

## AGRODEP BULLETIN

AFRICAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY (AGRODEP) MODELING CONSORTIUM

### GENDER, CONTROL, AND CROP CHOICE

As Esther Duflo stated, "Continuing discrimination against women can hinder development. Empowerment can, in other words, accelerate development" (Duflo, 2012, p. 1053)<sup>1</sup>. As a consequence, women's empowerment has become a key development priority.

The ability to make choices about how to use resources, in particular resources we own or control, is an essential element of individual empowerment. In agriculture, the most important resource is land. Therefore, data regarding men's and women's control of land and crop choices enables us to learn more about the contributing factors and consequences of women's empowerment.

Many papers exist on land control, but almost all of this research focuses on differences between female- and male-headed households. Such differences are an imperfect measure of women's empowerment, since resources

are not necessarily owned by the household as a whole; rather, individuals (men or women) may control resources within households. An improvement would be to evaluate women's empowerment through data

*Control does not automatically imply management.*

regarding land plots owned and managed by

both men and women. A recent study by Alan de Brauw<sup>2</sup> is unique because it takes just such a focus. The study is based on a dataset collected in 36 villages of Northern Mozambique with data on 20 households in most communities; the survey includes information regarding who controls land plots and who decides which crops will be grown and whether or not these crops will be sold. The study finds variations in women's status concerning ownership and management of land between and within households since the society of Northern Mozambique uses a matrilineal marriage system: children live in the mother's kin group, land is

**AGRODEP** is a Modeling

Consortium of African researchers living and working in Africa with research interests ranging from economic modeling to regional integration and development to climate change, gender, poverty, and inequality.

There are currently 153 members from 27 countries; our members work at top research institutions and universities in their own countries as well as various government agencies and non-profit organizations.

The benefits of being an AGRODEP member include opportunities for research grants, free access to cutting-edge economic research tools, data, and training. Members also gain access and exposure to large global networks of economic researchers and experts. [Click here to learn more.](#)

<sup>1</sup> Duflo, E., 2012, Women Empowerment and Economic Development, *Journal of Economic Literature*, 50(4): 1051-79.

<sup>2</sup> De Brauw, A., 2013, Gender, Control and Crop Choice in northern Mozambique, IFPRI, mimeo.

passed on from mothers to daughters, and women are given a plot of land to farm upon marriage or upon the birth of a child.

However, control does not automatically imply management. In the dataset collected, crop choices were made by women on only 73 percent of female-controlled plots; when men control land plots, crop choices were made by men on more than 95 percent of these plots.

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The study dataset provides a unique opportunity to study the

reasons for and consequences of women's empowerment in agriculture. In particular, it is possible to identify an important determinant of women's crop choices on the plots that they control. The strongest predictor of women's crop choices is if the household had access to off-farm labor six years before. Participation in off-farm labor and crop choice is not simultaneous such that it may be considered exogenous; this implies specialization in terms of tasks within the household, with men migrating and women making decisions about what to grow on the land.

The study also provides important information regarding specific crop choices. Women appear to grow fewer crops than men, and the crops selected are different. Women are more likely to grow rice, while men more likely to grow maize, as well as sweet potatoes

and peanuts, which are cash crops and are often considered more complicated to cultivate. Globally, income drawn from farming is not significantly different.

The study does not find significantly positive economic impacts stemming from women's empowerment in agriculture. Nevertheless, as stated by Esther Duflo, "to bring about equity between men and women [is] in my view a very desirable goal in and of itself" (Duflo, 2012, p. 1076). If women's empowerment in agriculture is the goal, this study suggests that programs to develop off-farm work for unskilled labor might actually boost that empowerment.

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## 2014 TRAINING COURSES

### Upcoming Courses Announced

The first training course of 2014 was held from January 8-10 in Dakar, Senegal. The **Poverty Measurement and Analysis** course was attended by 13 AGRODEP members. The course was instructed by John Gibson of the Waikato Management School and has received very positive **feedback**.

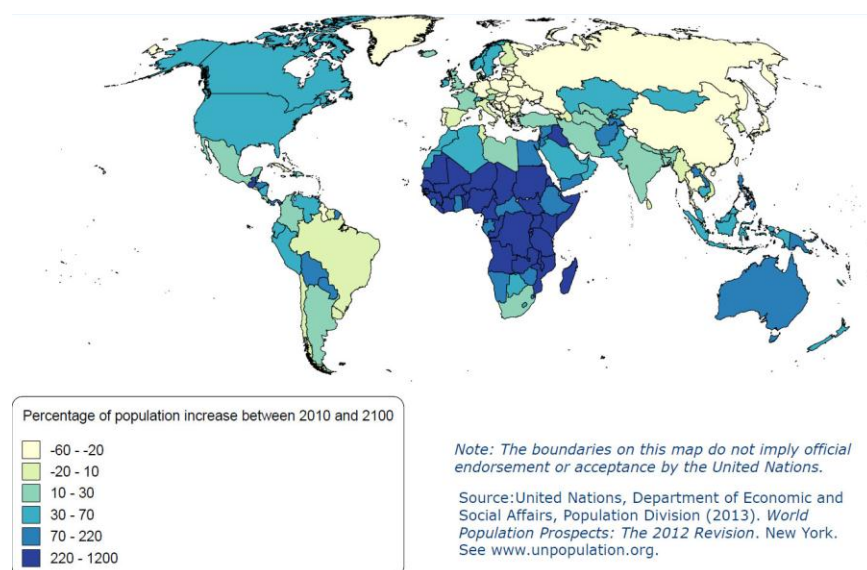
The next scheduled training course is the **Assessing Crop Production, Nutrient Management, Climatic Risk and Environmental Sustainability with Simulation Models** course, scheduled for April 7-11 in Dakar. This course will be instructed by Gerrit Hoogenboom of AgWeather Net and Washington State University and Jawoo Kim of IFPRI.

