievement of their respective goals will be easier. This creates an interdependent relationship between Indonesia and African countries.

### **Indonesia's Cooperation with The Destination Countries of Indonesian Palm Oil Exports**

Indonesia has cooperation with countries that are destinations for Indonesian palm oil exports, the destination countries for Indonesian palm oil exports that have increased the number of palm oil imports from Indonesia, one of which is the country of Egypt, the country of Egypt is a country that contributed to Indonesia when Indonesia fought for the independence of the country and tried to obtain factual and legal recognition that needed to be obtained for international independence, and until now Indonesia's cooperation with Egypt is still well established, in trade activities Indonesia imports many commodities originating from Egypt such as dates, phosphates, processed

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<sup>17</sup> Aulia Ramadhani and others, 'Diplomasi Indonesia Melalui Indomie Terhadap Nigeria', *Global and Policy Journal of International Relations*, 8.01 (2020), 51–63 <<https://doi.org/10.33005/jgp.v8i01.2171>>.

<sup>18</sup> Lusita Novita Sari, 'Diplomasi Ekonomi Indonesia Ke Afrika: Tantangan Dan Peluang', *The Insights*, 39, 2023 <<https://habibiecenter.or.id/img/publication/7ff03a600fceb2284a04cabe3e33b11.pdf>>.

sugar derivatives<sup>19</sup>. Indonesia itself also exports various types of processed palm oil and its derivatives, coffee and its preparations<sup>20</sup>, cocoa and textile products. These products are routinely traded with Egypt and become Indonesian export commodities Egypt needs. In the field of education, Egypt provides a lot of educational access to students from Indonesia to study in Egypt<sup>21</sup>, the scholarships given are very popular among Indonesian Muslim students who want to study religion in Egypt, and these scholarships have long been given to Indonesian students who intend to study in the country of Egypt. Indonesia's palm oil exports to Egypt have increased over time after the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement and Egypt itself is a member of the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement. The good and holistic relationship between Egypt and Indonesia makes Indonesia and Egypt still have a good relationship even after the agreement of the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement and Egypt makes Indonesia a partner in palm oil products in the country because Indonesia is the most appropriate option to meet Egypt's needs for large palm oil products and this can be seen from the increase in Egypt's imports of palm oil products from Indonesia.

The country of Tanzania is also a palm oil export partner from Indonesia, Indonesia's relationship with Tanzania is well maintained between the two countries, one of which is in the form of the arrival of President Jokowi Dodo to Tanzania in 2023 ago with a meeting between President Jokowi Dodo and the President of Tanzania and attended by businessmen from Tanzania who also participated in the meeting, concentration on the field of trade is very focused with the official meeting between Indonesia and Tanzania.

Indonesia's cooperation with Djibouti is also a long-standing cooperation, the relationship between Indonesia and Djibouti has started since 1979, Djibouti has an important role for Indonesia and Indonesia's relations with other African countries, especially the location of Djibouti as the easternmost country to enter other African countries, Indonesia and Djibouti are conducting further cooperation in the field of economics and international trade between the two countries, in 2019 a collaboration between Indonesia and Djibouti in the field of new era trade was agreed upon, the

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<sup>19</sup> Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 'Sejarah Hubungan Indonesia Mesir', *Kemenlu.Go.Id*, 2022 <<https://kemlu.go.id/cairo/id/read/sejarah-hubungan-indonesia-mesir/1900/etc-menu>>.

<sup>20</sup> Yandi Suprpto and Erni Astuti, 'Analisis Kegiatan Ekspor Kopi Indonesia Dalam Pasar Global', *SEIKO : Journal of Management & Business*, 6.1 (2023), 216–21.

<sup>21</sup> Muhamad Murtadlo, Husen Basri, and Qowaid Qowaid, 'Egypt and It's Implication for Modernizing of Education in Indonesia', 2020, 297–306 <<https://doi.org/10.4108/eai.8-10-2019.2294530>>.

collaboration is the Indonesia-Djibouti Business Connect which was introduced on November 19,<sup>22</sup> . Djibouti is one of the countries that has experienced a significant increase in Indonesian palm oil exports even after the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement.

Kenya has cooperation with Indonesia in several fields, in addition to trade Kenya has cooperation with Indonesia in the energy sector which was agreed upon and signed by the Indonesian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources directly during President Jokowi Dodo's visit to Kenya, in addition to cooperation in the energy sector<sup>23</sup> , Kenya also has cooperation in the fields of food and health which was also agreed upon by the two countries after a state visit to Kenya 2023 ago, Indonesia's cooperation with Kenya has been well established and for a long time, Kenya itself is a country that also agreed to the African Continental Free Trade Area, Indonesia's good relations with Kenya are maintained choosing to import palm oil products from Indonesia is the right choice, exports of palm oil products themselves are increasing from time to time in Kenya.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

African Continental Free Trade Area is a way out of the difficulties for countries on the African continent in carrying out international trade activities within the African Continent itself, African countries approved African Continental Free Trade Area to facilitate international trade between countries on the African continent by removing tariff barriers and non-tariff barriers that are a problem in international trade within the African continent, so that African countries can increase trade between countries on the African continent and can improve the economy of member countries of African Continental Free Trade Area agreement.

Trade cooperation between Indonesia and African countries that is running even though the African Continental Free Trade Area has been agreed upon and proven by the increase in Indonesian palm oil exports to African countries. The African Continental Free Trade Area provides a common view to African countries that Indonesia is a trading partner in the palm oil sector to meet the palm oil needs of African countries that are right Indonesia's palm oil exports to African countries that have been running for a long

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<sup>22</sup> Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 'Indonesia-Djibouti Business Connect Diluncurkan', *Kemlu.Go.Id*, 2019 <<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/id/read/809/berita/indonesia-djibouti-business-connect-diluncurkan>>.

<sup>23</sup> Kementerian ESDM Indonesia, 'Indonesia - Kenya Perkuat Kerja Sama Sektor Energi', *Esdm.Go.Id*, 2023 <<https://www.esdm.go.id/id/media-center/arsip-berita/-indonesia-kenya-perkuat-kerja-sama-sektor-energi>>.

time have experienced a considerable increase in African countries and this happened after African countries approved African Continental Free Trade Area, The relationship between Indonesia and African countries goes well through a long history after the release of Indonesia and African countries from colonialism, the events written in the long history build a good view. With the increasingly smooth trade activities between African countries, the consumption level for 1.4 billion people on the African continent is a wide market for commodities, especially in palm oil commodities. Palm oil producing countries such as Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Kenya, have high consumption levels, the technology to maximize efficiency in production is also still limited and unable to meet the vast needs of the African continent after the agreement of the African Continental Free Trade Area, of course this is realized by each country that agreed to African Continental Free Trade Area agreement. The choice of African continental countries to import from Indonesia is an option to meet the needs of the country's palm oil products. Cooperation in the fields of trade, health and education established with Indonesia is also a reason to launch international trade activities between these countries, Indonesia views Africa as a strategic partner and has a wide market for various Indonesian commodities, especially Indonesian palm oil products faced with pressure from the European Union which is motivated by various reasons, Africa is the right choice for the Indonesian palm oil product market. The African Continental Free Trade Area which is a way out to streamline trade between countries on the African continent is a driving factor for the increase in Indonesian palm oil exports to the African continent.

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