

AFRICAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY (AGRODEP) MODELING CONSORTIUM

THE MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY REPORT (MAR) FOR 2011

Summary

The MAR provides useful information on member's involvement in AGRODEP activities with the objective to better tailor the consortium's future activities to the needs of its members. In overall, the activities implemented by AGRODEP in 2011 have recorded the participation of 31 out of 55 members. Among the activities, conferences and workshops, atrium open space use, and responses to the training survey record the highest participation among members. On the other hand, the conference grant and the publication facility and support seem to be underused by members. Members who joined the consortium in 2011 recorded a greater participation in the consortium activities compared to members selected in 2010.

1. About AGRODEP

The African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium is an initiative led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) that aims at positioning 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. Building on more than three decades of research and capacity-building activities in Africa, IFPRI and its partners aim at providing locally relevant solutions to agriculture-related development challenges.

AGRODEP is collaboration among IFPRI; the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA); the West African Council on Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD); and the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Network (FANRPAN).

The Modeling Consortium pursues three essential activities:

- Promote the access to state of the art economic modeling tools and improving the quality, relevance, and timeliness of data to meet the significant demand for high quality, locally-based research that contributes to evidence-based policymaking and strategy planning and implementation;
- Facilitate better access to the existing data sources for research and policy analysis, developing methodologies and standards to improve the quality of available datasets and complementing them to raise the local content and relevance;
- Support 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 the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program's (CAADP) growth and poverty reduction agenda.

2. AGRODEP Membership

On 2011, AGRODEP membership reaches fifty-five (55) Africa-based researchers from twenty one (21) countries. Members with quite diverse research interest and experience came from various research

institutions, think tanks, and universities across Africa. The membership enables African researchers to enjoy free access to cutting-edge economic research tools, data and training as well as contribute to the Consortium's further development. Over the coming years, AGRODEP will extend its membership in order to reach a critical mass of economic modeling experts within Africa's policy research and analysis community. Thus, AGRODEP has designed a plan to extend its membership on a year-basis until 2013.

❖ 2010 Membership Selection

The first round of AGRODEP membership selection in 2010 drew mostly from a large pool of African researchers belonging to the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) and the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) research networks. Individual African researchers were identified and invited to apply for AGRODEP membership using an extensive questionnaire. A two-step selection process was employed. First, the applicants were screened based on two essential criteria: residential (Africa-based) and educational (less than 10 years Ph.D., Ph.D. candidate, or Masters with experience and technical skill). Following the initial screening, the second set of criteria included the level and nature of applicants' technical skills and publications. And finally, in order to ensure a gender balance and appropriate geographical representation from various regions of Africa, a gender and geographic criterion was applied. This selection process led to 27 applicants that were accepted as members of the AGRODEP research consortium in 2010. In terms of gender breakdown, this pool includes 18 men and 9 women.

❖ 2011 Membership Selection

During the second round of membership, AGRODEP prepared and disseminated a message through an outreach list for information. The list includes African research centers and universities, the members and the representatives of the SAB, the SC and the Network Advisory Committee of AGRODEP, and a list of the partners and friends of AGRODEP (individuals and institutions that have expressed interest in AGRODEP). At the end of the selection process, AGRODEP extended its membership from twenty seven (27) to fifty-six (56) members coming from twenty one different countries of Africa. On September 2011, one of the AGRODEP members joined its Management Team through to help on the Data and Model Component bringing the number of members currently to fifty-five (55) with 39 men and 16 women.

3. Networking Activities in 2011

The Networking activities aim to promote and support collaboration among leading African researchers and scientists and their peers outside Africa to build a dynamic research community. Thus, Consortium facilitates the access of its members to the state-of-the-art economic modeling tools, and to existing data sources for research and policy analysis. A wide range of initiative has been developed to facilitate and promote the networking of members through conferences and workshops, online communication and information sharing, innovative research grants, conference participation grants, training and mentoring activities, incentive for publications, and other outreach activities.

