

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.

2014 AGRODEP GRANT CALLS

In August, AGRODEP launched its 2014 grant season with the third annual call for the [Gaps in Research grant series](#). This competitive grant supports research on emerging issues in Africa. The theme for this year's grant is "Using Trade for Development" with a special emphasis on investment in infrastructure or trade; African regional integration schemes; and the measurement of informal trade and policy responses. Proposals were accepted from any researcher or research organization in or outside of Africa. The call closed on September 12 and 55 proposals were received. The review process will begin shortly and it is expected that selected proposals will be announced by October 31.

The AGRODEP team expects to launch the 2014 competitive call for Innovative Research grants in mid-October. Open only to AGRODEP members, this grant will focus on a central theme and will encourage modeling work and data covering new topics or topics of significance for Africa.

LAUNCH OF AGRODEP DATA REPORTS

This quarter, AGRODEP launched its new [Data Report](#) series. Each report documents an AGRODEP data set. Data Reports are available to the public, but the data itself is for AGRODEP Member use only. Two Data Reports and corresponding data sets were published in the past three months. "[La Matrice de Comptabilité Sociale de l'Economie Sénégalaise en 2011](#)" by Ismael Fofana, Mamadou Yaya Diallo, Ousseynou Sarr, and Abdou Diouf and "[Construction d'une Matrice de Comptabilité Sociale avec des Branches et Produits Agricoles Désagrégés pour le Togo](#)" by AGRODEP Member Akoete Ega Agbodji document the two latest Social Accounting Matrices (SAM) for Senegal and Togo, respectively. The Togo SAM was completed with funding from the 2011 Innovative Research grant.

AGRODEP WORKING PAPERS

Two new working papers were added to the [Working Paper](#) series. The paper "[Impact of Agricultural Foreign Aid on Agricultural Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Dynamic Specification](#)" by Reuben Alabi examines the effects of sector-allocated foreign aid on agricultural GDP and productivity throughout Sub-Saharan Africa using indicators from 47 countries during 2002-2010. The study finds that overall, foreign aid has a positive and significant impact on the region. While bilateral foreign aid affects agricultural productivity more strongly, multilateral foreign aid has a larger impact on agricultural GDP.

In the paper "[Implications of High Commodity Prices on Poverty Reduction in Ethiopia and Policy Options under an Agriculture-Led Development Strategy](#)," Lulit Mitik Beyene looks at the potential impacts of price shocks and policy implementation on agricultural growth and poverty reduction. The study finds that the price shocks favor export-intensive agricultural and manufacturing activities while other sectors tend to contract.

Both AGRODEP Working Papers document research funded under the 2011 Innovative Research grant. The AGRODEP Working Paper series aims to enhance the visibility of AGRODEP members and contribute to the policy dialogue. Papers focus on such topics as economic growth, poverty reduction, and development policy in Africa.

AGRODEP ANNUAL MEETINGS

In a departure from the schedule that has been followed in the past two years, the annual meetings of the AGRODEP governance groups (Scientific Advisory Board, Steering Committee, and Network Advisory Committee) will not be held in November this year. The change in schedule is due in part to having moved the meetings to June 2014 around the time of the 17th Annual Conference in Global Economic Analysis that was co-sponsored by AGRODEP in Dakar. The annual meetings were canceled later due to low expected participation. The AGRODEP team is exploring options for scheduling the annual meetings of the governance groups in early February 2015. This will, as usual, be followed by a members' workshop where members can present their research and interact with the rest of the network.

NEW ELASTICITIES TOOLBOX

The latest addition to the [Model Library](#), the [Supply and Demand Elasticities Toolbox](#), was launched in August. This toolbox provides a technical guide, Stata code, and data files to estimate supply and demand elasticities. The first part of the guide is dedicated to the estimation of elasticities in producer theory and the second part is dedicated to elasticities in consumer theory. The toolbox is documented in the latest AGRODEP Technical Note "[On the Estimation of Supply and Demand Elasticities of Agricultural Commodities](#)" by Fabio Gaetano Santeramo of the University of Foggia. The technical note provides a literature review on the topic of demand and supply elasticities, starting with an introduction of the concept of elasticities discussed in conjunction with production and consumer theory, followed by a discussion of the identification problem in estimating elasticities. It also summarizes various methodologies employed in the literature to solve the identification problem and gives practical examples.

AGRODEP AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Three new [affiliate members](#) were welcomed to AGRODEP this quarter: Sylvanus Kwaku Afesorgbor, Didier Alia, and John Ilukor. To become an affiliate member, applicants must meet one of the following requirements: Be an AGRODEP member who moves out of Africa; Be an African Researcher who lives and works outside of Africa; Be an African or non-African researcher working in an international or CG center in Africa. The program aims to increase AGRODEP members' exposure to colleagues and experts outside of the consortium and provides an opportunity for members to continue to benefit from the consortium's activities even if they leave the region. AGRODEP now has 10 affiliate members including several people who have shifted from full membership to affiliate membership.

2014 TRAINING COURSES

Five AGRODEP [training courses](#) have been delivered so far in 2014. These are: [Poverty Measurement and Analysis](#), [Crop Production Simulation Modeling](#), [Experimental Methods for Impact Assessment](#), [Impact Evaluation Part III](#), and an [Advanced CGE Modeling series](#) that was held around the GTAP Conference in June. Three [training courses](#), originally scheduled for September 2014 in Dakar which include [Applied Microeconometrics](#), [Applied Panel Data Econometrics](#), and [Productivity and Efficiency Analysis](#), have been postponed due to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. AGRODEP is working with instructors and participants to reschedule the courses, tentatively for late October in a different location outside of West Africa. In addition, a course on the Evaluation of Public Policies is still scheduled for December 2014.