



NETWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

The goal of the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium is to position African experts to take a leading role in both (1) the study of strategic development questions facing African countries as a group and (2) the broader agricultural growth and policy debate, which traditionally has been dominated by external actors and concerns. AGRODEP will facilitate the use of economic modeling tools, promote access to existing data sources, develop methodologies and standards to improve data quality, and support collaboration among African researchers and their peers outside Africa. By sharing core economic models, establishing a central Web-based database, and combining a network of experts with a community of practitioners, AGRODEP is poised to equip African countries with the tools to perform science-based research and solve locally relevant agriculture-related challenges through sound policies.

Objectives

The Network Advisory Committee of the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium is a consultative group of individuals representing the key African institutions that are active in the areas of economic growth and policy research and capacity building. The committee provides advise on the content and delivery of networking activities, including collaborative research, capacity building, and outreach, that the Consortium should focused on. The ultimate purpose is to ensure that the members are receiving the best possible services from the Consortium and making maximum contribution to its activities.

Responsibilities

The core functions of the Network Advisory Committee are:

1. Advise the Networking Coordinator in implementing the Consortium's program as approved by its governing organs;
2. Ensure that member activities are efficiently delivered and answer to the needs of the membership;
3. Advise on collaborative and outreach activities by the Consortium with the objective of enhancing the policy impact of its networking activities;

Composition

The committee is composed of thirteen (13) members representing African universities and research networks. The committee is co-chaired by the representatives of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA) and the West African Council on Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD/CORAF). The other members include representatives of: AGRODEP members; African universities and research networks from the main geographical sub-regions of Africa (Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern, and Western); and the three Regional Strategy Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (ReSAKSS) nodes. The Committee members shall serve two-year, renewable terms.

Meetings and Activities

The committee meets physically once a year during the annual Scientific Conference of the Consortium. It receives, reviews, and advises on a membership activity report (MAR) submitted by the Network Coordinator on the important activities undertaken by members. The MAR takes stock of progress achieved in the past year and presents the work plan for the coming year. On the basis of the information provided in the MAR, direct interactions with members, and the outcome of its own deliberations, the committee elaborates an annual advisory report (AAR) every fourth quarter of the year. The AAR provides recommendations for consideration in finalizing the work plans for the ensuing year, as well as future network activities. The AAR is therefore a guide document to help the Network Coordinator to better tailor future activities to the needs of the members and the Consortium.