



AKADEMIYA

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KIT Royal Tropical Institute

# Reactivating the AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network

CONCEPT NOTE



# Introduction

**O**n October 20, 2022, AKADEMIYA2063 and KIT Royal Tropical Institute signed an MoU that comprises the specific objective to reactivate and institutionalize the Impact Evaluation Network of the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium.

AGRODEP is a 12-year-old program offering training curricula and work opportunities to multiple networks of African researchers, analysts, and consultants, including members of the AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network. Overall, AGRODEP facilitates the use of statistical, econometric, economic modeling tools, promotes access to data sources, provides training, research grants, and networking opportunities to a group of Africa-based experts, and supports collaboration between the Africa-based experts and international researchers. The overarching goal of AGRODEP is to enable and support African experts to study strategic development questions facing African countries as a group, as well as, to engage them in the broader agri-food system transformation and policy debate.

In July 2020, the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium migrated to AKADEMIYA2063 from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), which had facilitated and hosted the Consortium since its inception in 2010. The migration of AGRODEP, along with two other programs, to an African host institution had been in the works for many years and had been a long-term goal of IFPRI, the African Union Commission, and development partners.

As the COVID-19 crisis inevitably disrupted some of AGRODEP's networking and training activities over the past two years, starting in 2022, AKADEMIYA2063 has been working to re-activate these activities including those of the AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network. As part of its partnership with AKADEMIYA2063, KIT has agreed to support AKADEMIYA2063 with re-activating AGRODEP activities, focusing on the re-activation and institutionalization of the AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network.





## Background

The use of impact evaluation, as a methodology to promote both project-based accountability and learning has rapidly increased across sub-Saharan Africa over the past two decades. Nowadays, impact evaluation is systematically embedded into most Africa-based development projects, providing a unique point of contact between research and action. However, African professionals remain marginally involved in impact evaluation studies and too often relegated to the role of data collectors or research assistants.

The goal of the AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network is to disseminate knowledge about state-of-the-art impact evaluation tools and methods, actively engage African professionals in impact evaluation studies, and to facilitate discussion and resource-sharing among local, regional, and international researchers.

Greater African participation has the potential to improve the contextualization and relevance of impact evaluation studies. Even if most agree on the need to Africanize the impact evaluation industry, donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), policymakers, and international researchers often fail to identify reliable and capable African impact evaluators. In turn, the latter often lack information regarding completed, on-going or forthcoming studies, training opportunities, call for proposals, etc.

Therefore, the goal of the AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network is to gather and disseminate the information and knowledge to match local supply and international demand. This effort relies on contributions by all parties willing to promote greater African involvement in impact evaluation studies across Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Benefits to Members

The AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network includes a dynamic list of well-qualified local researchers, analysts and consultants who are deemed capable of being Principal Investigators for impact evaluation studies. The impact evaluation capacity of the members of this network will be further strengthened through state of the art and free of charge training provided by the staff of AKADEMIYA2063 in collaboration with international experts. AKADEMIYA2063 and its partners are responsible for leveraging the necessary resources to provide network members with full scholarships to receive training courses, as well as follow up work opportunities to engage in impact evaluation studies.

Over the past 12 years, the AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network has enlisted and trained almost a hundred members, who have also become more actively involved in a growing number of impact evaluation studies.



## Eligibility Criteria


To become a member of any network, any candidate must first meet the requirements to qualify as a member of AGRODEP in general. New members to the AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network will need to be citizens of an African country, be based in Africa, and have received a PhD degree in the last 15 years, or hold a MSc degree with relevant work experience, and have extensive experience leading or conducting impact evaluation studies. Such a network is updated on an ongoing basis by drawing on recommendations from relevant and reputable experts and institutions worldwide.

## Short-term Plan

A short-term objective is to reactivate the AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network and engage pre-existing as well as new members in a 6-day course on impact evaluation and management, to be held during Q2-2023. This course will target a total of 30 African researchers, analysts, and consultants, who are going to be mobilized by both AKADEMIYA2063 and KIT to join or re-join the AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network. Simultaneously taught in English and French, the course will involve the four main modules: (i) AGRODEP Impact Evaluation Network Members' Workshop; (ii) Data Module; (iii) Impact Evaluation Module; and (iv) Impact Management Module.

# GET IN TOUCH

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