

Global and local food value chains in Africa: Supply chain linkages and sustainability

MIET MAERTENS

10th Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics, June 10-11 2021

Traditional food supply chains

Transitional food supply chains

Modern food supply chains

```
size of operation ↑
capital intensity ↑
length ↓ & distance ↑
supply-driven → demand-driven
coordination ↑
value-added ↑ & quality differentiation ↑
supply chain innovations ↑
```

Cereals & staples

- Low value, storable, annual crops
- Traditional to transitional supply chains
- Limited differentiation between local and global chains

Tropical commodities

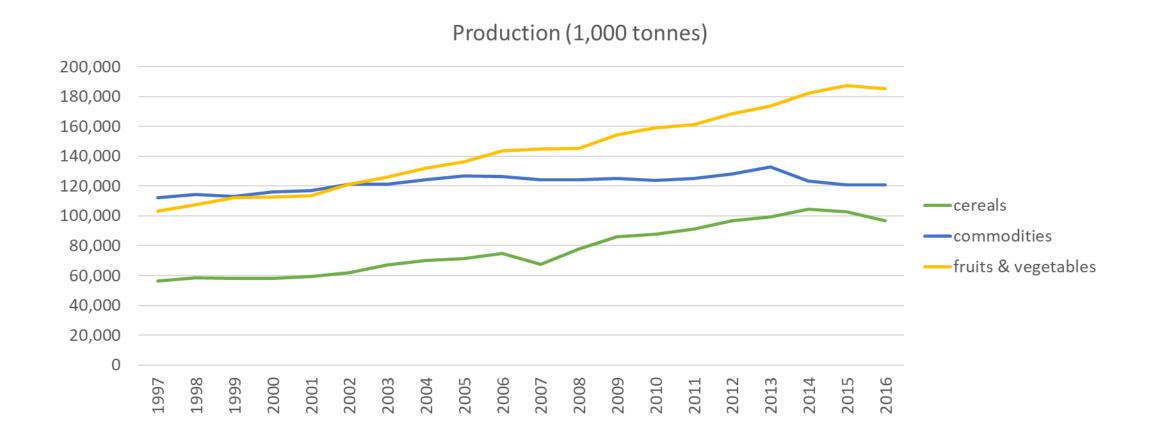
- Medium value, perennial (& annual) crops
- Transitional to modern supply chains
- Mainly export chains

Fresh fruits & vegetables

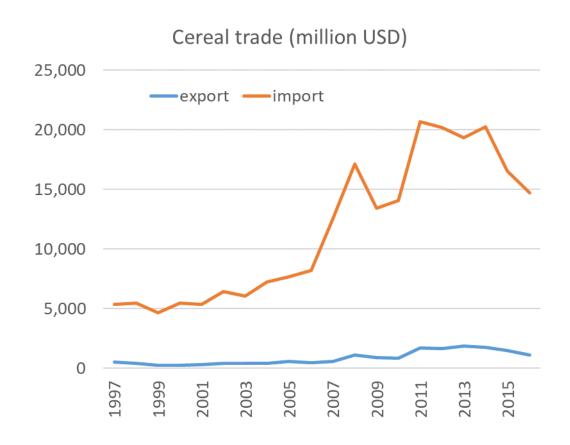
- High value, perishable, annual & perennial crops
- Strong differentiation between local traditional to transitional supply chains and global modern chains

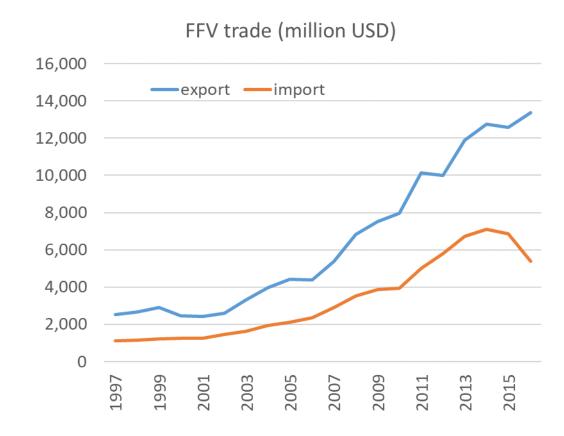
Based on Poulton et al (2006); Swinnen et al. (2007)

