



2011 AGRODEP WORKPLAN

The African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium aims to create a critical mass of leaders among African experts in the study of strategic development issues and the broader agricultural growth and policy debate in Africa. AGRODEP will promote access to state-of-the-art economic modeling tools to enable high-quality, locally-based research; facilitate access to existing datasets and improve the quality of such datasets; and support collaboration among African researchers and their peers outside Africa. By sharing core economic models; establishing a central Web-based database for statistical, economic, and geospatial data; and combining a network of experts with a community of practitioners, AGRODEP is poised to equip participating African researchers with the tools to perform science-based research and solve locally relevant agriculture-related challenges through sound policies. This quarterly workplan provides an outline of the activities for the first of the envisioned five years of the project.

OVERALL PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The management team of AGRODEP will supervise and coordinate the three main Components of the project: Data, Models, and Network. The key activities of the management team are the following:

1. *Staffing*: During Q1 and Q2, AGRODEP management will hire additional staff that will help in the delivery of the activities of all three components. Recruitment includes two post-doctoral level researchers, a web and database manager, and three research assistants. Management will allocate current and new personnel according to the staffing requirements of each Component. Management will also be responsible for hiring consultants for the project.
2. *AGRODEP Website*: AGRODEP management will oversee the development of a comprehensive website that will serve as warehouse for models and data and will facilitate network communications and events. A website development company will be hired. Construction of the website is expected to take four months, with full launch expected during Q3.

3. *Committee Guidelines*: The terms of reference for the Scientific Advisory Board, Steering Committee and Network Advisory Committee will be drafted and circulated to members of the respective committees during Q1 for review and approval at their June 2011 meetings.
4. *Cross-Component Collaboration*: AGRODEP management will coordinate the activities and ensure communications across the three Components. Coordination meetings are held bi-weekly and are attended by all AGRODEP Management team members and Component Coordinators.

ACTIVITIES UNDER THE DATA COMPONENT

The Data Component intends to bring together statistical, economic, and geospatial data in one central clearinghouse with a data portal. It will provide links to existing key data sources, complement these as necessary, and develop shared standards, formats, and exchange protocols that would facilitate access by Consortium members to high quality and consistent datasets.

The Data Component will coordinate with the Models Component in prioritizing data collection efforts to fill existing gaps and in designing projects that involve building complete datasets for certain models (see section on special data projects). The Data Component will collaborate with the Network Component in organizing training sessions related to data activities (e.g. methodologies to construct poverty indicators, construction of social accounting matrices).

I. Set-up Activities

There will be an initial push for activities related to laying the foundation for the Data Component. It is anticipated that these activities will be done intensively during the first six months of the first year. The activities included as part of setting-up the database infrastructure are:

1. Data stocktaking – build and maintain a database of potential sources and available data: (i) *online research (Q1), database construction (Q1), direct survey/communications (Q2), database maintenance (Q2-Q4)*
2. Identification of data experts and potential consultants – build and maintain a database of data experts: (i) *online research (Q1), database construction (Q1), direct survey/communications (Q2), database maintenance (Q2-Q4)*
3. Data portal development – elaboration of data warehouse within the AGRODEP website: (i) *research and consultation on best practices (Q2); data portal development (Q2-Q3); launch of data portal (Q3)*

4. Development of data standards and protocols on data acquisition, archiving, metadata, documentation, quality control, dissemination: *(i) research and consultation on best practice (Q2); (ii) testing and implementation (Q2); (iii) documentation (Q3)*
5. Data priority setting – scheduling of data categories to be focused on in each time period (Q2);
6. Posting of IFPRI and other immediately available data from partners (Q2-Q3).

II. Data Warehousing Activities

Greater focus will be given to data warehousing activities on the second half of the first year (Q3-Q4). Data acquisition efforts will focus on a selected data category in each-half year period. The broad data categories include: (a) national agricultural statistics, (b) international data sets, (c) household survey data, (d) social accounting matrices, and (e) socio-economic development indicators. The choice of data category will be based on priority setting done with the Models and Network Components. A set of procedures will be applied on the various data sets from data acquisition to data dissemination via the web data portal. The following regular data activities will be conducted for most of the data types that will be handled by the Data Component: (i) data acquisition, cataloguing, and metadata generation; (ii) data quality checking; (iii) thematic data expert consultations (applicable to certain data types); (iv) data dissemination (posting on website); and (v) data maintenance.

