
NEWS

[New Technical Note and Toolbox: Methods for Updating and Balancing Social Accounting Matrices](#)

The new AGRODEP [Toolbox on Methods for Updating and Balancing Social Accounting Matrices](#) was launched in October 2019 along with the release of [Technical Note 17: A Comparative Analysis of Methods for Updating and Balancing Social Accounting Matrices](#). The technical note is currently available in French, with an English version soon to follow.

The toolbox and accompanying note guide users through four methods for updating and balancing SAMs, including cross-entropy, ordinary least squares, Huber, and Hellinger methods, allowing for comparison. An example is given using Rwanda SAMs from 2006 and 2011.

[AGRODEP members author chapters in the AATM 2019](#)

AGRODEP members Senakpon Fidele Dedehouanou, Cheickh Sadibou Fall, Albert Makochekanwa, and Chahir Zaki co-authored chapters in the [recently launched](#) Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM 2019). A collaboration between the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and edited by Antoine Bouet and Sunday Odjo, the [AATM 2019](#) builds on the work of the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) and AGRODEP on trade.

Mobilizing the most detailed statistical knowledge and technically robust tools, the AATM 2019 identifies the most important barriers to more integrated trade in Africa, identifies which African regional trade agreements have worked and which have failed, and determines which sectors in Africa are most competitive and examines the characteristics of sectoral specialization. It also assesses the possible consequences of a more protectionist global economy for Africa. It provides clear policy recommendations for current trade integration efforts on the continent.

Chahir Zaki, an AGRODEP member from Egypt since 2012 and co-author of the chapter on intra-African trade integration with Sunday Odjo and Fousseini Traore, opined: "Being an AGRODEP member, I was honored to be part of the AATM team. A very rich learning experience on Africa's trade policy that helped me understand why there is a huge potential in this continent."

AGRODEP continues to scale up membership and deploy technical expertise to provide policy analysis and strategic advisory services to state and non-state actor organizations at the country and regional levels. It facilitates the engagement of AGRODEP members especially in the areas of trade and regional integration, rural households and institutions, and agricultural transformations and investments.

FEATURED MEMBERS



Senakpon Dedehouanou is a citizen of Benin and has been an AGRODEP member since July 2015 and is currently a Researcher and Lecturer at the University of Abomey Calavi (UAC). Before joining UAC, Senakpon worked for Licos Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance, Leuven, Belgium. He holds a Maitrise en Sciences Economiques in Economie from University of Abomey Calavi, Benin, an MSc in Economics from University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, and a Ph.D. in Faculty of Economics and Business from KU Leuven, Belgium. He is interested in development economics, applied macroeconomics, international economics, and econometrics.



Cheickh Sadibou Fall is a citizen of Senegal. He has been an AGRODEP member since October 2010. Currently, he is an Economist at the Institut Senegalais de Recherches Agricoles Bureau d'Analyses Macro-économiques (ISRA/BAME). In this position, he conducts research on agricultural trade and biofuels. He holds a B.A. degree in Economics from Universite de Reims Champagne Ardenne, France and an M.A. in Economics and Statistics from Universite Libre de Bruxelles Belgium.



Albert Makochekanwa is a citizen of Zimbabwe and has been an AGRODEP member since October 2010. Albert is the Chairperson of the Department of Economics, University of Zimbabwe. Previously, Albert worked as a Trade Analyst at the USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub. Albert also worked at the Commonwealth Secretariat's Hub and Spokes Project, Conningarth Economists, University of Pretoria, Competition and Tariff Commission, Zimbabwe, and University of Zimbabwe. He holds a B.A. degree in Economics from University of Pretoria, an M.A. in Economics from University of Zimbabwe, and a Ph.D. Economics from University of Pretoria, South Africa.

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