❖ The 2010 Inception Workshop

The Inception Workshop was held in the Le President Meridien Hotel, Dakar, Senegal, on October 28 and 29, 2010. The main objective of the workshop was to introduce the AGRODEP initiative, its goals and its future role and activities. The workshop gathered experts, researchers interested in policy modeling and in Africa's economic development in the field of economics from leading institutions around the world as well as new AGRODEP members from various countries in Africa. The objective of the Dakar meeting was to bring the members and networks together to revisit what has been done so far, but most importantly to define the main directions of AGRODEP. The meeting focused on building a

concrete strategic framework that will ensure that a critical mass of modelers in Africa will have large competences in modeling and can actively participate in the policy debate around issues concerning the development of Africa.

❖ **The 2011 General Meeting and Workshop**

AGRODEP held its second workshop for members in June 6-8, 2011 at the Novotel in Dakar, Senegal. The Workshop provides an opportunity for scientific exchange and collaboration among members and explores state of the art methodologies and tools used to address key research topics. The Workshop brought together 43 members and 21 other participants including guest speakers, members of the AGRODEP Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and members of the Steering Committee (SC). The event provided AGRODEP members with an opportunity to present their ongoing research, exchange ideas, and attend expert sessions on analytical tools used to study three research topics: Climate Change, Food Prices and Price volatility, and Foreign Direct Investment in Land.

❖ **The Call for Innovative Research Proposals**

On July 2011, AGRODEP launched its first call for proposals for innovative research. Only AGRODEP members were eligible to apply for this type of grant. Special consideration was given to studies covering new topics or topics of relevance for Africa, as well as development of new databases. AGRODEP seek to facilitate a systematic policy assessment for African economies in order to study the policy-level changes needed to enable the environments in which the CAADP proposed policies can achieve their key objectives (economic development and poverty alleviation). With this objective in mind, the 2011 Call gave a special consideration to proposals that address priorities defined by the CAADP Agenda: Climate change and water resource management, Output and input marketing policies, Trade policies and competitiveness, and Market access. The goal is to identify the existing policies proposed and implemented under the CAADP Agenda and to perform a systematic assessment that identifies the major bottlenecks affecting the efficiency of such policies. The AGRODEP Management Team has recommended for selection 14 of the 28 grant applications and recommended the other 14 for rejection. Of the accepted proposals, 6 are classified under the CAADP research agenda. The grant recommendations were approved by the SAB.

❖ **Research Valorization Grant**

The AGRODEP Grants Program also includes the Research Valorization Grant which allows members to apply for financial support from the Consortium in order to present their research at international conferences. As of October, members have submitted four proposals under this category; one has been awarded, the other two finally withdrew their applications and the last one is under evaluation.

❖ **Discussion Paper Series**

On September 2011, AGRODEP launched its Discussion Paper Series, a bilingual (English and French) online publication that aims at enhancing the visibility of African researchers and experts as well as contributing to the policy dialogue on African Growth and Development. Manuscripts are accepted only from AGRODEP members and the focus of the analysis must be on economic growth, poverty reduction, and development policy in Africa. There are no pre-conditions on the manuscript length and presentation. An Editorial board was set up to manage the review and publication process. It consists of the Editor, Associate Editors, and Referees. Reviewers will remain anonymous to the authors, and vice-versa. Members are invited to submit their manuscript to the Editor. Six (6) applications have been received; one (1) is under revision, and five (5) under review.

❖ Training Program

AGRODEP has designed training programs for members for the period from October 2011 to June 2012. The initiative seeks to give AGRODEP Members access to a set of high quality tools that can be used to address research needs in response to demand emanating from country and regional level priorities. The goal is to support young scientists, upgrade skills of Consortium members, and promote technical and methodological innovations to ensure that the Consortium remains a world class entity. AGRODEP conducted a survey among its members to prioritize their training needs from a list of eighteen (18) training courses proposed by the Management Team. Training courses were compiled from different partners (individuals and institutions) on different topics related to simulations models, econometrics and data. Eight (8) training courses received significant interest from members and will be offered in 2012.

