

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.

---

### UPCOMING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

AGRODEP's [Network Advisory Committee](#) will hold its next virtual meeting on July 5, 2013. The NAC provides advice to the Consortium regarding the content and management of AGRODEP's networking activities. The forthcoming virtual meeting is an opportunity to discuss and advise on AGRODEP's networking activities in the past year and the workplan and ongoing activities for 2013. View the details of the [last NAC virtual meeting](#) (log-in required).

AGRODEP's [Steering Committee](#) will hold its next virtual meeting in late July, 2013. The exact date is still to be determined. The SC provides advice regarding the general operation and strategic direction of the Consortium, specifically matters of policy, operational issues, and resource mobilization. The forthcoming virtual meeting is an opportunity to discuss AGRODEP's activities in the past year and the progress made on the 2013 workplan. View the details of the [last SC and SAB annual meeting](#) held in Dakar in November, 2012 (log-in required).

### FIRST TWO 2013 TRAINING COURSES HELD

AGRODEP held its first two 2013 training courses in May. The first course on [Impact Evaluation and Analysis of Development Interventions](#) was held on May 13-18 and was organized by Tanguy Bernard of IFPRI. This was part one of two courses on the subject of impact evaluation; a follow-up course will be held in November. The instructors for Part 1 were Jenny Aker of Tufts University, Alan de Brauw of IFPRI, and Ruth Vargas Hill of IFPRI. The course focused on the theoretical and empirical details of impact evaluation and gave participants hands-on practice conducting real-life analysis and evaluation. Instructors covered sector-specific topics such as agriculture, education, finance, health, infrastructure, and safety nets. Fourteen AGRODEP members participated in the event, and the course has received overwhelmingly positive feedback. [Read participant feedback and view pictures.](#)

The second 2013 AGRODEP training course, held on May 28-30, was on [Estimation of the Economic Impact of High Food Prices Using Micro Data](#). The course was instructed Miguel Robles of IFPRI and focused on how to conduct estimations of the economic impact of simulated food price changes at the household level using nationally representative household surveys. The course covered basic microeconomic concepts, derivation of direct and indirect substitution effects, the construction of basic variables, the use of Stata codes, and econometric estimations. Eleven AGRODEP members participated in the event, and the course has received overwhelmingly positive feedback. The next AGRODEP training course, [Evaluation of Public Policies](#), will be held from July 1-3 in Burkina Faso. View the [full schedule](#) of 2013 AGRODEP training courses.

### AGRODEP ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERS

The AGRODEP team would like to welcome its [35 new members](#), who joined the Consortium as part of the fifth call for members in March 2013. As with previous rounds of membership extension, new members were chosen based on the level and nature of their technical skills, as well as their publications and work experience. This latest call for members bring total AGRODEP membership to 153 researchers from 27 countries.

## 2014 GTAP CONFERENCE

In June 2014, IFPRI will host the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis (GTAP Conference) in Dakar, Senegal. The theme of the conference will be “New Challenges in Food Policy, Trade, and Economic Vulnerability.” This broad theme will include subthemes on international trade and food security; international trade and finance; Foreign Direct Investment in land and land markets; the impact of demographic transition and population ageing on the global economy; trade, environment, natural resources, and sustainable development; the impact of the internet and new technological innovations on global trade; the interaction between global trade, poverty, income distribution, inequality, and development; the integration of Africa into the world trade system; and the potential for Africa to “feed the world.”

## TECHNICAL NOTE SERIES EXPANDED

AGRODEP expanded its [Technical Note series](#) with four additional notes. Technical Note No. 6, [Modeling Commodity Markets in Stochastic Contexts: A Practical Guide Using the RECS Toolbox Version 0.5](#), discusses how the RECS toolbox can be used to analyze complex issues such as the effects of public interventions in commodity markets. Technical Note No. 7, [Trade Policy Partial Equilibrium Model in Excel: Documentation](#), discusses how the PE-TRADE model in Excel can be used to analyze the implications of various trade policies. Technical Note No. 8, [AGRODEP Stata Training](#), focuses on basic Stata skills and commands. Technical Note No. 9, [Guide to Microsimulations Linked to CGE Models: How to Introduce Analysis of Poverty and Income Distribution in CGE-Based Studies](#), shows how to use micro-macro syntheses to analyze the micro effects of macro policies and external shocks on income distribution and poverty.

## NEW MODELING TOOLBOX

Linked with Technical Note No. 9, AGRODEP has introduced a new modeling toolbox, [Micro-Macro Distributional Analysis Toolbox](#). This new toolbox provides AGRODEP members with detailed guidance on applying the different techniques for capturing the micro effects of macro policies and external shocks. It presents two microsimulation techniques: a non-parametric microsimulation model and a representative household model.

## STATA ONLINE TRAINING MODULES

The AGRODEP team has introduced [five Stata training modules](#) to assist AGRODEP members gain a basic understanding of and proficiency in the Stata program. These modules present the basic skills and commands that members will need to successfully complete AGRODEP’s training courses, as well as utilize Stata more successfully in their own research. The new Stata training modules were announced via the AGRODEP newsletter and the AGRODEP blog in order to encourage all AGRODEP members to take advantage of this new resource.

## NEW STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

AGRODEP welcomes Dr Janet Edeme and Dr Stephen Karingi to the AGRODEP [Steering Committee](#). Dr Janet Edeme, Head of the Rural Economy Division of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, will represent the African Union Commission. Dr Stephen Karingi, Director of Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Division, will represent the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.