

# Overview of AGRODEP

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**AGRODEP Steering Committee**  
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- Goal, objective and roles
- Components
- Composition of the consortium
- Governance structure
  - Role of Steering Committee
  - Role of Scientific Advisory Board
  - Role of Network Advisory Committee
- Members and selection criteria
- Key activities
- Funding status
- Vision in 5 years

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# WHY AGRODEP?

- African countries have experienced a remarkable economic recovery since the start of the century
- Africa is simultaneously undergoing an important policy renewal process
- This process fuels a growing demand for locally based, policy-relevant research

**Therefore** there is a need for:

- a mechanism that helps to mobilize a critical mass of modeling experts within Africa's policy research and analysis community,
- broaden access to innovative research methodologies, and
- facilitate partnership with the global research community.

## Goal of AGRODEP

To position African experts to take a leading role in both:

- the study of strategic development questions facing African countries as a group and
- the broader agricultural growth and policy debate, which traditionally has been dominated by external actors and concerns.

### By:

- Increasing scientific economic expertise of African researchers
- Increasing scientific exchanges between African researchers
- Increasing African researchers' scientific exchanges with international scientific community

## A Community of Practitioners:

- **Thematically** or **technically** focused to serve as a forum for scientific exchange, training, and capacity building.
- Targeting priority research themes relevant for policies for Africa
- Using the expertise across the Consortium to strengthen policy research and analysis capacities and
- Using the members' research findings to raise the quality of policy debate and effectiveness of policies in the region

- Promoting access to and use of state-of-the-art economic modeling tools
- Facilitating access to existing data sources for research and policy analysis (improving quality and reducing data gaps)
- Building a network of state of the art researchers:
  - Supporting collaboration among leading African scientists and their peers outside Africa
  - Building a dynamic research community that can respond to the emerging and long-term needs of CAADP growth and poverty reduction agenda.

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- **Component 1: A Shared Modeling Infrastructure**
- **Component 2: A Common Database Platform**
- **Component 3: A Network of Members/Experts**

## Component 1: A Shared Modeling Infrastructure

AGRODEP will provide a platform for sharing existing core and innovative economic models dealing with sector, national, and international policy issues as well as long-term projections in areas such as agricultural growth and poverty, trade, nutrition, climate change, natural resources management, and science and technology.

### Main Goals:

- Development of a **library of models** (documentation / illustrative datasets);
- **Training of AGRODEP members** on the models to ensure their own future developments;
- Development of **modeling innovations** in order to address specific needs in such areas as agronomy, animal sciences, health and environment.

## Component 2: A Common Database Platform

AGRODEP will develop a central data clearinghouse with a Web data portal

### Main Goals:

- To bring together dispersed and disparate statistical, economic, and geospatial data in Africa;
- To provide links to existing key data sources;
- To develop shared standards, formats, and exchange protocols;
- To train AGRODEP members on database construction to ensure future developments;

## Component 3: A Network of Members/Experts

AGRODEP's activities centered around collaboration and the exchange of data, modeling techniques, joint analysis, reporting, and strategic debate

### Main Goals

- Promoting **access to and use of state-of-the-art economic modeling tools in Africa**
- **Facilitating access to existing data sources** for research and policy analysis
- Supporting **collaboration** among leading African scientists and their peers outside Africa and **building a dynamic research community**
- Facilitating joint research activities on specific issues of great strategic importance to Africa **with special emphasis to CAADP priorities**, including technical and logistical support and joint publishing

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# COMPOSITION OF AGRODEP CONSORTIUM

The **AGRODEP** Modeling Consortium consist of:

- **AGRODEP members:** individuals who are Africa-based researchers
- **AGRODEP partners:** institutions based within or outside Africa that provide technical or institutional support to the Consortium
- **AGRODEP experts:** leading global and African **experts** who advise the Consortium and support its efforts to remain at the cutting edge of technical innovations.