Global & local food value chains in Africa



Global & local food value chains in Africa





Supply chain linkages

- Negative competition effects: > Land
 - > Labor
 - Water, natural resources
- Positive spillover effects: > Investment and consumption spillovers
 - > Technical and managerial spillovers
 - Infrastructure spillovers & agglomeration effects
 - Institutional spillovers

Feyaerts et al. in Agricultural Economics (2019)



Supply chain linkages

Cereals & staples

- Limited competition for land, labor & resources
- Limited positive spillover effects

Tropical commodities

- Strong competition for land, labor & resources
- Positive spillover effects possible

Fresh fruits & vegetables

- Limited competition for land & labor (& resources)
- Important positive spillover effects

Feyaerts et al. in Agricultural Economics (2019)



Supply chain linkages – Senegal, horticultural sector

- Data collection
 - 15 years of survey data collection among farmers, workers, agro-industrial export companies, importers, ...
 - Focus on two main producing regions: Les Niayes & Senegal River Delta

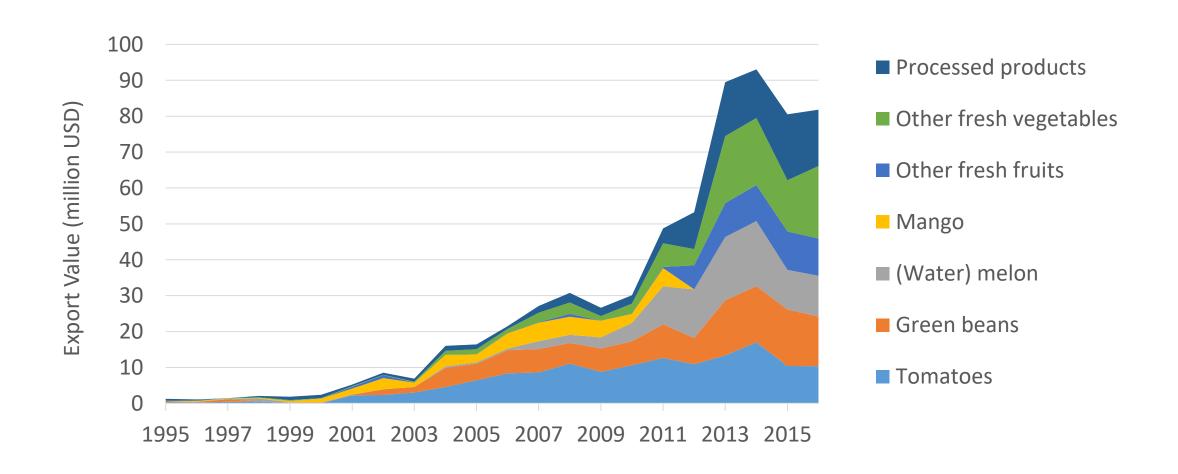








Senegal, horticultural sector – exports



Senegal, horticultural sector – competition

- Limited competition for land & labor
 - Land-lease deals between export companies & rural communities
 - Production contracts between export companies & (larger, more capitalized) family farms
 - Employment of rural households in export companies







Senegal, horticultural sector – spillover effects

- Substantial positive spillover effects
 - Employment & wage income create investment spillovers
 - Employment & wage income create consumption spillovers
 - Technical & managerial spillover through contract-farming
 - Infrastructure & agglomeration effects through roads & irrigation



