

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.

AGRODEP WEBSITE

On October 17, 2011, AGRODEP launched its new website www.agrodep.org. The website serves as a portal for the economic [MODELS](#) that are being developed for AGRODEP members, as well as for the library of [DATA](#) and related resources that AGRODEP is bringing together from various sources. The website also provides data visualization tools ([MAP](#)), a [WIKI](#) space for scientific exchange and collaborative documentation, and a [RESOURCES](#) library that provides access to AGRODEP publications, presentations, training materials, and much more. The website has a French interface and provides information on upcoming and past [EVENTS](#) and announcements, and facilitates [NETWORK](#) activities among AGRODEP members, staff, partners, and governance groups.

The private [GOVERNANCE](#) WIKI space is designed for the members of the AGRODEP [Steering Committee \(SC\)](#), [Scientific Advisory \(SAB\)](#), and [Network Advisory Committee \(NAC\)](#) to access files and information about past and present developments in AGRODEP, including meeting agendas and minutes, reports, and other materials relevant to each Committee/Board. The [GOVERNANCE](#) WIKI can be accessed by logging into the website.

GRANTS PROGRAM

Grants for innovative research are available only to AGRODEP members and are intended to encourage the development of new models and databases of scientific and policy relevance for Africa. In October 2011, at the recommendation of the AGRODEP Management Team, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) approved funding for 14 out of 28 research proposals submitted by 31 AGRODEP members. Eight proposals cover one year of research on a topic that is relevant to ongoing policy debates on growth and development in Africa. Six proposals fall under the [CAADP](#) category of AGRODEP's [Grants Program](#), which seeks to identify the existing policies proposed and implemented under the CAADP Agenda and to perform a systematic assessment that identifies the major bottlenecks affecting the efficiency of such policies. The CAADP grants cover two years of research. Additional information is available [here](#).

AGRODEP awarded the first grant for research valorization to Francis Mwaura, a research fellow at the Economic Policy Research Centre in Uganda. Mwaura presented his research on valuation of protected areas in Uganda at the 25th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) in Auckland, New Zealand in early December 2011.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLICATION

In November 2011, AGRODEP announced the Award for Excellence in Publication. The announcement drew positive response from AGRODEP members. The objective of this award is to provide incentives for, and to reward excellent publications by AGRODEP members in top ranking academic journals. AGRODEP also hopes that this initiative will increase its members' visibility both within and outside of Africa and contribute to AGRODEP's overall policy impact. Additional information is available [here](#).

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WTO SPONSORSHIP TO THE 2012 GTAP CONFERENCE

IFPRI, on behalf of AGRODEP, recently signed an agreement with the World Trade Organization (WTO) regarding financial support for the participation of up to ten 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. The conference is 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 WTO, through its Institute of Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC) 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 is available [here](#).

TRAINING PROGRAM

AGRODEP has designed a training program for members for 2012. The initiative seeks to give AGRODEP members access to a set of high quality tools that can be used to address research needs in response to demand emanating from country and regional level priorities. The Consortium's goal is to support young scientists, upgrade skills of Consortium members, and promote technical and methodological innovations to ensure that the Consortium remains a world class entity. To this end, AGRODEP conducted a survey among its members to prioritize their training needs from a list of eighteen different types of training courses.

The survey results indicate the members' strong preference for six out the 18 training courses. AGRODEP is currently working with the trainers on developing the training schedule for 2012 and studying the logistical details for these trainings.

OTHER NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- AGRODEP welcomes two new members of the Steering Committee: Mrs. Bridget Chilala is the new representative of the World Trade Organization and Dr. Chungu Mwila is the new representative of COMESA.
- Three members also recently joined the Network Advisory Committee: Prof. Muhammadou Kah of the University of the Gambia, Dr. Yamar Mbodj of Le Hub Rural, and Prof. Isaac Minde of Michigan State University.
- Dr. Fousseini Traore joined AGRODEP on October 2011 as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in IFPRI, Washington DC.
- Six (6) papers submitted by AGRODEP members are currently under review for publication as AGRODEP Discussion Papers. Further details on AGRODEP's Discussion paper series can be found [here](#).

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