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# AGRODEP GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- **Steering Committee:**
  - **Dr. Ousmane Badiane**, Co- Chair, *IFPRI, Washington D.C., U.S.A.*
  - **Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda**, Co-Chair, Steering Committee, *FANRPAN*,
  
- **Scientific Advisory Board**
  - **Dr. Maximo Torero**, Co- Chair, *IFPRI, Washington D.C., U.S.A.*
  - **Prof. Bernard Decaluwé**, Co-Chair, *Université Laval, Québec, Canada*
  
- **Network Advisory Committee:**
  - **Dr. Michael Waithaka** (Co-Chair), *ASARECA, Entebbe, Uganda*
  - **Mbène Dièye Faye** (Co-Chair), *CORAF-WECARD, Dakar, Senegal*
  
- **Project Manager**
  - **Prof. Antoine Bouët**, *IFPRI, Washington D.C., U.S.A. and University of Montesquieu Bordeaux IV, Bordeaux, France*
  
- **Deputy Project Manager**
  - **Dr. Betina Dimaranan**, *IFPRI, Washington D.C., U.S.A.*

## Components management structure:

### ○ The AGRODEP Data Component

- **Dr. Betina Dimaranan**, Deputy Project Manager and Data Coordinator  
*International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C., U.S.A.*

### ○ The AGRODEP Modeling Component

- **Dr. David Laborde Debucquet**, Models Coordinator  
*International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C., U.S.A.*

### ○ The AGRODEP Network Component

- **Dr. Ismaël Fofana**, Network Coordinator  
*International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Dakar*

# ROLE OF STEERING COMMITTEE

- **Main function:** Discuss and advise the functioning of the AGRODEP initiative and its contribution to capacity building and policy debate in Africa
  
- **More specific:**
  - Gather institutions that will actively contribute to AGRODEP
  - Guide the AGRODEP initiative on key matters of policy, operational issues and resource mobilization
  - Ensure that the AGRODEP initiative remains focused on its objectives and mission and is run effectively.
  
- **Members:** Institutional representatives from regional and international organizations, academic institutions and universities, international aid agencies, and other leading policy and development organizations.

# ROLE OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

- **Main function:** Provide general scientific guidance to the Project manager according to AGRODEP's mission
  
- **More specific:**
  - Gather individual researchers from the academic community with a high international scientific reputation and a knowledge of Africa;
  - Provide recommendations on scientific topics and scientific activities that AGRODEP should prioritize;
  - institutions in and outside Africa that can contribute to AGRODEP's objectives,
  - Review scientific pertinence of research projects developed by AGRODEP members
  - Suggest improvements and/or innovations on analytical methodologies used by the AGRODEP community
  
- **Membership:** Board consists of individual members who are experts from the economic research and policy community with an outstanding international reputation as well as knowledge of African countries and the major challenges that they face.

# ROLE OF NETWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- **Main function:** is a consultative group that provides advice to the Consortium on the content and delivery of networking activities
  
- **More specific:**
  - Provides advice on:
    - Collaborative research
    - Capacity building
    - Outreach activities
  
- **Membership:** individuals representing the key African institutions that are active in the area of economic growth and policy research and capacity building.

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- **Current number of AGRODEP members is 56**
  - 27 members come from the First Round October 2010
  - 29 members come from the Second Round in April in 2011
  
- **Membership characteristics**
  - 16 female members and 40 male members
  - 21 of the 53 African countries are represented in the current AGRODEP membership
  - 20 members are located in West, 23 in East, 5 in North, 5 in Southern Africa, and 3 in Central Africa

- **Second Round of Membership (April 2011)**
  - Special emphasis on diversifying the pool of members
    - Attracting members with a background other than CGE
  - Invitation to apply for membership was sent to:
    - Over 50 major universities and institutions throughout Africa
    - Individuals referred by existing AGRODEP members and friends
    - Advertisement posted on the AGRODEP website

# AGRODEP MEMBERS SELECTION CRITERIA

4 key criteria:

- Location
  - Based in Africa
- Education
  - Ph.D. defended within the last 10 years, or
  - Ph.D. student for at least 3 years, or
  - Masters degree holder in economics with 3 to 15 years of professional experience)
- Research Experience
  - Publications
  - Training and workshops completed
- Diversity
  - Regional, gender, and scientific interest considerations

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- Establish a set of specific, thematically or technically focused interest groups to serve as a forum for scientific exchange;
- Capacity building;
- Grants;
- Member incentives program (publications, conferences)
- Web data portal and model repository;
- Workshops;
- Working Paper Series;
- Bi – annual conference;
- Quarterly bulletin;
- Outreach activities