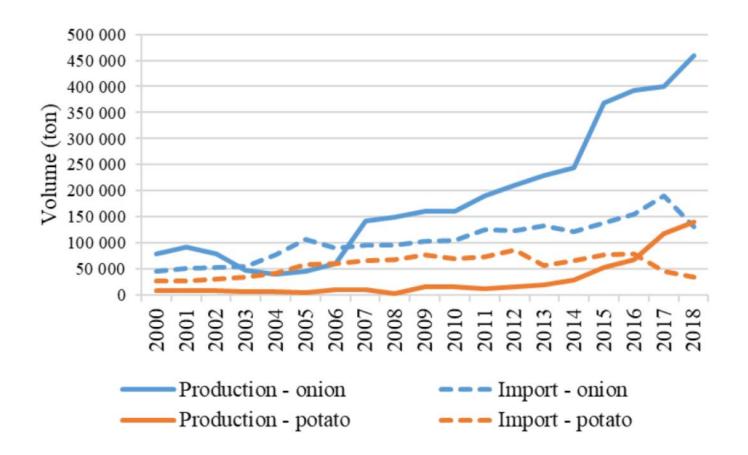






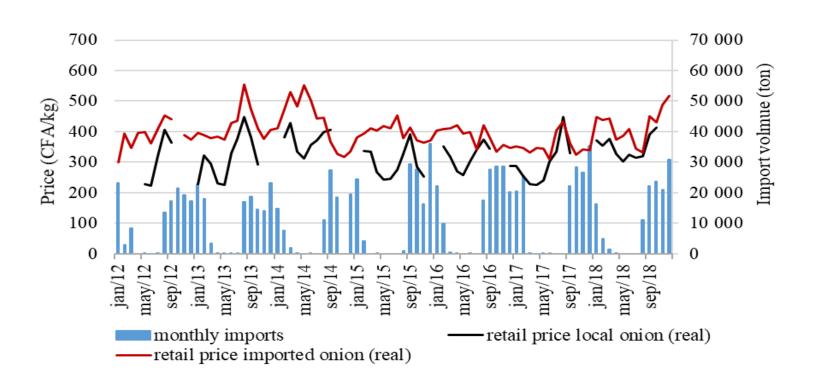
Senegal, horticultural sector – imports

- Import substitution
 - Consumer preferences for imported onion (potato, carrots, ..)
 - (Perceived) lower quality of locally produced onion

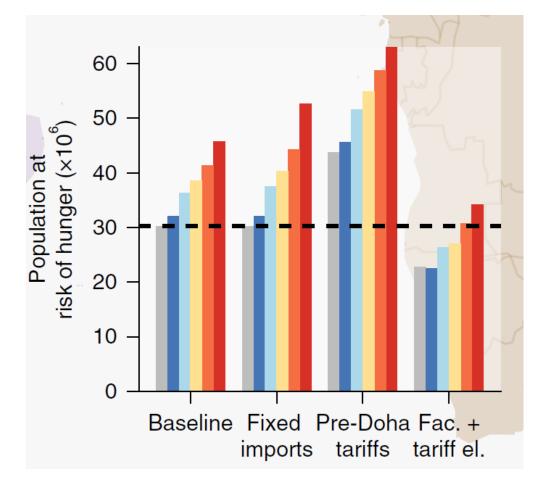


Senegal, horticultural sector – imports

- Import substitution
 - Consumer preferences for imported onion (potato, carrots, ..)
 - (Perceived) lower quality of locally produced onion
 - Seasonal import bans



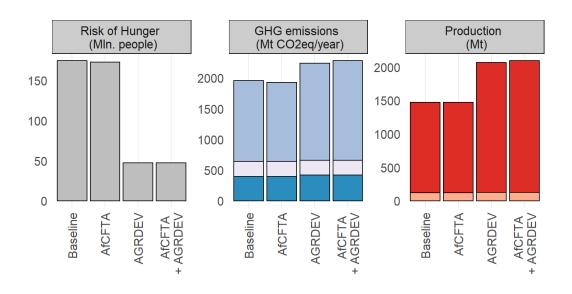
- Greenhouse gas emissions
 - GHG emissions from land use (change) much more important than from transport
 - International trade important to reduce the hunger impact from climate change



Janssens et al. in Nature Climate Change (2020)



- Greenhouse gas emissions
 - GHG emissions from land use (change) much more important than from transport
 - International trade important to reduce the hunger impact from climate change
 - Value chain development important to reduce hunger at lower GHG emission cost



Janssens et al. (unpublished)



- Greenhouse gas emissions
 - GHG emissions from land use (change) much more important than from transport
 - International trade important to reduce the hunger impact from climate change
 - Value chain development important to reduce hunger at lower GHG emission cost

