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## **NEWS**

Technical Notes documenting the MIRAGRODEP Model

MIRAGRODEP is a recursive-dynamic, multi-region, multi-sector computable general equilibrium model, devoted to trade and agricultural policy analysis. It incorporates specific features such as foreign direct investment and runs with a tariff aggregation module that allows the user to capture the exclusion effects at a detailed level and the variance of tariffs. The model also includes a submodule allowing to test different closures for the public sector as well as the inefficiency of the tax collection system. Social Accounting Matrices (SAM) and trade data in are based on the GTAP database. Additional sources such as MacMap are used for protection data. The initial version of the model is documented in AGRODEP Technical Note #20.

MIRAGRODEP Dual-Dual is a version of the model that incorporates specific features of African economies. In addition to the usual dichotomy between rural and urban activities, it features the distinction between formal and informal activities. As documented in AGRODEP Technical Note #21, MIRAGRODEP Dual-Dual was used in a study on the impacts of the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement.

Research Briefs on Best Practices in Africa

A best practice is a method or technique that has been generally accepted as superior to other alternatives because it produced results that are superior to those achieved by other means or because it has become a standard way of doing things. In collaboration with IFPRI's Food Security Portal, AGRODEP member Sergio Ponguane provided a review of the best practices for the <u>prevention of food losses across the value chain in</u> Africa. AGRODEP member Oluwole Akinnagbe documented evidence-based recommendations for interventions to enhance resilience to food crises in West Africa.

Ten African Countries among Acute Food Insecurity Hotspots

Ten of the 23 countries listed in a new report on hunger hotspots from the FAO and WFP are located in Africa south of the Sahara. Of those, Ethiopia and Madagascar are the new "highest alert" hotspots in the world. South Sudan and Nigeria remain in significant crisis. As summarized here, acute food insecurity is on the rise due to conflict, climate change, and the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## FEATURED NETWORK MEMBERS







Ms. Annet Adong is a citizen of Uganda and has been an AGRODEP member since 2015. Ms. Adong is a Ph.D. student at the University of Bonn. Ms. Adong has performed research on farmer groups and agricultural development, and on smallholder food crop commercialization which have been published in refereed journals. She holds a B.S. in Agriculture Economics from Makerere University and an M.Sc. in Development and Natural Resource Economics from University of Life Sciences, Norway. Her research interests are in the fields of education, water and sanitation, gender issues and impact evaluations.

Dr. Oluwole Matthew Akinnagbe is a citizen of Nigeria and has been an AGRODEP member since 2012. Oluwole is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication Technology, Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA). Before joining FUTA, Oluwole was a Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Extension, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He holds an NCE, B. Agric., M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension with specialization in Agricultural Planning and Evaluation from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. His research interests include impact evaluation, technology transfers, agricultural extension policy issues, and information communication and technology.

Dr. Ruth Taruss Chepchirchir is a citizen of Kenya and has been an AGRODEP member since 2011. Ruth is an Agricultural Economist at the African Research and Economic **Development Consultants** (AFREDEC). Before joining AFREDEC, Ruth worked for VEGPRO Ltd and Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCOA). She holds a B.A. and M.A. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from Egerton University, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Kenyatta University, Kenya. She is specialized in Agribusiness. Her research interests include sustainable agricultural and rural development, agricultural policy and agribusiness development.

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