❖ Website and online activities

AGRODEP has released its new [AGRODEP website](#) on October 2011. The website includes new features that will serve the current and the future needs of the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium. It serve as the portal for the economic [MODELS](#) that will be developed for AGRODEP members, as well as for the library of [DATA](#) and related resources that AGRODEP is bringing together from various sources. It provides data visualization tools (MAP), a WIKI space for scientific exchange and collaborative documentation. This [WIKI](#) space replaced the Atrium open space previously used by members. Atrium is an internet-based space that allows members to share information, store documents and post comments, it included an announcement board (blog) and a place to upload and share documents and it was opened to members in order to engage in discussions about consortium coordination, meetings, and future events. The new website provides also a resources library that gives access to publications, presentations, training materials and much more.

❖ Award for excellence in publication

On November, AGRODEP launched its Award for Excellence in Publication. The objective of this new initiative is to provide an incentive for, and to reward excellent publications by members in top ranking academic journals. This initiative will increase member's visibility both within and outside of Africa and contribute to the consortium's overall policy impact. Members can apply for this award upon publishing on a top ranking academic journal. For the application procedure, members submit their publication to AGRODEP, who then, makes the decision in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). In addition, members have to explain how the publication is linked to the AGRODEP initiative (e.g. research undertaken under an AGRODEP grant program; research initiated after an AGRODEP training session, etc.). Only AGRODEP members are eligible to apply for this award. The award differs based on the ranking of the academic journal where the publication appears and is given per publication rather than per author. In addition to the award, for each publication, AGRODEP will organize an outreach/communication event to inform policy-makers, NGOs, media, and public opinion about the policy conclusions of the publication. The outreach/communication event is decided by the management team in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee. This will be done in order to ensure that the publication has a policy impact.

4. Members' Activities in 2011

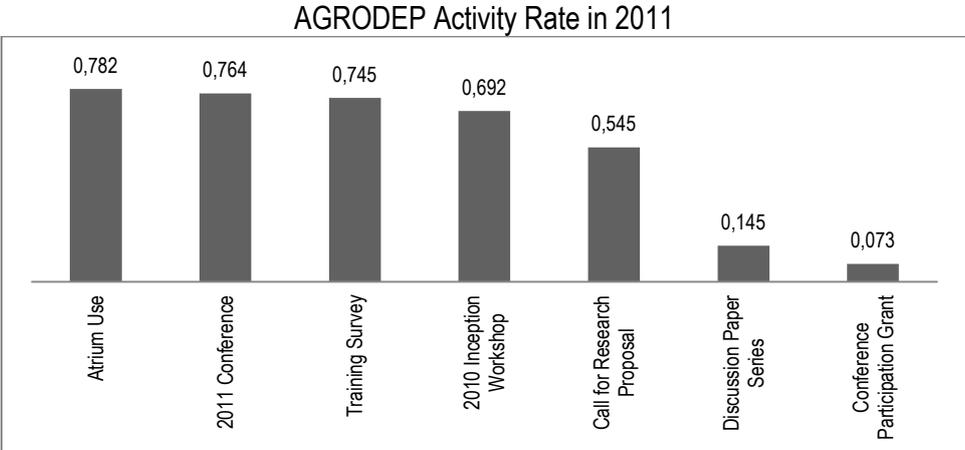
AGRODEP promotes and facilitates the access of African researchers to cutting edge methods and tools, and data that will enable them to perform science-based research and to formulate sound and effective policies. The MAR provides useful information on member's involvement in the activities listed in section 3 with the objective to better tailor the consortium's future activities to the needs of its

members. Through a calculation of membership and activity rates, the 2011 report provides a simple measurement of the networking activities.