III. Special Data Projects

The Data Component will engage in special data projects that are designed to produce specific data output for the models in the AGRODEP library. These projects will be implemented by the AGRODEP data team in collaboration with AGRODEP partners or external consultants. Grant contracts will be designed for these activities in coordination with the Network Component. One type of special project will be conducted during the second half of the first year (Q3-Q4). Examples of types of special projects are: building complete datasets for specific models (multi-market models, regional models, gravity models, market access measurements, transportation costs); development of social accounting matrices (SAMs); conversion of SAMs into I-O tables, and building African SAMs into a new GTAP database.

ACTIVITIES UNDER THE MODELING COMPONENT

The goals for the first year of the Modeling Component are: (i) Development of the library of models with relevant documentation and illustrative datasets; (ii) Training of the Models team to support future development and capacity building activities; (iii) Opening the innovation window with a first call for proposals (see the Network Component). The Models Component will coordinate with the Data

Component to ensure compatibility of activities, including the definition of needs and formats, of quality control criteria, and data-model special projects. The Models Component will coordinate with the Network Component to ensure the diffusion of the component's outputs, including the dissemination strategy and tools for the website. The Models and Network Components will also design and implement a grant program for the model Innovation Window and develop the training strategy for the second year.

I. Development of the Library of Models

Six categories of models will be made available to the users by the end of the first year. New models will be developed specifically for AGRODEP, except in the case of more complex computable equilibrium models where existing models will be adapted for the AGRODEP network. The models and the activities involved in making them available to AGRODEP members are as follows:

1. Multi-country, multi-sector computable general equilibrium (CGE) model: *(i) model adaptation (Q2), (ii) documentation (Q2), (iii) model validation (Q3-Q4), (iv) user support (Q3-Q4)*
2. Single country CGE models, primarily the IFPRI single country model and the PEP single country model: *(i) model adaptation (Q2), (ii) documentation (Q2), (iii) model validation (Q3-Q4), (iv) user support (Q3-Q4)*
3. Multi-market partial equilibrium (PE) models, with a category focusing on spatial modeling and a second category on non-spatial partial equilibrium modeling: *(i) model development (Q2), (ii) documentation (Q2), (iii) model validation (Q3), (iv) user support (Q3-Q4)*
4. Partial equilibrium models, dedicated to the analysis of trade issues at the tariff line level and aimed at providing key tools for supporting trade negotiations: *(i) model development (Q1), (ii) documentation (Q1), (iii) model validation (Q2), (iv) user support (Q3-Q4)*
5. Econometric models, including different types of gravity models: *(i) model development (Q2), (ii) documentation (Q3), (iii) model validation (Q4), (iv) user support (Q4)*
6. Supply and Demand estimation models, in particular standard supply/demand estimation procedures and price and income elasticity estimation procedures: *(i) model development (Q2), (ii) documentation (Q3), (iii) model validation (Q4), (iv) user support (Q4)*

II. Methodology and Tools Workshop and Guide

In coordination with the Network Component, a methodology and tools workshop will be organized for AGRODEP members during the Q2. The workshop will feature the various research methodologies and tools typically used in addressing two selected research topics (the topics under consideration include:

climate change and poverty assessment). In conjunction with the workshop, a methodological guide on which model to use for selected research questions will be developed in Q2.

ACTIVITIES UNDER THE NETWORK COMPONENT

The Network Component aims to promote access to and use of state-of-the-art economic modeling tools in Africa, facilitate access to existing data sources for research and policy analysis, and support collaboration among leading African scientists and their peers outside Africa to build a dynamic research community. The Network Component will engage in activities related to membership, grants and training, publications, and outreach activities. Set-up activities in the first year include the formation of a network advisory committee and design and establishment of procedures for various network activities (membership, grants, training sessions, discussion papers).

1. Formation of the Network Advisory Committee (Q1);
2. Establishment of final membership selection procedures (Q1);
3. Extension of the membership to fifty (50) individuals, with specific attention to non-CGE modelers (Q1);
4. Adoption of the AGRODEP Membership Agreement which includes the rights and duties of members (Q1);
5. Preparation of guidelines regarding the role of the Scientific Advisory Board and the Steering Committee in Network operations and decision processes (Q1);
6. Elaboration of a detailed agenda of training, using information from the member questionnaires (Q1);
7. Stocktaking of partners' strengths in modeling and data work to guide future implementation of the broader workplan (Q1);
8. Design the contracts and rules for the grant mechanisms during Q1, for launch of the two grant windows in Q2:
 - a. *The window for small/medium size (average 10,000US\$) grants for AGRODEP members – These grants are suitable for small scale models, small databases, social accounting matrices; conversion of SAMs into I-O tables for GTAP; compilation of complete datasets for specific models (e.g. multi-market models, regional models, gravity models);*
 - b. *The window for medium/large size (maximum 30,000US\$) grants for research centers working in collaboration with AGRODEP members – These grants are designed for large scale models; large scale databases; processing household survey data; adaptation of innovative models*

