WHAT DOES AGRODEP WANT TO ACHIEVE? OPERATIONAL MODEL OF AGRODEP

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WHAT DOES AGRODEP WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Why AGRODEP:

- African countries have experienced a remarkable economic recovery since the start of the century
- Africa is simultaneously undergoing an important policy renewal process
- This process fuels a growing demand for locally based, policy-relevant research

Therefore there is a need for:

- a mechanism that helps to mobilize a critical mass of modeling experts within Africa's policy research and analysis community,
- broaden access to innovative research methodologies, and
- facilitate partnership with the global research community.

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WHAT DOES AGRODEP WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Goal of AGRODEP

To position African experts to take a leading role in both:

- the study of strategic development questions facing African countries as a group and
- the broader agricultural growth and policy debate, which traditionally has been dominated by external actors and concerns.

By:

- Increasing scientific economic expertise of African researchers
- Increasing scientific exchanges between African researchers
- Increasing African researchers' scientific exchanges with international scientific community

WHAT DOES AGRODEP WANT TO ACHIEVE?

AGRODEP pursues three essential activities:

- Promoting access to and use of state-of-the-art economic modeling tools

- Facilitating access to existing data sources for research and policy analysis (improving quality and reducing data gaps)

- Building a network of state of the art researchers:
  - Supporting collaboration among leading African scientists and their peers outside Africa
  - Building a dynamic research community that can respond to the emerging and long-term needs of CAADP growth and poverty reduction agenda.

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Component 1: A Shared Modeling Infrastructure

AGRODEP will provide a platform for sharing existing core and innovative economic models dealing with sector, national, and international policy issues as well as long-term projections in areas such as agricultural growth and poverty, trade, nutrition, climate change, natural resources management, and science and technology.

Main Goals:

- Development of a **library of models** (documentation / illustrative datasets);
- **Training of AGRODEP members** on the models to ensure their own future developments;
- Development of **modeling innovations** in order to address specific needs in such areas as agronomy, animal sciences, health and environment.

Component 2: A Common Database Platform

AGRODEP will develop a central data clearinghouse with a Web data portal

Main Goals:

- To bring together dispersed and disparate statistical, economic, and geospatial data in Africa;
- To provide links to existing key data sources;
- To develop shared standards, formats, and exchange protocols;
- To train AGRODEP members on database construction to ensure future developments;

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Component 3: A Network of Members/Experts

AGRODEP's activities centered around collaboration and the exchange of data, modeling techniques, joint analysis, reporting, and strategic debate

Main Goals

- Promoting **access to and use of state-of-the-art economic modeling tools in Africa**
- **Facilitating access to existing data sources** for research and policy analysis
- Supporting **collaboration** among leading African scientists and their peers outside Africa and **building a dynamic research community**
- Facilitating joint research activities on specific issues of great strategic importance to Africa, including technical and logistical support and joint publishing

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AGRODEP: A Community of Practitioners

- A set of specific, **thematically** or **technically** focused interest groups to serve as a forum for scientific exchange, training, and capacity building.

- **Themes have to be prioritized**

Goal

- To use the expertise across the Consortium to strengthen policy research and analysis capacities and

- to use the members' research findings to raise the quality of policy debate

The **AGRODEP** Modeling Consortium:

- **AGRODEP members**: individuals who are Africa-based researchers

- **AGRODEP partners:** institutions based within or outside Africa that provide technical or institutional support to the Consortium

- **AGRODEP experts:** leading global and African **experts** who advise the Consortium and support its efforts to remain at the cutting edge of technical innovations.

AGRODEP members:

- **Rights and duties**
  - Rights
    - Access to models / data /online portal
    - Scientific support/Community of international experts
    - Participation to the AGRODEP Grant Program
    - Workshops/Training/International conferences
  - Duties
    - Contributions
      - Research impact (AGRODEP peer-reviewed DP, publication, documented database or model …)
      - Respect code of conduct of AGRODEP members
      - Network activity
        - Training
        - Workshops
        - Data contribution

AGRODEP members:

- Process of selection
  - First cut: Based in Africa/PhD defended or in progress/recently defended
  - Selection based on technical skills, publications
  - Consideration for geographic distribution and gender

- Process of "de-selection"
  - Every year review process of AGRODEP members activities based on previously defined duties and submitted to the SAB

WHAT DOES AGRODEP WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Key Activities:

- Establish a set of specific, thematically or technically focused interest groups to serve as a forum for scientific exchange;

- *Capacity building;*

- *Grants;*

- *Web data portal and model repository;*

- *Workshops;*

- *Working Paper Series;*

- *Bi – annual conference;*

- *Quarterly bulletin;*

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WHAT DOES AGRODEP WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Our vision of AGRODEP in 5 years:

- A solid and top quality network of African researchers based in Africa
  - Connected between themselves for intensive scientific exchanges;
  - linked with the international scientific community; and
  - building a dynamic research community that can respond to the emerging and long-term needs of CAADP growth and poverty reduction agenda and policy debate
- A much better data coverage of AFRICA with an efficient data portal (new and updated SAMs, I/O Tables, Household Surveys, etc) accessible for AGRODEP members and AGRODEP partners
- A new library of innovative models accessible for AGRODEP members and AGRODEP partners
- Annual publications and Working Papers

WHAT DOES AGRODEP WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Management Structure:

- **Steering Committee:**
  - **Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Co- Chair,** *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI),*
  - **Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda,** Co-Chair, Steering Committee, *Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)*

- **Scientific Advisory Board**
  - **Dr. Maximo Torero,** Co- Chair, *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI),*
  - **Prof. Bernard Decaluwé,** Co-Chair, *Université Laval, Québec, Canada*

- **Project Manager**
  - **Prof. Antoine Bouët,** *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C., U.S.A. and Université de Pau, Pau, France.*

- **Deputy Project Manager**
  - **Dr. Betina Dimaranan,** *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C., U.S.A.*

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Components management structure:

- **The AGRODEP Data Component**
  - **Dr. Betina Dimaranan,** Deputy Project Manager and Data Coordinator
    International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C., U.S.A.

- **The AGRODEP Modeling Component**
  - **Dr. David Laborde Debucquet,** Models Coordinator
    International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C., U.S.A.

- **The AGRODEP Network Component**
  - **Dr. Ismaël Fofana,** Network Coordinator
    International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Dakar

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Role of:

- **Steering Committee:**

- **Main function**: Discuss and advise the functioning of the AGRODEP initiative and its contribution to capacity building and policy debate in Africa

- **More specific:**

- Gather institutions that will actively contribute to AGRODEP

- Guide the AGRODEP initiative on key matters of policy, operational issues and resource mobilization

- Ensure that the AGRODEP initiative remains focused on its objectives and mission and is run effectively.

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Role of:

Scientific Advisory Board

- **Main function**: Provide general scientific guidance to the Project manager according to AGRODEP's mission

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- **More specific:**

- Gather individual researchers from the academic community with a high international scientific reputation and a knowledge of Africa.

- Provide recommendations on scientific topics and scientific activities that AGRODEP should prioritize;

- Suggest improvements and/or innovations on analytical methodologies used by the AGRODEP community

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