Regarding the calculation of these rates, a matrix indicating the members (55) in its line and the above activities in its column is elaborated. The number one is given to the member who participated to a given activity and zero in the other case. The maximum number of participants in a given activity is equal to the total number of members. Membership and activity rates are then calculated based on this information. A membership (activity) rate divides the sum of his or her participation in all activities by the total number of activities. An activity rate is the ratio of total participation to that activity and the maximum number of participant. The overall activity rate is a simple average, given the same weight to all activities. It is worthwhile to note that in calculating these rates, special treatment was given to the Inception Workshop organized in October 2010 when the Consortium started its activities without the 2011 selected members. The main information brought by the analysis of members' activities is summarized throughout the following lines.

- ❖ The overall activity rate is equal to 0.558; that is, the activities implemented by AGRODEP in 2011 have recorded, in average, the participation of 31 out of 55 members.
- ❖ Conferences and workshops, atrium use, and responses to the training survey record the highest participation among members. On the other hand, the conference grant and the publication facility and support seem to be underused by members in 2011 (see the figure below). Let's recall that the last two activities were launched on the third and the fourth quarters of 2011.
- ❖ Members who joined the consortium in 2011 were more involved in AGRODEP activities than these from the 2010 selection process. It is important to lay out here the difference in the selection process between the two cohorts of members. The 2010 members were selected through a limited network and particularly from the pool of researchers belonging to the GTAP and the PEP networks. On the other hand, the 2011 members submitted an application after the reopening of the membership process which was widely disseminated through an outreach list of individuals and institutions.

The table below ranks AGRODEP members according to their involvement in the consortium activities. The AGRODEP representatives to the governance bodies (Steering Committee and Network Advisory Committee) are highlighted in bold.



AGRODEP Membership Rate in 2011

Names	Year	Gender	Country	Institution	Rate
Albert Makochekanwa	2010	Male	Zimbabwe	USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub, Gaborone, Botswana	0.857
Mounir Balloumi	2010	Male	Tunisia	Institute of High Commercial Studies at Sousse University Tunisia	0.857
Ibrahim Sulieman Ismail	2011	Male	Sudan	University of Kordofan	0.833
Naomi Muthoni Mathenge	2011	Female	Kenya	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPRA)	0.833
Patterson Chukwuemeka Ekeocha	2011	Male	Nigeria	Policy Analysis & Research Project, National Assembly, Nigeria	0.833
Shams Eldien Hassab Alla Ahmed	2011	Male	Sudan	Sudan University of Sciences and Technology	0.833
Azharia Abd Elbagi Elbushra (NAC)	2010	Female	Sudan	University of Juba, Khartoum, Sudan	0.714
Damien Agbodji	2010	Male	Togo	Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Lomé, Togo	0.714
Johannes Atemnkeng Tabi	2010	Male	Cameroon	University of Dschang, Cameroon	0.714
Musibau Adetunji Babatunde	2010	Male	Nigeria	Department of Economics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria	0.714
Nnaemeka Chukwuone	2010	Male	Nigeria	Department of Agriculture and Economics, University of Nigeria	0.714
Raga Mohamed Elzaki	2010	Female	Sudan	University of Gezira, Gezira State, Sudan	0.714
Vinaye Dey Ancharaz (SC)	2010	Male	Tunisia	African Development Bank, Tunis-Belvedere,	0.714
Wachira Rhoda Gakuru	2010	Female	Kenya	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis .	0.714
Amel Mustafa Mubarak	2011	Female	Sudan	Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Khartoum, Sudan	0.667
Gbadebo Olusegun Odularu	2011	Male	Ghana	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Accra, Ghana	0.667
Godwin Anjeinu Abu	2011	Male	Nigeria	University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria	0.667
Mutasim Mekki Mahmoud Elrasheed (SC)	2011	Male	Sudan	Sudan University of Science and Technology	0.667
Olumuyiwa Bamidele Alaba	2011	Male	Nigeria	Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria	0.667
Osman Mohammed Babikir Elgozouli	2011	Male	Sudan	Faculty of Economics, University of Zalingei, Sudan	0.667
Reuben Adeolu Alabi	2011	Male	Nigeria	Ambrose Alii University, Ekpoma, Nigeria	0.667
Ruth Chepchirchir Taruss	2011	Female	Kenya	AGRICOM Consultants Ltd, Nairobi	0.667
Youssef Kone	2011	Male	Ivory Coast	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Ivory Coast	0.667
Lulit Mitik	2010	Female	Ethiopia	African Center for Gender and Social Development Ethiopia	0.571

