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## News

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### AGRODEP ISSUES ITS FIRST ANNUAL CALL FOR COMPETITIVE GRANT PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS GAPS IN RESEARCH



The GAPS IN RESEARCH grant supports research on emerging issues in Africa that have

previously received little or no attention. The selected topic for this year is "**Foreign Direct Investment in Land (FDI), Land Markets and Land Institutions, and Development of the Agricultural Sector in Africa**". Proposals can address any or all of the aspects of the main topic.

In recent years, land markets and land institutions have been characterized by new developments that have not yet received adequate attention by research. Among these, foreign direct investment in land and its potential impact on agricultural development and food security in Africa has drawn special attention. Given that data is sporadic and little research has been conducted on the topic, AGRODEP—through this grant—hopes to contribute to addressing the research gap that currently exists.

The GAPS IN RESEARCH grant will support quantitative research that addresses any or all aspects of the main topic. AGRODEP encourages researchers and research organizations worldwide to apply, especially if they have already engaged in some capacity in addressing these issues, but could use the funds to complement their efforts and produce high quality research on the topic.

Proposals must be submitted by **Monday, July 16, 2012** to the following email address: [info-agrodep@agrodep.org](mailto:info-agrodep@agrodep.org). For more details about the grant amount and other important information, [click here](#).

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## Highlights

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### NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE MODELING CONSORTIUM



AGRODEP welcomes twenty nine new members who joined the Consortium this month. The new members come from fifteen different countries in Africa. They bring diverse experiences and professional backgrounds and interests. The Consortium consists now of eighty four members. The growth will continue as AGRODEP launches new membership rounds each year. Full profiles and pictures of new AGRODEP members will become available on the [AGRODEP website](http://www.agrodep.org) soon. To see a list of the existing AGRODEP members and their profiles, visit the AGRODEP website at: [www.agrodep.org](http://www.agrodep.org)

## TRAINING COURSES FOR AGRODEP MEMBERS CONTINUE

The third AGRODEP training course offered this year is currently being held in Entebbe, Uganda, from May 14-25, 2012. This is a basic level course on [GAMS-Based Computable General Equilibrium Modeling](#) and is co-organized by the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa ([ASARECA](#)), the International Food Policy Research Institute ([IFPRI](#)), and the Partnership for Economic Policy ([PEP](#)). The course is taught by Véronique Robichaud from [Université Laval](#), Québec, Canada.

### AGRODEP members find training courses to be very useful

The first two training courses conducted in March and April of this year generated positive feedback from participants. The first course by Dr. Ismael Fofana, Post-Doctoral Fellow at IFPRI was offered in March, 2012 in Dakar, Senegal and focused on [building and updating social accounting matrices \(SAMs\)](#).

The second AGRODEP training focused on “[Poverty Measurement and Analysis](#)” and was held in April 2012, in Dakar, Senegal. Instructors of the course were Dr. Philippe van Kerm, Research Economist at [CEPS/INSTEAD](#), Luxembourg and Dr. Anne-Claire Thomas, Teaching Assistant at UCL, Belgium.

*“The SAM training was a real opportunity to strengthen my ability in economic reasoning and policy analysis. The hands-on experience allowed us to replicate the various steps involved in building and updating a SAM. Learning about the sources of data used to develop SAMs will make it easier for me to interpret CGE-based simulation results”*



**Youssef Kone**  
AGRODEP Member from Côte d'Ivoire

*“At the poverty measurement and analysis training course, I had a chance to learn essential concepts related to poverty and measurement issues. I especially appreciated the sincerity and dedicated efforts of the trainers Dr. Philippe van Kerm, and Dr. Anne-Claire Thomas as well as AGRODEP participants who made the training interactive, vibrant, and enjoyable.”*



**Ruth Chepchirchir Taruss**  
AGRODEP Member from Kenya

## EIGHT AGRODEP MEMBERS RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM WTO

Congratulations to eight AGRODEP members who recently received sponsorship from the WTO, through its Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC), to attend and present their work at the [15th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis](#) scheduled for June 27-29, 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland:

- [Mounir Balloumi](#)
- [Christian Emini](#)
- [Sadibou Fall](#)
- [Mercyline Kamande](#)
- [Olayinka Idowu Kareem](#)
- [Albert Makochekanwa](#)
- [Lulit Mitik](#)
- [Miriam Omolo](#)

The support was a result of an agreement signed between the [International Food Policy Research Institute](#) and the [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO) in an effort to increase opportunities for AGRODEP members to participate in international events.

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## FEATURED MEMBERS

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**Christian Arnault Emini** is a citizen of Cameroon. He has been an AGRODEP member since 2010. At present, Christian is a mission officer at the Prime Minister's Office in Cameroon. Previously, Christian worked for the University of Yaounde II, Cameroon as a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Economics and Management. He holds a B.A., an M.A., and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Yaounde. His research interests include tax analysis, poverty analysis, trade, infrastructure, and CGE modeling.



**Job Kibiwot Lagat** is a citizen of Kenya. He has been an AGRODEP member since 2011. Currently, J.K Lagat is a senior lecturer at the Egerton University where he teaches and supervises undergraduate and postgraduate students. He has also worked for the Ministry of Agriculture. He holds a B.S. and an M.S. degree in agricultural economics, as well as a Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics, all from Egerton University. His research interests include climate change, commercialization of smallholder agriculture, and productivity.



**Fatimata Dia Sow** is a citizen of Senegal. She has been an AGRODEP member since October 2010. At present, she is a researcher at the Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute. In this position, Fatimata conducts research on economics and gender issues. She holds a B.A. degree in veterinary sciences, an M.A. in rural economics from Leuven, Belgium, and a Ph.D. from Wageningen University, Netherlands. Her research interests are focused on gender and economics.

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