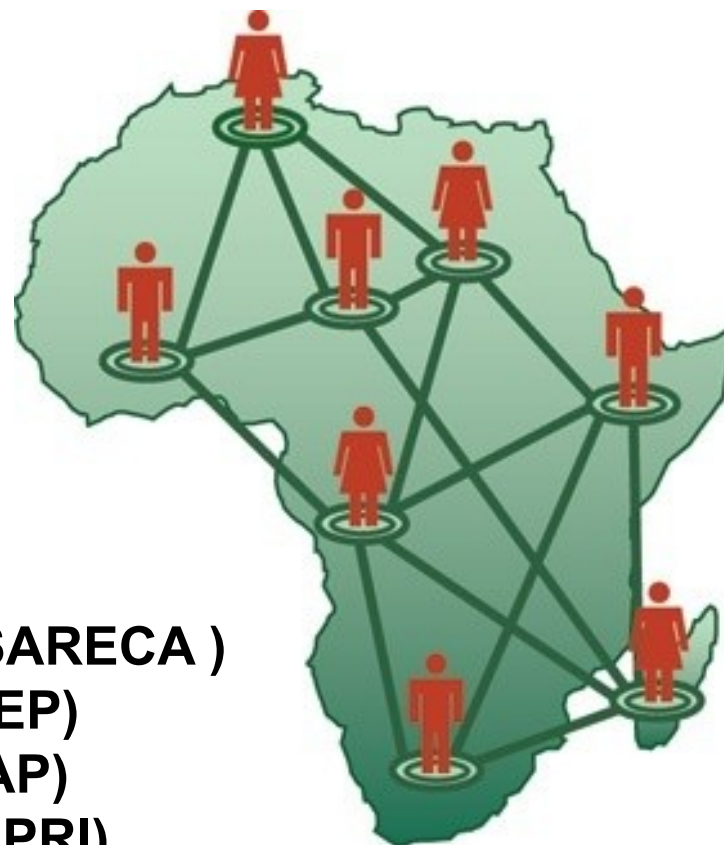


INGREDIENTS OF A PRODUCTIVE NETWORKING



Michael Waithaka (ASARECA)
Bernard Decaluwe (PEP)
Terrie Walmsley (GTAP)
Ousmane Badiane (IFPRI)
Antoine Bouet (IFPRI)
Ismael Fofana (IFPRI)

Inception Workshop of the African Growth and Development
Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium
October 28-29, 2010 · Dakar, Senegal

SUMMARY

- ❑ Clear purpose
- ❑ Limited number of issues
- ❑ Platform around common challenges
- ❑ Common framework, different models
- ❑ Broaden the approach to economic modelling
- ❑ Continuous and extensive support
- ❑ Strong partnerships
- ❑ Sharing information
- ❑ Networking facilitates by institutions

CLEAR PURPOSE

- Important to have a specific and clear purpose that everyone can believe in
- Motivation to be part of something bigger that will make a difference
- And that everyone believes could be accomplished