The AGRODEP management team has collected a list of potential course offerings for the rest of 2014. The courses offered in 2014 will include courses on data methods and estimation and simulation models. AGRODEP members will soon be invited to participate in a survey to help select the courses that will be of interest and use to the most members. Members will be asked to select their top three courses based on which will be most useful for their research and professional development. The selected courses will be listed on AGRODEP's **Upcoming Events** page.

## DATA

Recent statistics about Africa

**Figure 1: Projected Population Growth, 2010-2100**



Source: UNPD Department of Economic and Social Affairs

In 2013, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Population Division revised its projection of population growth between 2010 and 2100. Due in particular to a very high fertility rate combined with a progressively declining mortality rate, the share of Africa in the world's population will explode from 15.5 percent in 2014 to 38-40 percent in 2100. Africa will host around 4.2 billion people, compared to 1.1 billion today, with dramatic surges in countries like Nigeria (+640 Mios between today and 2100), Tanzania (+220 Mios), Congo D.R. (+190 Mios), Niger (+180 Mios), and Ethiopia (+150 Mios).

## 2013 GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Gaps in Research and Innovative Research Grants Awarded

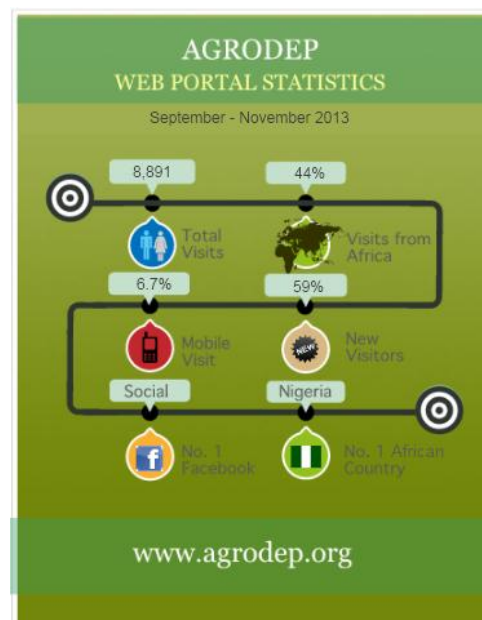
AGRODEP is pleased to announce the selected proposals for the **2013 Innovative Research** and **Gaps in Research** grants. The theme for the 2013 Innovative Research grants was Economic Growth and Development in Africa: Lessons from the Last Forty Years and Implications for Its Sustainability. AGRODEP congratulates the following members for having their proposal selected for funding: Chahir Zaki and Fida Karam ("Wars and Institutions: The Political Economy of International Trade in the MENA Region"); Francois Joseph Cabral ("Artificial Insemination, Livestock Productivity, and Economic Growth in Senegal"); Joshua Ajetomobi, Olusanya Ajakaiye, and Adeniyi Gbadegesin ("The Potential Impact of Climate Change on Nigerian Agriculture"); Mercyline Kamande and Nancy Nafula ("Impact of ICT Projects on Price Disparities in Agricultural Markets: A Case of Selected Countries in East Africa"); Abdoulaye Seck ("Fertilizer Subsidy and Agricultural Productivity in Senegal"); Richard Mulwa ("Explaining Natural Resource Curse in Africa: The Role of Dutch Disease and Institutions"); Francis Mulangu and Eugenie Maiga ("Optimal Agro-Industry Policy: A Case Study of Ghana Cocoa Processing").

The theme for the 2013 Gaps in Research grants was Barriers to the Expansion of Agriculture and Agroindustry in Africa. AGRODEP congratulates the following members for having their proposal selected: Blessing Chiripanhura and Mogos Teweldemedhin ("Barriers to the expansion of the Fishing Industry in Namibia: Prospects for Growth and Diversification").

## NEW MEMBERSHIP STATUS

### Affiliate Membership Announced

AGRODEP has recently created a new class of membership: Affiliate Membership. While actual AGRODEP membership is open only to African researchers based in Africa, Affiliate Membership is open to qualified African researchers who live and work outside of Africa, as well as to African and non-African researchers who work in international and CG centers within Africa. Affiliate members will be able to access all AGRODEP resources (data and models), as well as contribute to the Consortium's activities through publications, trainings, and reviews. This new membership class will allow AGRODEP members who relocate out of Africa to continue to benefit from all the Consortium has to offer; it will also provide expanded opportunities for members to network and collaborate with colleagues and experts outside of the Consortium. Applications for Affiliate Membership are accepted year-round. Interested researchers can apply using the [online application form](#).



## ONGOING AGRODEP ACTIVITIES

### Research Valorization and Excellence in Publications

AGRODEP continues to accept applications for its 2014 Research Valorization grant series. These grants are available to all AGRODEP members and are designed to provide financial assistance for members to present their research at international conferences and workshops, as well as to pay publication submission fees. Applications will be approved on a case-by-case basis; all applications must be clearly linked to AGRODEP activities such as training courses or models. Interested members should submit an online application form. AGRODEP also continues to accept applications for its 2014 Award for Excellence in Publications. This award provides an incentive and a reward for AGRODEP members who publish in top-ranking academic journals. Members can apply for the award by sending their publication to the AGRODEP management team, who then make the decision in consultation with the AGRODEP Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Publications must be linked to research undertaken under AGRODEP activities.

### WHAT IS AGRODEP?

The African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium is an initiative led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The goal of AGRODEP 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.

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