



STEERING COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The goal of the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium is to position African experts to take a leading role in both (1) the study of strategic development questions facing African countries as a group and (2) the broader agricultural growth and policy debate, which traditionally has been dominated by external actors and concerns. AGRODEP will facilitate the use of economic modeling tools, promote access to existing data sources, develop methodologies and standards to improve data quality, and support collaboration among African researchers and their peers outside Africa. By sharing core economic models, establishing a central Web-based database, and combining a network of experts with a community of practitioners, AGRODEP is poised to equip African countries with the tools to perform science-based research and solve locally relevant agriculture-related challenges through sound policies.

Roles and Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of the Steering Committee is to provide advice to the AGRODEP Project Management Team on the general operations and strategic directions of the Consortium and to review and approve the key program documents drafted by the management team. More specifically, the members of the Committee will:

- Guide AGRODEP on key matters of policy, operational issues, and resource mobilization;
- Ensure that the initiative remains focused on its objectives and mission and is run effectively;
- Recommend strategies and actions to increase the effectiveness and impact of AGRODEP;
- Review and approve key program documents, in addition to the annual work plan.

Composition

The Steering Committee brings together representatives from regional and international organizations, academic institutions and universities, international aid agencies, and other leading policy and development organizations. More precisely, the Steering Committee brings together representatives from the following six (6) categories of institutions:

- The International Research Community, or G1 category, with institutions like Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) and the Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales (CEPII);
- Sub-Regional Organizations (SROs), or G2 category, with institutions like the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), the Economic Policy Research Centre, and the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD);
- Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs), or G3 category, with institutions like the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United States International Trade Commission (USTC), the World Bank Institute (WBI), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);
- Development Partners (DP), or G4 category, with institutions like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID);
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs), or G5 category with institutions like the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the African Union/NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency;
- Moreover two AGRODEP Members are elected to be members of the Steering Committee (G6 category);
- The Committee consists of a maximum of twenty (20) institutions represented by individuals appointed by such institutions.

The Committee is co-chaired by two individuals, one of whom is a representative from IFPRI. In case that an individual representing an institution is no longer part of that institution, a new representative is appointed by the institution in question.

Nomination of new member institutions is done by the Steering Committee. More precisely, after a proposal by the co-Chairs of the SC, this nomination is approved by a vote in the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee membership is rotating, starting in year four. The number of rotating seats and new representatives are approved by the whole Steering Committee upon recommendation by the co-Chairs.

Meetings and Activities

The Steering Committee meets once a year. Additional meetings, as deemed necessary by the Committee Co-Chairs, are conducted through video conference or teleconference. Meetings of the Committee are convened by the Committee co-Chairs. Minutes of the meetings are communicated to all Committee members, to the Scientific Advisory Board, and to AGRODEP Management. Aside from the meetings, at most two representatives of the Steering Committee are invited to attend the annual workshops and/or conferences organized for AGRODEP members.

In 2012, the Steering Committee will meet twice a year: once in the first quarter in January/February and once in June/July.

Expenses

The cost of travel, accommodation, and daily subsistence of Committee members is covered by the Consortium, with the exception of members working for donor organizations, international governmental organizations (IGOs) such as the United Nations and its affiliated agencies, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization, whose agencies are expected to cover expenses related to their travel, accommodation, and subsistence.