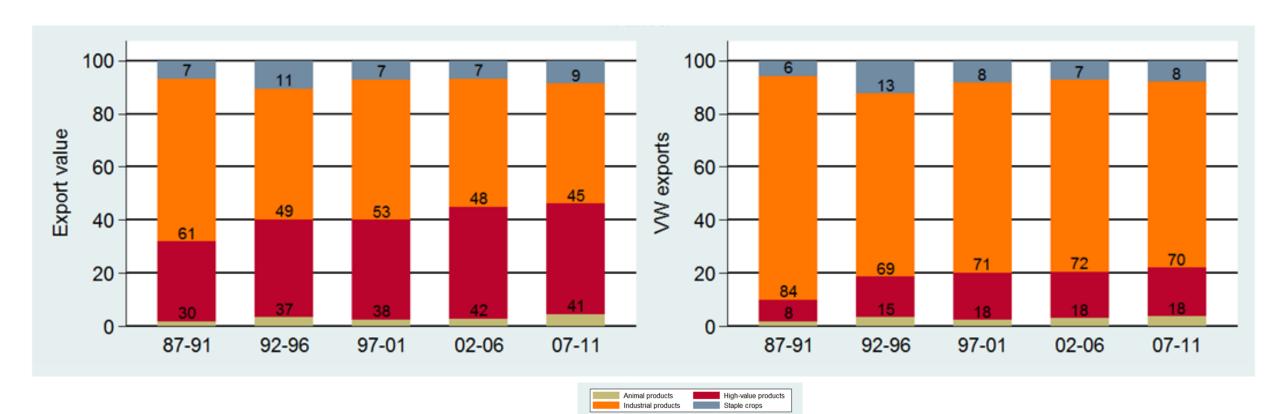
Water

- Trade and global value chains can alleviate (or worsen) water problems
- Africa has a good 'economic water efficiency' of exports and imports
- But local water scarcity problems exist



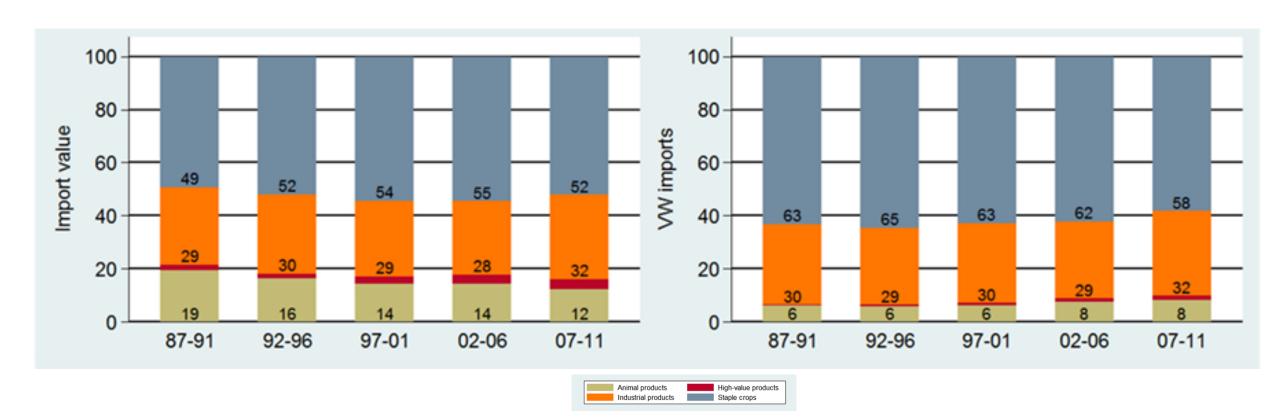
Value of exports from Africa

Virtual water exports from Africa





Virtual water imports to Africa



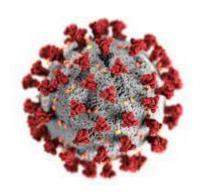
Supply chain resilience

- Covid-19 → research on supply chain resilience
 - > Disruptions in international & national trade
 - > Disruptions in labor supply, input supply, marketing
 - > Consequences for productivity, farm incomes & food supply
 - > Changes in food demand
- Diverging effects across supply chains?



