

## **Guidelines for Affiliate Membership**

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### **1. Background**

AGRODEP aims to create a critical mass of economic experts within Africa's policy research and analysis community and to equip this community with cutting-edge modeling tools to enable high-quality and locally-based studies. Over the last three years, AGRODEP has successfully promoted increased access to state-of-the-art economic tools, facilitated increased access to datasets, and supported and encouraged collaboration among African researchers and their peers outside of Africa. Significant progress has been made in the establishment of the Consortium; membership has consistently increased and reached one hundred and fifty (150) Africa-based researchers during the fifth round of selection in April 2013. The Consortium's gaining popularity has also attracted wider interest from experts who wish to join the network but who do not meet all of the membership criteria (such as residence within Africa). Additionally, as the network progresses, it is faced with the question of how to accommodate AGRODEP members who relocate out of Africa for professional opportunities abroad. At this stage, it is important for the Consortium to allow for further collaboration opportunities between AGRODEP members and their non-AGRODEP peers both inside and outside of Africa. The Affiliate Membership Plan aims to increase the exposure of AGRODEP members to their colleagues outside of AGRODEP. By sharing data, economic models, and experiences with non-AGRODEP members, and by engaging with peers, AGRODEP members will be better positioned to perform science-based research and to help address strategic development issues and relevant agricultural-related challenges through the formation of sound policies.

### **2. Who May Become an Affiliate Member?**

- AGRODEP member who moves out of Africa
- Qualified African researcher who lives and works outside of Africa
- Qualified African and non-African researchers working in international and CG centers in Africa

### **3. Affiliate Member Rights**

*Participation:* AGRODEP affiliate members have the right provide input and feedback on future AGRODEP activities to the network and project coordinators.

*Access to Models and Data:* AGRODEP affiliate members have the right to use models and data through the online portal for purposes of learning, teaching, and academic and scientific research.

*Capacity Enhancing Activities:* AGRODEP affiliate members can attend AGRODEP workshops, training courses, and conferences at their own expense.

*Grant Program:* AGRODEP affiliate members are eligible to apply for non-restrictive AGRODEP grants for their research projects (e.g. AGRODEP Grants to Address Gaps in Research).

*Moving to and living in AFRICA:* Being based outside of Africa is one of the key eligibility criteria for AGRODEP affiliate membership. If living and working in Africa, affiliate members have the right to apply for regular AGRODEP membership.

### **4. Affiliate Member Responsibilities**

*Access to AGRODEP Resources:* Only members and affiliate members have access to AGRODEP resources. Access rights to data and models cannot be transferred to non-members of the Consortium.

In addition, affiliate member IDs and passwords are non-transferable, and affiliate members are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of their log-in information to AGRODEP's online data and modeling portal.

*Contributions to AGRODEP Activities:* AGRODEP affiliate members commit themselves to active participation in the Consortium activities. Affiliate members' contributions can take several forms including, but not limited to: publication of AGRODEP peer-reviewed discussion papers, publications that acknowledge the help and support of AGRODEP, provision of documented databases or models to the network, instruction of AGRODEP training courses, mentoring of AGRODEP members, and review of AGRODEP members' proposals, reports, and publications. In addition, affiliate members must ensure that their contributions to AGRODEP do not violate the rights of any third party.

*Participating in Networking Activities:* AGRODEP affiliate members commit themselves to regular interaction with their fellow members and affiliate members through various mechanisms designed to stimulate exchange among members of the Consortium.

*Code of Conduct:* AGRODEP affiliate members are expected to act in a professional and ethical manner at all times. They are responsible for communicating with fellow members and affiliate members with integrity and respect in a timely and accurate manner.

*Intellectual Property Rights:* AGRODEP affiliate members are responsible for ensuring the proper use and attribution of others' work in order to avoid plagiarism and intellectual property rights violations. For example, when using a model that is available on AGRODEP's website, it is an affiliate member's responsibility to appropriately attribute its source.

## **5. Application Procedure**

AGRODEP will accept applications for affiliate membership at any time. Interested candidates are invited to fill out an online application form. In addition, AGRODEP will extend an invitation to become an affiliate member to every AGRODEP member who leaves Africa. The AGRODEP Letter of Agreement will be sent to selected affiliate members, along with a response letter. The former must be signed and returned to AGRODEP.

## **6. Selection Criteria**

- *Education and Professional Experience Criteria:* An AGRODEP affiliate member can be a Ph.D. in economics or agricultural economics who defended less than 10 years prior to application, a Ph.D. student in economics or agricultural economics who has been in their doctoral program for at least 3 years, or a Masters degree holder in economics or agricultural economics with 3 to 15 years of professional experience.
- *Research Experience Criteria:* An AGRODEP affiliate member should have an adequate number of good quality publications and acceptable modeling technical skills.

## **7. Selection Committee**

A committee will be created to carry out the selection of affiliate members. The selection committee, primarily composed by the AGRODEP Management Team, will be extended to integrate representatives from the Consortium governance bodies. A five-member (minimum) evaluation committee is required to approve affiliate membership applications based on the applicant's qualifications. A minimum of three positive votes is enough to approve an individual for affiliate membership. An evaluation committee member who has had close working or personal relationships with the applicant should abstain from voting.

## **8. Review of Affiliate Membership**

Under certain conditions, AGRODEP affiliate membership can be withdrawn. Every two years, the AGRODEP Management Team will undertake a review process of affiliate members' activities and adherence to AGRODEP's goals and submit this report to the Steering Committee (SC). This report will include recommendations for membership withdrawal, accompanied by detailed justification of such withdrawal recommendations. The final decision will rest with the SC.