

AGRODEP SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) NETWORK

Training Workshop

📅 May 16–17, 2024

📍 Hilton Garden Inn, Gaborone – Botswana



Background

Africa faces considerable challenges related to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) systems, including lack of coordination and harmonization between countries and regions, weak regulatory systems, and limited capacities to invest in SPS systems and implement actions to improve food safety and plant and animal health. These challenges impact health and well-being, with Africans suffering from high rates of foodborne illnesses, also limiting African countries' opportunities to participate in global markets and affecting the ability of the continent to implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement and fully realize the potential benefits of greater intra-regional trade.

Stronger SPS capacities for SPS oversight, governance and management are essential to protect human health, increase Africa's ability to export its products to regional and global markets, and achieve the goals and commitments under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Malabo Declaration, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, strong capacity building for an effective SPS system aligns with AU's SPS Policy Framework, particularly objective three, which aims at building technical capacities of regional economic communities (RECs) and AU Member States.

AKADEMIYA2063 is supporting the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS) and the African Union Commission's Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (AUC-DARBE) with data and analytics, technical support, and capacity strengthening to guide the implementation of the AU SPS Policy Framework. As part of strengthening SPS capacities in Africa, AKADEMIYA2063 has established a network of Africa-based scientists working on SPS issues—the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) SPS Network. The goal is to equip members of the Network with access to data, analytical tools, and training on SPS issues in order to help advance the SPS agenda and promote scientific exchange and collaboration on SPS issues in Africa.

AKADEMIYA2063, in partnership with AUC-DARBE, USDA-FAS, and Mississippi State University, is organizing a workshop to train and build the capacity of AGRODEP SPS Network members as well as SPS competent authorities and practitioners working on SPS issues in Africa. The goal is to help advance Africa's SPS policy agenda, promote policy and scientific exchange and collaboration on SPS matters on the continent, and support the greater use of Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures. The training workshop will be held in support of the AU 2024 Year of Education. It will take place on May 16-17 in Gaborone, Botswana, following the AU SPS Coordination Forum (May 13-14) to allow Forum SPS competent authorities to join the training.

Objectives of the Training

- 1** Raise awareness on the AU SPS policy agenda and SPS concepts, challenges, opportunities, and knowledge gaps in Africa.
- 2** Build the capacity of participants on data and methods that can be applied in studying SPS issues and conducting policy-oriented research to inform SPS policy debates and fill knowledge and evidence gaps.
- 3** Inform the design of new tools and activities to implement GRPs more effectively for SPS measures in countries.
- 4** Facilitate networking and scientific exchange on SPS issues among SPS experts, researchers, and practitioners.



Scope



The training program will take place over two days. The first day will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about continental SPS policy frameworks, concepts, SPS issues, and the AU SPS Index. The second day will focus on data and methods that can be applied to studying SPS policy issues and will cover GRPs for improved SPS regulation and food safety.

Target Audience



This workshop is targeted at members of the AGRODEP SPS Network, SPS competent authorities from RECs and AU Member States, and other interested stakeholders.

About AGRODEP

Established in 2010, the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium is an initiative led by AKADEMIYA2063. Its goal is to create and enable a critical mass of world-class modelers across Africa to take a leading role in addressing strategic development issues across the continent, including helping meet the analytical needs of Africa's development agenda.

AGRODEP promotes the use of advanced economic modeling tools, facilitates access to data, provides training and research grants, and supports collaboration between African and international researchers. Since its establishment, AGRODEP has gained recognition as a leading network of African experts, and AGRODEP members have been asked to join efforts to assess progress under the African Continental Free Trade Area, support the design of evidence-based National Agriculture Investment Plans, and assess the impact of initiatives such as the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, among others.

Since its creation, the membership of AGRODEP has grown to reach about 300 experts from 36 African countries, 28 percent of whom are women. To date, AGRODEP has delivered more than 30 training courses on data analysis and economic models and tools to 348 participants.

AGRODEP also convenes its members through thematically or technically focused networks to serve as fora for scientific exchange, training, and capacity building. Currently, AGRODEP has six thematic networks that cover Climate Change, Impact Evaluation, Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, Value Chain Analysis, and Regional Trade and Integration.

The AGRODEP SPS Network is a network of African scientists and practitioners working on SPS issues in Africa. An integral part of the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium, it equips member scientists with data, analytical tools, training on SPS issues and economic modeling capacity to promote scientific exchange and collaboration to advance Africa's SPS agenda. The AGRODEP SPS Network was established in December 2023 and currently has 10 members, including researchers working on economic issues related to SPS and trade in Africa.




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