Transitional food supply chains

Modern food supply chains



Supply chain resilience – Senegal, horticultural sector

- Data collection
 - phone & online surveys
 - mid April to mid June 2020
 - consumers, smallholder farmers, bana-banas, agro-industrial companies, workers, importers

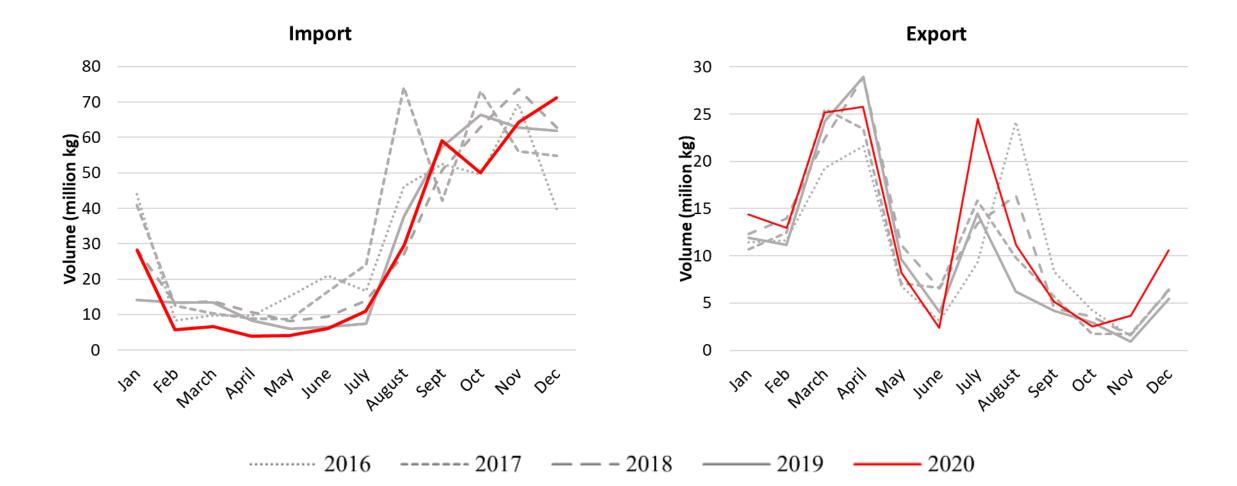


- Data analysis
 - before and after comparison: state of emergency (March 23rd 2020)
 - global supply chain versus local supply chain

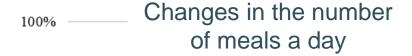
Source: Van Hoyweghen et al. in Agricultural Economics (2021)

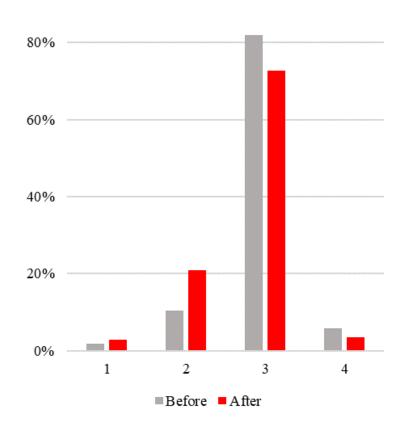


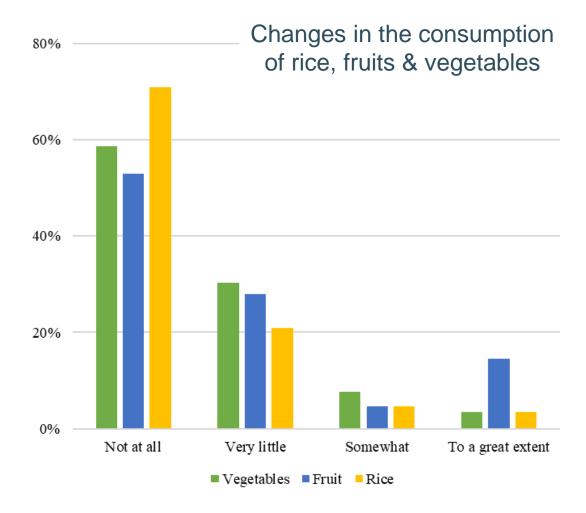
Senegal, horticultural sector – trade



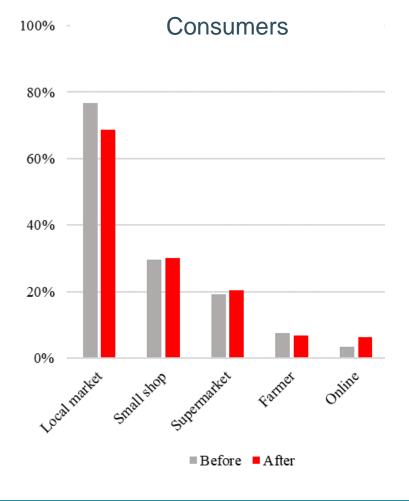
Senegal, horticultural sector – consumption

