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## NEWS

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### WTO Sponsorship to the 2012 GTAP Conference

[IFPRI](#) recently signed an agreement with the [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO) regarding financial support for the participation of up to ten (10) AGRODEP researchers to the [15th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis](#) to be held in June 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. The goal of the conference is to promote the exchange of ideas among economists conducting quantitative analysis of global economic issues.

Organized by the [Global Trade Analysis Project](#) (GTAP), the [WTO](#), the [International Trade Centre](#), and the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#) (UNCTAD), the themes of the 15th Annual Conference are:

- Measurement and impact analysis of non-tariff measures and trade facilitation
- Trade, environment, natural resources and sustainable development
- Poverty, inequality and development towards the millennium development goals
- Analysis of multilateral and bilateral trade agreements in a globalizing world

The [WTO](#) provides a forum for negotiating agreements aimed at reducing obstacles to international trade and ensuring a level playing field for all, thus contributing to economic growth and development. The WTO's Institute of Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC) was established to

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## DEVELOPMENTS

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### AGRODEP Competitive Call for Innovative Research

AGRODEP recently granted conditional approval to [fourteen \(14\) grant proposals](#) submitted by AGRODEP members in response to the [competitive call for proposals for innovative research](#) launched on June 15, 2011. Of the accepted proposals, six (6) were classified under the [CAADP research agenda](#) which are on one of the four priority topics: climate change, marketing policies, trade policies and competitiveness, and market access.

### AGRODEP Discussion Paper Series

The AGRODEP [Discussion Paper Series](#) was launched in September. An Editorial Board has been

coordinate WTO-related technical assistance and training in response to the main development-related challenges of the Doha Development Agenda.

Through the ITTC, the WTO will provide financial support for the participation of AGRODEP members whose papers will be selected through the conference abstract review process, and who are recommended by the AGRODEP Management Team. Further information will be provided to the AGRODEP members soon.

established with Ismael Fofana as Editor. Six (6) papers have been submitted so far and these are all under review.

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## FEATURED MEMBERS

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**Youssouf Kone** is a citizen of Cote d'Ivoire. He has been an AGRODEP member since April 2011. At present, Kone is a Trade Policy Analyst at the Commonwealth Secretariat "Hub and Spokes" project and posted within the Ministry of Trade, Bujumbura, Burundi. In this position, Kone undertakes trade policy related analytical work, assists with trade policy formulation, negotiation. Before that, he worked for UNDP Cote d'Ivoire and the World Bank



**Amel Mustafa Mubarak** is a citizen of Sudan. She has been an AGRODEP member since April 2011. At present, Amel is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Khartoum. In this position, Amel teaches courses to B.A. and M.A. level students, supervises and conducts research on Agricultural Economics. Prior to her current position, Amel worked for University of Gezira. She holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Agricultural



**Ruth Chepchirchir Taruss** is a citizen of Kenya. She has been an AGRODEP member since April 2011. At present, Ruth is a Research Assistant at the AGRICOM Consultants LTD-Nairobi. In this position, Ruth conducts research in agricultural and rural development, irrigation, project evaluation and monitoring. Before joining AGRICOM, Ruth worked for VEGPRO LTD Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA). She holds a B.A. degree in Agricultural

Institute. He holds a M.A. in Economics from University of Bouake. His research interests include agricultural policies, international trade policies, economic analysis of poverty, economic development, CGE models, trade and environment, and climate change.

Economics from University of Khartoum, Sudan and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the same University. Her research interests include economic modeling, agricultural policy and rural development, food security and poverty alleviation research.

Economics from Egerton University, Kenya and an M.A. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from Egerton University. Her research interests include sustainable agricultural and rural development, agribusiness development.

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