

NEWS

E-learning course on Impact Evaluation from the Food Security Portal

An e-learning course on Impact Evaluation is now available to AGRODEP network members and to the public from the [Food Security Portal's e-learning platform](#). The course explains the different stages and aspects in implementing a project evaluation, from including a counterfactual or control group in the evaluation design to selecting the most appropriate method based on the nature of the program, the outcomes of interest and the data that can be collected. The Impact Evaluation course is the first in a planned series of free e-learning courses from the FSP's e-learning platform. The FSP is grateful to five AGRODEP members who beta tested the course.

The e-learning platform is part of the recently launched revamped Food Security Portal. New tools and features of the FSP and the Africa South of the Sahara sub-portal, which are available in [English](#) and in [French](#), were introduced in the revamped website. These new features include the [Early Warning Hub](#) and a [Control Panel for Risk Monitoring](#). The [COVID-19 Food Price Monitor](#), which includes daily prices of key food commodities in East African countries, are among the tools made available in a [COVID-19 page](#) that is dedicated to tools and resources for tracking and analyzing the potential impacts of the pandemic.

English version of Technical Note on Methods for Updating and Balancing Social Accounting Matrices

AGRODEP published the [English](#) version of [Technical Note 17: A Comparative Analysis of Methods for Updating and Balancing Social Accounting Matrices](#) which documents the [Toolbox on Methods for Updating and Balancing Social Accounting Matrices](#). The technical note was previously available only in [French](#).

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.

The AGRODEP Management Team wishes all the AGRODEP network members a happy holiday season and a healthy and peaceful new year! We look forward to continued research collaboration in 2021.

FEATURED NETWORK MEMBERS



Dr. Marko Kwaramba is a citizen of Zimbabwe. He has been an AGRODEP member since April 2011. He co-authored a chapter on regional integration in southern Africa in the 2020 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor. At present, Marko is a Country Economist at the World Bank. He was previously a part time Lecturer and PhD Student at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. Before that, Marko worked for the University of Zimbabwe and did his PhD coursework at University of Cape Town, South Africa where he also worked as a Teaching Assistant. He holds a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in Economics from the University of Zimbabwe, and a Ph.D. from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.



Dr. Busani Moyo is a citizen of Zimbabwe. He has been an AGRODEP member since November 2012. He co-authored a chapter on regional integration in southern Africa in the 2020 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor. At present, Busani is an Associate Professor at the University of South Africa. Before joining the University of South Africa, Busani worked for the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe. He holds a B.Sc. in Economics from the University of Zimbabwe, an M.Sc. in Economics from the University of Zimbabwe, and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He specializes in applied econometrics. His research interests include microeconomics, international trade, infrastructure-related issues, and development economics.



Dr. Mamello Nchake is a citizen of Lesotho. She has been an AGRODEP member since July 2015. She co-authored a chapter on regional integration in southern Africa in the 2020 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor. Mamello is currently an Assistant Professor at the National University of Lesotho. She was previously a Research Fellow in the School of Economics and the Southern African Labour-Development Research Unit of the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She holds a BA in Economics from National University of Lesotho, an M.Sc. in Economics from the University of Zimbabwe, and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Cape Town. Her research interests are structured around international trade and development in Africa.

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