



AKADEMIYA

The Expertise We Need. The Africa We Want.

AGRODEP Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Network



# AGRODEP SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) NETWORK

CONCEPT NOTE





## Background

**A**frica faces considerable challenges related to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) systems, including lack of coordination and harmonization between countries and regions, weak regulatory systems, and limited capacities to invest in SPS systems and implement actions to improve food safety and plant and animal health. These challenges impact health and wellbeing, with Africans suffering from high rates of foodborne and illnesses; limit African countries' opportunities to participate in global markets; and affect the ability of the continent to implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement and fully realize the potential benefits of greater intra-regional trade. Stronger SPS capacities and increased investments in SPS systems are essential to protect human health, increase Africa's ability to export its products to regional and global markets, and achieve the goals and commitments under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Malabo Declaration, the African Union

Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals, and the African Union (AU) SPS Policy Framework.

*Under the project on Improving Sanitary and Phytosanitary Systems (SPS) in Africa for Food Security and Trade*, AKADEMIYA2063 is supporting U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS) and the African Union Commission's Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (AUC- DARBE) to address SPS-related challenges and issues in Africa and ensure effective tracking, reporting and learning, and raise capacities for strong SPS systems across Africa. As part of strengthening SPS capacities in Africa, under the project AKADEMIYA2063 seeks to establish AGRODEP SPS Network made up of African scientists and practitioners working on SPS issues in Africa who would be equipped with data, analytical tools, and training on SPS issues in order to help advance the SPS agenda in Africa as well as promote policy and scientific exchange and collaboration on SPS issues.





# Objectives of the SPS Network

## Objectives of the AGRODEP SPS Network are to:

1. Facilitate policy and scientific exchange as well as collaboration on SPS issues in Africa and cooperation between network members and international researchers working on SPS issues;
2. Contribute to the advancement of Africa's SPS agenda through policy analysis, technical assistance, and research; and
3. Provide network members with access to cutting-edge analytical tools, data, and SPS related training to increase their capacity to conduct policy-oriented research and effectively contribute to policy debates and scientific exchange on the SPS issues in Africa.

# Network Activities

## A number of activities are planned to engage the Network's members, including:

- Participating in SPS training workshops;
- Contributing to SPS related research, policy analysis and policy dialogues;
- Collaborating with SPS experts at AKADEMIYA2063, USDA-FAS, AUC-DARBE, and other institutions; and
- Providing technical and analytical support aimed at advancing Africa's SPS agenda at the national, regional, and continental levels.



# Eligibility Criteria

To become a member of any network, any candidate must first meet the requirements to qualify as a member of AGRODEP in general. Membership is open to current **AGRODEP members** working on or interested in SPS issues and **non-members** who are SPS experts and meet the criteria to become an AGRODEP member. To become full AGRODEP members and members of the AGRODEP SPS Network, non-members will need be citizens of an African country, be based in Africa, and have received a PhD degree in the last less than 15 years before, or hold a Master's degree plus relevant work experience, and have experience working on SPS issues.

Interested current AGRODEP members and non-members (researchers, analysts, consultants, and practitioners) who meet the criteria to become a full AGRODEP member and have **expertise in SPS or and are working on SPS issues** are encouraged to apply. Women are also strongly encouraged to apply.


# Benefits of Membership

The AGRODEP SPS Network will provide numerous benefits to its members. These include opportunities to participate in SPS related training workshops and seminars, policy research, technical meetings, and outreach events to promote scientific exchange among experts and interaction with policy practitioners (in collaboration with leading organizations at the country, regional, and continental levels). In addition, members benefit from close collaboration and networking with SPS experts from AKADEMIYA2063, USDA-FAS, AUC, and other institutions.



# GET IN TOUCH

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