Miriam Omolo (NAC)	2010	Female	Kenya	Institute of Economic Affairs, Nairobi, Kenya	0.571
Olayinka Idowu Kareem	2010	Male	Nigeria	The World Bank, Nigeria Country Office	0.571
Olusegun Joshua Ajetomobi	2010	Male		Department of Agricultural Economics LADOKE Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, Nigeria	0.571
Names	Year	Gender	Country	Institution	Rate
Francis M. Mwaura	2011	Male	Kenya	Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), Uganda	0.500
Indranarain Ramlall	2011	Male	Mauritius	University of Mauritius	0.500
Job Kibiwot Lagat	2011	Male	Kenya	Egerton University, Kenya	0.500
John Ele-Ojo Ataguba	2011	Male	Nigeria	Health Economics Unit (HEU), University of Cape Town, South Africa	0.500
Marko Kwaramba	2011	Male	Zimbabwe	University of Cape Town, South Africa	0.500
Mercyline Waithira Kamande	2011	Female	Kenya	School of Finance and Banking	0.500
Oscar Ingasia Ayuya	2011	Male	Kenya	Research Fellow	0.500
Patience Mlongo Mshenga	2011	Female	Kenya	Egerton University	0.500
Patrick Irungu	2011	Male	Kenya	Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nairobi, Kenya	0.500
Victor Afari-Sefa	2011	Male	Ghana	World Vegetable Center (AVRDC)	0.500
Cheikh Sadibou Fall	2010	Male	Senegal	Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (ISRA)	0.429
Christian Arnault Emini	2010	Male	Cameroon	Office of the Prime Minister, Cameroon	0.429
Fatimata Dia Sow	2010	Female	Senegal	Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (ISRA)	0.429
Nassim Oulmane	2010	Male	Marocco	UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Rabat Marocco	0.429
Shaymaa Bayoumi	2010	Female	Egypt	Ministry of Trade and Industry, Egypt	0.429
Christian Kakese Tipoy	2011	Male	Democratic Republic of Congo	Saint Augustine College of South Africa	0.333
Fatou Cisse	2011	Female	Senegal	Consortium Pour La Recherche Economique Et Sociale (CRES)	0.333
Joseph François Cabral	2011	Male	Senegal	University of Cheikh Anta Diop & CRES	0.333
Mathieu Ouedraogo	2011	Male	Burkina Faso	Institut de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles (INERA)	0.333
Nicodème Nimenya	2011	Male	Burundi	University of Burundi	0.333
Dawit Birhanu	2010	Male	Ethiopia	African Development Bank in Tunis	0.286
Nadia Behaj Hassine	2010	Female	Tunisia	Economic Research Forum, Cairo, Egypt	0.286
Souleymane Sadio Diallo	2010	Male	Guinea	Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CIRES)	0.286
Emily Awuor Ouma	2011	Female	Kenya	International Institute Of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)	0.167

Fest Ezekiel Maro	2010	Male	Tanzania	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	0.000
Johnny Mugisha	2010	Male	Uganda	Faculty of Agriculture, Makerere University kampala Uganda	0.000
Margaret Raviro Mabugu	2010	Female	Zimbabwe	Department of Economics, University of Pretoria South Africa	0.000
Ramos Emmanuel Mabugu	2010	Male	Zimbabwe	Financial and Fiscal Commission, South Africa	0.000
All Members					0.558

Note: * Year of selection