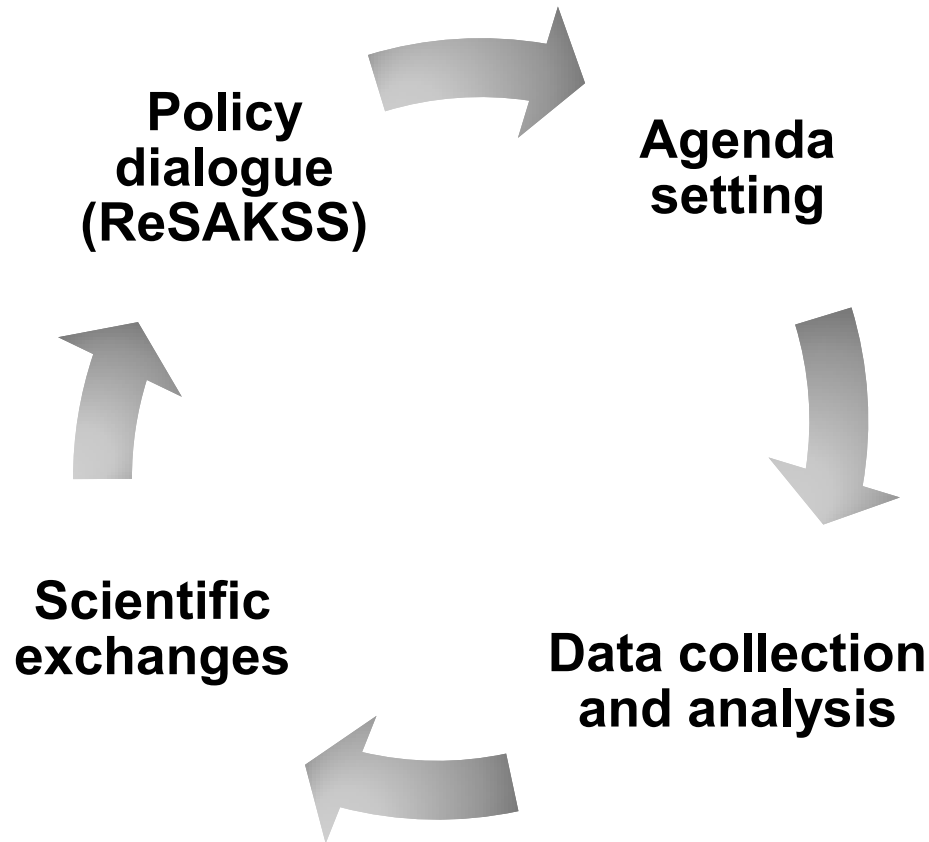
LIMITED NUMBER OF ISSUES

- ❑ Thematic and methodological issues related to growth, poverty, and food and nutritional security
- ❑ Academics are broadly interested either to the topics or to the methods
- ❑ « I belong to a network if I share with other - and contribute to the development of - topics or methods »

PLATFORM AROUND COMMON CHALLENGES

- Basis for identifying key policy constraints and strategies that work
- Provides rationale for the why? (impacts on trade, employment, welfare, etc.)
- Basis for the how? (seed policy harmonization agenda)
- Creates awareness needed to change mindsets/attitudes

COMMON FRAMEWORK, DIFFERENT MODELS



BROADEN THE APPROACH TO ECONOMIC MODELLING

- Importance of opening up the model black box to African researchers to add value
- Importance of continued Mentoring and Training for long run impact
- Mixture of researchers young/old, male/female, university/government, etc.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

- Strong links with academia, public sector, policy makers and other networks leads to:
 - greater policy impact
 - better models, data, analysis, outcomes
 - more can be achieved
- Good relationships with African contributors is key to:
 - the continued improvement of the underlying data and models
 - Greater impact in Africa
 - Need to think about incentives

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS (CONT.)

- Collaborations with other networks:
 - For economies of scale in training, scientific support and dissemination
 - To save on resource persons time
 - For comparisons and sharing of lessons (scientific stimuli and external validation)
 - To increase visibility and policy impact

CONTINUOUS AND EXTENSIVE SUPPORT

- Scientific exchanges among experienced researchers in and outside Africa
- Constant scientific support through collaboration and mentoring with experienced researchers
- Basic training activities and availability of « pedagogical » materials for young researchers

SHARING INFORMATION

- Platform to share information on research analyses, models and tools, and data
- Annual gatherings of stakeholders to share information
- Mixture of policymakers, practitioners, researchers, etc.

NETWORKING FACILITATED BY INSTITUTIONS

- ❑ Establishment of limited number of thematic and methodological sub-networks
- ❑ Facilitated by institutions member of AGRODEP according to their fields of expertise
- ❑ Associated with small grant research supports
 - ❑ Competitive call for proposals
 - ❑ Open to AGRODEP members
 - ❑ Issues related to growth, poverty reduction, and food and nutritional security in Africa