

The AGRODEP Quarterly Update is designed to regularly provide the Scientific Advisory Board and the Steering Committee with up-to-date information about the activities of the Modeling Consortium.

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## **JUNE 2011 MEETINGS AND MEMBERS' WORKSHOP**

In June 6-8, 2011, AGRODEP held its [second workshop for members](#) at the Novotel Hotel in Dakar, Senegal. The workshop brought together 43 AGRODEP members and 21 other participants including guest speakers from IFPRI, the World Bank, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the University of California Berkeley, and members of the AGRODEP management team. 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 AGRODEP members elected two representatives each for the Steering Committee and the [Network Advisory Committee \(NAC\)](#). The elected members for the Steering Committee are: *Vinaye Ancharaz*, Principal Research Economist at the African Development Bank in Tunisia, and *Mutasim Mekki Mahmoud Elrasheed*, Professor at the Sudan University of Science and Technology (SUST). For the NAC, the elected members are: *Azharia Abdelbagi Elbushra*, Assistant Professor at the University of Juba in Sudan, and *Miriam Omolo*, Program Officer at the Institute of Economic Affairs in Kenya.

The [Scientific Advisory Board \(SAB\)](#) and the [Steering Committee \(SC\)](#) held their first meetings on June 9, 2011 at the IFPRI-Dakar office. The two committees support AGRODEP's scientific, policy, and operational functions by providing advice to the AGRODEP management team. The Committees discussed their roles and responsibilities in supporting AGRODEP. Each committee approved its Terms of Reference. In addition, the Steering Committee reviewed and approved the 2011 Workplan, Membership Extension Plan, and Grants Program. Several recommendations came out of the SAB and SC meetings. Based on the recommendations, ECOWAS and the African Union were invited to join the SC and the AGRODEP Grants Program and Discussion Paper series were launched. A menu of training programs for the coming year is being prepared and will be prioritized according to the Members' interest. The outreach\communications plans and data partnership strategy will be released year's end.

## **GRANTS PROGRAM**

On July 15, 2011, AGRODEP launched its first [call for proposals for innovative research](#). This grant category targets only AGRODEP members. A total of 28 proposals were received by AGRODEP Management by the deadline of August 31, 2011. The proposals are currently being evaluated and the selection will be made by September 30, 2011.

Through the grant program, AGRODEP seeks to facilitate a systematic policy assessment for African economies. With this objective in mind, this year, AGRODEP gives special consideration to proposals that address priorities defined by the [CAADP Agenda](#): i) climate change and water resource management; ii) output and input marketing policies; iii) trade policies and competitiveness; and iv) 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 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. So far, three AGRODEP members have applied for this grant; one has been awarded and the other two applications are still under evaluation.

## **DISCUSSION PAPER SERIES**

On September 2, 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.

The series is designed only for AGRODEP Members to publish their research. Members will be able to submit their manuscripts in both English and French. The publication will help raise awareness of African researchers and their work on various topics focusing on economic growth, poverty reduction, and development policy in Africa.

An Editorial Board has been 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. Three submissions have been received so far and are currently undergoing review. Further details on this can be found in the [AGRODEP website](#).

## **OTHER NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

- The AGRODEP team welcomed four new staff members in the last two months. *Alimatou Diop*, Research Assistant and *Lacina Balma*, Senior Research Assistant, are based in the IFPRI-Dakar office, and *Soonho Kim*, Web Portal Specialist, and *Yuan Gao*, Senior Research Assistant, are based in the IFPRI Washington, D.C office.
- The forthcoming AGRODEP website is in the final stages of development by Mapping Worlds and Forum One – professional website development companies. Parallel work is being done by the developers on design and functionality and by the AGRODEP team on the initial content. The launch date will be announced within the next few weeks.
- Within the next two months, AGRODEP will launch the training program for its Members. A menu of training activities, including more comprehensive sessions on the topics presented at the June Workshop, will be offered to Members. A survey will then be conducted in order to set priorities and develop the training schedule for the rest of the year.