9. Design the guidelines for the AGRODEP Discussion Papers series and launch series of peer-reviewed papers on research applications and documentation of models or data (Q2-Q3);
10. Design and launch the AGRODEP Quarterly Bulletin, a 4-page bulletin consisting of 1.5-2 pages of an editorial on Africa, 1 page of recent economic data/statistics published on Africa, 1 page of information/ events in Africa and AGRODEP, 0.5 page on contact information on AGRODEP (Q1-Q2).
11. Start resource sharing among Network members by posting available published materials of interest to AGRODEP (separate from refereed AGRODEP discussion paper series) on the AGRODEP website (Q2)
12. Design a program of incentives for AGRODEP members for publications generated from AGRODEP activities, participation in international conferences, and other scientific fora (Q2);
13. Conduct members meeting and methodology and tools workshop (Q2) based on the needs assessment questionnaire (Q1);
14. Design and launch of outreach activities, including providing information about and promoting AGRODEP in Africa by giving seminars in African universities and research institutions, and visiting African partners for the organization of the biannual conference (Q2-Q3);
15. Conduct in-depth training workshops on methodology and tools (Q3-Q4);

Table: 2011 AGRODEP Quarterly Chronogram

| Activity\Period | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|---|--|----|----|----|----|
| Management | | | | | |
| I. Staffing | | | | | |
| II. Construction of AGRODEP website | | | | | |
| III. Committee Guidelines | | | | | |
| IV. Cross-Component collaboration | | | | | |
| Data Component | | | | | |
| I. Set-up Activities | | | | | |
| a) Data stocktaking | | | | | |
| i) online research | | | | | |
| ii) database construction | | | | | |
| iii) direct survey/communications | | | | | |
| iv) database maintenance | | | | | |
| b) Identification of data experts | | | | | |
| i) online research | | | | | |
| ii) database construction | | | | | |
| iii) direct survey/communications | | | | | |
| iv) database maintenance | | | | | |
| c) Data portal development | | | | | |
| i) research and consultation | | | | | |
| ii) data portal development | | | | | |
| iii) testing and launch | | | | | |
| d) Development of standards and protocols | | | | | |
| i) research and consultation | | | | | |
| ii) testing and implementation | | | | | |
| iii) documentation | | | | | |
| e) Priority setting | | | | | |
| f) Posting of available data | | | | | |
| II. Data Warehousing | | | | | |
| III. Special Data Project | | | | | |
| Models Component | | | | | |
| I. Development of the library of models | | | | | |
| a) Multi-country CGE model | | | | | |
| i) model adaptation | | | | | |
| ii) documentation | | | | | |
| iii) model validation | | | | | |
| iv) user support | | | | | |
| b) Single-country CGE models | | | | | |
| i) model adaptation | | | | | |
| ii) documentation | | | | | |
| iii) model validation | | | | | |
| iv) user support | | | | | |
| c) Multi-market PE models | | | | | |
| i) model development | | | | | |

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|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | ii) documentation | | | | |
| | iii) model validation | | | | |
| | iv) user support | | | | |
| | d) Partial equilibrium models | | | | |
| | i) model development | | | | |
| | ii) documentation | | | | |
| | iii) model validation | | | | |
| | iv) user support | | | | |
| | e) Econometric models | | | | |
| | i) model development | | | | |
| | ii) documentation | | | | |
| | iii) model validation | | | | |
| | iv) user support | | | | |
| | f) Supply\Demand models | | | | |
| | i) model development | | | | |
| | ii) documentation | | | | |
| | iii) model validation | | | | |
| | iv) user support | | | | |
| | II. Methodology/Tools Workshop & Guide | | | | |
| Network Component | | | | | |
| | a) Form the Network Advisory Committee | | | | |
| | b) Membership selection procedure | | | | |
| | c) Extension of members to 50 | | | | |
| | d) Membership Agreement letter (rights and duties of members) | | | | |
| | e) Guidelines for SAB and SC contribution | | | | |
| | f) Detailed workplan for 2011 | | | | |
| | g) Stocktaking of partners' strengths in models/data/training | | | | |
| | h) Design (Q1) and launch (Q2) of the grants program | | | | |
| | i) Design (Q2) and launch (Q3) of the discussion papers series | | | | |
| | j) Design (Q1) and launch (Q2) of the quarterly bulletin | | | | |
| | k) Start resource sharing (available published materials) | | | | |
| | l) Design and launch member incentives program (publications, conferences) | | | | |
| | m) Members' first meeting and workshop | | | | |
| | n) Design\launch outreach activities | | | | |
| | o) In-depth training workshops | | | | |