## Period 2010-2011

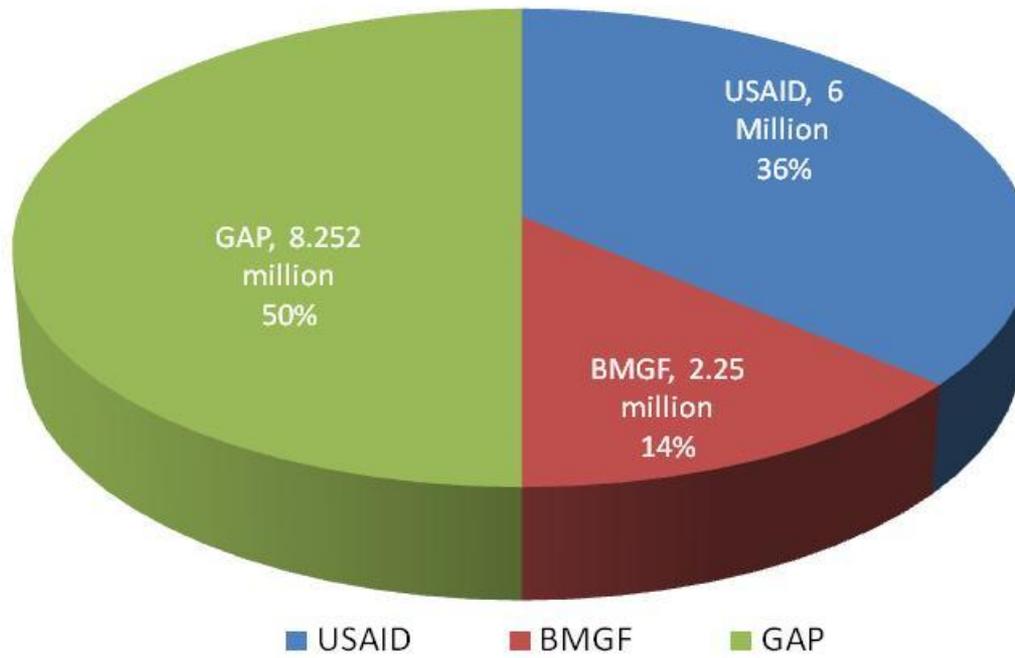
- **Inception Workshop held in October 2010 in Dakar**
  - Full workshop report circulated among participants
  - Executive summary circulated among non-participants and posted on the AGRODEP website
  - Pre-meeting and Post-meeting reports circulated among SAB and SC
  
- **Workplan for 2011**
  - Provides details on key activities to be performed in 2011
  
- **Established Network Advisory Committee**
  
- **Terms of Reference for the following:**
  - Steering Committee, Scientific Advisory Board, Network Advisory Committee
  
- **Membership Letter of Agreement**
  - Lays out rights and responsibilities of AGRODEP members
  - Serves as an indication of acceptance of AGRODEP membership

## Period 2010-2011

- **Membership Extension Plan**
  - Lays out criteria for AGRODEP membership and extension procedure
  - Objectives: 56 members in 2011, 75 in 2012, and 100 in 2013
  
- **AGRODEP Monthly Newsletter**
  - First issue released in April 2011
  
- **Questionnaire for Assessment of Capacity Building Needs**
  - Implemented in February 2011
  
- **Temporary AGRODEP Website and Open Atrium for Members**
  - Provides a platform for members to exchange ideas and share information
  
- **New Website development**
  - Mapping Worlds and Forum One have been hired
  - A comprehensive AGRODEP website will:
    - serve as warehouse for models and data
    - facilitate network communications and events

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Total budget: 14 million US\$ for 5 years



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- **Vision in 5 years**

# AGRODEP VISION IN 5 YEARS

- A solid and top quality network of African researchers based in Africa
  - Connected between themselves for intensive scientific exchanges;
  - linked with the international scientific community; and
  - building a dynamic research community that can respond to the emerging and long-term needs of CAADP growth and poverty reduction agenda and policy debate
- A much better data coverage of Africa with an efficient data portal (new and updated SAMs, I/O Tables, Household Surveys, etc) accessible for AGRODEP members and AGRODEP partners
- A new library of innovative models accessible for AGRODEP members and AGRODEP partners
- Annual Publications and Working Papers