

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

GRANTS PROGRAM

AGRODEP launched a call for proposals to address gaps in research in May 2012. Open to AGRODEP members as well as to non-member individuals and organizations worldwide, the Gaps in Research grant aims to support research on emerging issues in Africa that have previously received little or no attention. This year, the call for proposals focuses on any or all of the three sub-topics of the following theme: [Foreign Direct Investment in Land \(FDI\), Land Markets and Land Institutions, and Development of the Agricultural Sector in Africa](#). Encouraged to apply are researchers or research organizations that have already engaged in some capacity in addressing the issues but could use the grant funds to complement their efforts and produce high quality research.

The Gaps in Research grant is in addition to the [Grants for Innovative Research](#) that were awarded early this year to fourteen Consortium members. AGRODEP also offers a [Research Valorization Grant](#) which allows members to apply for financial support from the Consortium in order to present the outcome of their research at international conferences. The second grant for research valorization was awarded to [Albert Makochekanwa](#), a Trade Analyst, to attend the Study of African Economies (CSAE)'s International Conference held in Oxford University, United Kingdom on March 18-20, 2012. The grant enabled Albert to present his research on the implications on welfare and food security of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite FTA.

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR 2012

Between March and May of 2012, the Consortium offered a total of 17 days of training on three different topics. As reported in the previous update, the first course entitled “[Building and Updating Social Accounting Matrices \(SAM\)](#)” was offered by IFPRI-Dakar on March 13-15, 2012 in Dakar, Senegal and was taught by [Ismael Fofana](#) of IFPRI. The second training from April 24 to 27 was also offered in Dakar, Senegal and was taught by Philippe van Kerm of CEPS/INSTEAD Luxembourg and Anne-Claire Thomas of Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), Belgium. The course was entitled “[Poverty Measurement and Analysis](#)” and focused on poverty dynamics and intertemporal aspects of poverty measurement and modeling.

More recently, AGRODEP offered a basic level course on [Computable General Equilibrium \(CGE\) Modeling](#) using GAMS. This was a 10-day training course—the longest offered by AGRODEP so far—and was co-organized by Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network. The course was co-hosted by ASARECA, located in Entebbe, Uganda, and the training was conducted by Véronique Robichaud of Université Laval, Québec, Canada.

AGRODEP conducts course evaluations after each course to find out whether the course was useful to the participants and to identify areas of potential improvements that can benefit future trainings. All three courses have generated appreciation from the participants and valuable positive feedback that AGRODEP will use when designing the training program for 2013. Participants provided testimonials for the [SAM Training Course](#), the [Poverty Measurement and Analysis Course](#), and the [CGE Modeling Course](#).

WTO CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP

Eight AGRODEP members were selected for sponsorship from the [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO) to attend and present their work at the [15th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis](#) scheduled for June 27-29, 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. The WTO, through its Institute of Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC) will provide financial support for the participation of the AGRODEP members whose papers were selected through the conference abstract review process, and who were recommended by the AGRODEP Management Team. The selected AGRODEP members are:

- [Mounir Balloumi](#) (Paper available [here](#))
- [Christian Emini](#) (Paper available [here](#))
- [Cheickh Sadibou Fall](#) (Paper available [here](#))
- [Mercyline Kamande](#) (Paper available [here](#))
- [Olayinka Idowu Kareem](#) (Paper available [here](#))
- [Albert Makochekanwa](#) (Paper available [here](#))
- [Lulit Mitik](#) (Paper available [here](#))
- [Miriam Omolo](#) (Paper available [here](#))

The eight members will present in two Organized Sessions on “Regional Integration and Free Trade Agreements in Africa”, organized by Antoine Bouet of AGRODEP and Mustapha Sadni Jallab of the WTO. AGRODEP will help facilitate the publication of the papers that the sponsored member will present at the GTAP conference.

The support was a result of an agreement signed between IFPRI and the WTO in an effort to increase opportunities for AGRODEP members to participate in international events. The WTO is represented in the AGRODEP Steering Committee by Bridget Chilala.

AGRODEP MEMBERSHIP

AGRODEP welcomes 29 new members that were selected from the third membership round launched in February 2012. Membership in the Consortium increased from 55 to 84 members coming from twenty-four different countries in Africa. They bring diverse experiences and professional backgrounds and interests. The growth will continue as AGRODEP launches subsequent calls for new members. Full profiles and pictures of new AGRODEP members will become available on the AGRODEP website by the end of June. To see a list of the existing AGRODEP members and their profiles, visit the AGRODEP website at: <http://www.agrodep.org/content/members>.

OTHER INFORMATION

The first physical meeting of the [Network Advisory Committee](#) (NAC) will be held on June 23, 2012 at the IFPRI-Dakar office in Senegal. The NAC provides advice to the consortium on the content and delivery of networking activities. The committee is co-chaired by the representatives of the ASARECA and the West and Central African Council on Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD).

The AGRODEP Letter of Agreement, which describes the rights and responsibilities of AGRODEP members was recently revised to include text that gives AGRODEP the permission to use and/or publish various content and information submitted by members (personal information, biography, etc.) or generated by AGRODEP in various events (videos, pictures, presentations, etc.).