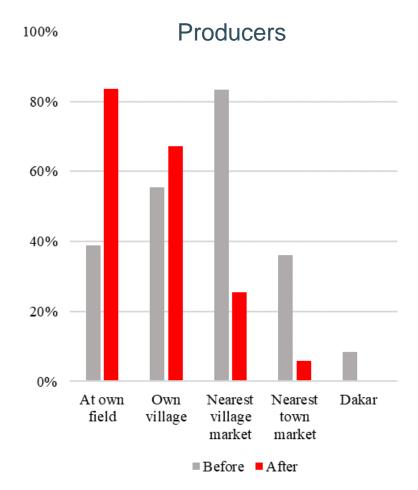


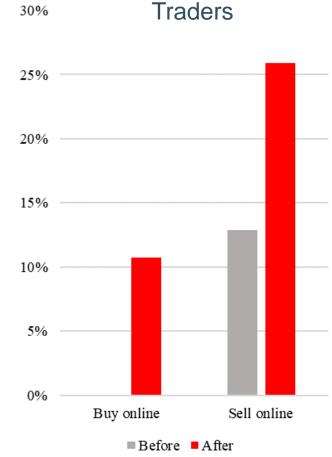




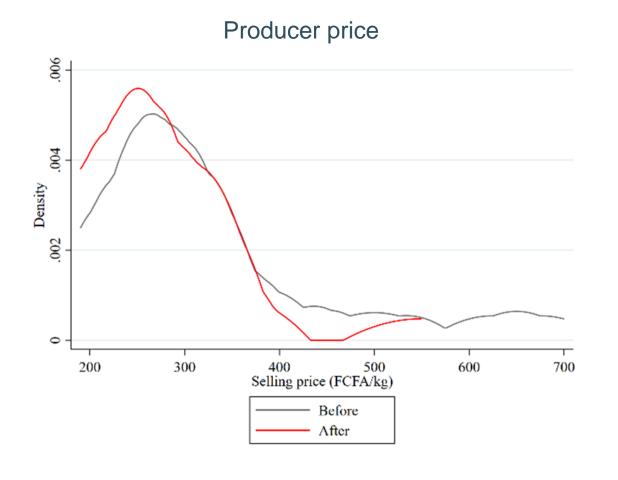
Senegal, horticultural sector – marketing

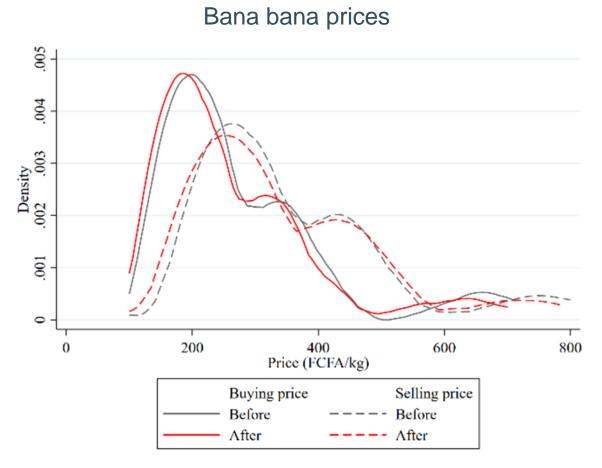






Senegal, horticultural sector – prices





Senegal, horticultural sector – production

Agro-industrial companies

- No change in FFV production area
- No problems with labor supply
 - Investment in protective material & worker sanitation training
 - Changing labor shifts & social distancing
 - More frequent commuter bus service
- Some problems with supply of inputs
 - Smaller companies face problems
 - Larger companies rely on input stocks an direct relations with input dealers

Smallholder farmers

- > Reduction in FFV production area
 - Reduction with 50 to 75%
 - Current and next season
- > Problems to hire workers
- > Problems to buy inputs
 - Mobility restrictions, closed shops & unavailable vendors
 - Increased input prices
 - Cash constraints



Some concluding remarks

- ✓ Important linkages between global and local food value chains
- ✓ Global value chains not necessarily less sustainable than local value chains
- ✓ Global value chains not necessarily less resilient than local value chains

Thanks to Anna Fabry, Hendrik Feyaerts, Kaat Van Hoyweghen, Goedele Van den Broeck

