

AGRODEP Network Advisory Committee (NAC) Meeting

Location: IFPRI, Dakar, Senegal.
Date and time: June 23, 2012 at 08:30-13:30

Participants

Title	Names	Institution	Role (AGRODEP)
Dr.	Ousmane Badiane	IFPRI	SC Co-chair
Dr.	Harold Roy Macauley	CORAF/WECARD	NAC Co-chair
Dr.	Michael Waithaka	ASARECA	NAC Co-chair
Mr.	Freddie Kaggwa Kalibwani	IWMI	NAC representative
Prof.	Isaac Joseph Minde	Michigan State University	NAC representative
Dr.	Mbaye Yade	ReSAKSS-WA	NAC representative
Mrs.	Miriam Omolo	AGRODEP Members	NAC representative
Prof.	Muhammadou M. O. Kah	The University of Gambia	NAC representative
Prof.	Willis Oluoch-Kosura	AERC	NAC representative
Dr.	Ismael Fofana	IFPRI	Network Coordinator
Ms.	Alimatou Saadiya Diop	IFPRI	Network Assistant

1. Opening

Remarks by Dr. Ousmane Badiane (SC Co-Chair)

Remarks by Dr. Harold Macauley (NAC Co-Chair)

Self-introduction of the participants (NAC Representatives & Management Team)

2. Overview of AGRODEP

Presentations by Dr. Ousmane Badiane and Dr. Ismael Fofana

Main discussion points lead by Prof. Isaac Minde:

- More clarity on the role of the committees (SC, SAB, and NAC) in the AGRODEP architecture to avoid overlapping functions;
- Suggestion to organize an annual meeting that brings together the three committees to find the best solutions and actions for the Consortium;
- Suggestion of careful implementations of the financial incentives and putting more emphasis on the non-financial incentives for sustainability purpose;
- The sustainability of the project is crucial and the governance and the management bodies should start investigating on the issue;
- Suggestion to invite Governments to join the Consortium for more sustainability and value to the output.
- Suggestion to highlight the importance of the online networking among members, as well as all the bodies, and make sure that everybody is acting, particularly online;
- Suggestion of setting up interest groups to offer high level services, supported by a critical technologies strategy to enhance the interactions among them and with partners; interest group designed to be micro versions of AGRODEP at country or regional level; the latter can be linked to the SRAOs (CORAF and ASARECA);
- Suggestion of a flagship of AGRODEP to be part of the outreach strategy;

- Training materials should be virtually available through the AGRODEP Portal with an open access to all members;
- Need for further exchange between AGRODEP and ReSAKSS through different activities, e.g. grants, training, etc.;
- More concretely, how ReSAKSS can benefit from the online training materials from AGRODEP?
- Issue of optimal number of members: how much members AGRODEP would like to achieve? What is the manageable size? The availability of resources and the need of the members should be a crucial point in selecting members during membership extension;
- Suggestion to clarify the status of members who leave the continent for study but are still making researches on Africa, and their coming back in the group;
- Location of applicants during membership extension: Why only Africa based Researchers? Shouldn't AGRODEP allow non-Africa based researchers to apply for membership wherever they are located; as long as they are African, their location should not matter; the most important issue shouldn't be as African expert what they can bring to the Continent and to the study of strategic development questions that Africa is facing?
- Suggestion of membership fees by individuals, institutions or countries, to be used by AGRODEP to create incentives ;
- Clear strategy of the Consortium funding during the remaining years and beyond this phase.

3. Review of the NAC Terms of References

[Presentation by Dr. Michael Waithaka](#)

[Main discussion points lead by Prof. Willis Oluoch-Kosura](#)

- Issue of a timeframe of the representation in the NAC (2 years, renewable); the process of replacement to be clarified in the ToRs;
- Suggestion to partially replace the committee at a time for a matter of smooth functioning of the committee;
- Suggestion of creation of specific areas or groups of advices emanating from NAC members; i.e. NAC working groups for advise on specific activities; each group can make brainstorming on a special activity and then report to the AGRODEP Management Team;
- Suggestion to designate a contact person for each advisory group;
- The NAC has to review the strategic plan, the annual workplan, and the budget allocation to be in a better position to provide relevant advices to the Network Coordinator;
- The NAC will design a process to monitor the implementation of the workplan by the Management Team;
- Strategy to better engage representative to the Consortium and feedback monitoring process;

- Suggestion of the Committee to undertake an evaluation of its own capacity in accordance of the assigned tasks and to implementation a clear procedure of its own performance evaluation.

4. AGRODEP 2012 Workplan

Presentation of 2011 and 2012 activities by Dr. Ismael Fofana

Main discussion points lead by Prof. Muhammadou Kah

- Organization of activities around specific objectives with measurable indicators and clear timeline;
- Suggestion to identify key deliverables to countries, e.g. tools, techniques, capacities, research outcomes, etc.
- Better packaging of information circulated through the newsletters, the quarterly bulletins, and the website to facilitate the identification of resource persons by topics, skills, tools and methods, location, etc.;
- Organization of a major intellectual/scientific gathering in Africa once every year that will attract partners ;
- Perspective for a high quality Journal publication reviewed by members;
- Suggestion to carefully thought the learning management system by combining virtual (webcasting), physical, and on-hand training activities ;
- Support for research valorization should facilitate the use of research products by partners;
- Enable people to subscribe to an area to the AGRODEP newsletter through the Website.
- Encourage collaborative research activities and target researches to solve problems.