



February 15, 2012

Dear Madam/Sir:

We are pleased to extend you an invitation to apply for membership in the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium.

AGRODEP is an initiative led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in cooperation with the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA), the West African Council on Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), and the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Policy Network (FANRPAN). Its goal is to position African experts to take a leading role in the study of strategic questions facing African countries as a group, and in the broader agricultural growth and policy debate which has been traditionally dominated by external actors and concerns.

AGRODEP seeks to achieve this through the following:

- Promoting access to state of the art economic modeling tools and improving quality, relevance, and timeliness of data to meet significant demand for high quality, locally-based research that contributes to evidence-based policy and strategy planning and implementation;
- Facilitating better access to existing data sources for research and policy analysis, developing methodologies and standards to improve the quality of available datasets and complementing them to raise the local content and relevance;
- Supporting collaboration among leading African scientists and their peers outside Africa, building a dynamic research community that can respond to the emerging and long-term needs of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme's (CAADP) growth and poverty reduction agenda.

As an AGRODEP member, you will enjoy free access to cutting-edge economic research tools and resources that may otherwise be unavailable to you. In addition, you may benefit from training on how to use such tools and methodologies when conducting your own research. AGRODEP enables you to become part of a large network of researchers and experts from Africa and beyond. It will provide opportunities for you to engage in ongoing debates on policy issues facing African countries through various research projects and events promoted by AGRODEP. Finally, as a member, you may also become eligible to apply for research grants that will be available for qualifying members of AGRODEP.

You can apply online by visiting www.agrodep.org or link directly to the application form by clicking [here for the English version](#) and [here for the French version](#). If you prefer, a version of the Microsoft Word application form can be emailed to you upon request at info-agrodep@agrodep.org.

Please complete and return the application form by **2012, March 15** AGRODEP will review your application and notify you about the decision by 2012, April 1st.

For more information about AGRODEP, please see the AGRODEP brochure at the following link: www.agrodep.org.

Thank you,

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