

STOCKTAKING SEMINAR

**Revitalizing the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium
to Better Align and Support the Implementation
of Agenda 2063**

 Thursday, February 26, 2026

 12:00 – 15:10 GMT  Online



CONCEPT NOTE

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1. Background

Launched in 2010, the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium, a flagship program of AKADEMIYA2063, continues to play a pivotal role in enabling Africa-based economists and policy researchers to respond to emerging development priorities. AGRODEP serves as a platform for evidence-based policy formulation, capacity development, and cutting-edge research that informs continental priorities. Since its inception, AGRODEP has held annual conferences that provide a forum for AGRODEP members to present and discuss their latest research findings, including illustrative practices, innovative research, and new developments relevant to economic development in Africa.

After resuming this series of annual conferences by successfully holding another edition in Kigali, Rwanda, in March 2023, following the COVID-19 pandemic, it was agreed that, going forward, the series will transition to a biennial format, starting in 2025.

Two major developments have occurred that warrant tactical and strategic adjustments to allow the consortium to continue delivering its value to the cause of food systems transformation across Africa. The first development is the adoption of the Kampala CAADP Declaration (2026-2035) in January 2025 on “Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa.” This Declaration embraces the food system approach as a replacement for the 2014 Malabo Declaration, which placed greater focus on agricultural transformation. The other major development is an abrupt turn in the global financial landscape that is impacting traditional development support, marked by a large-scale repurposing of resources by major development partners, including a key AGRODEP sponsor.

At the same time, AKADEMIYA2063 has embarked on a major strategic evolution. While historically established to provide, through its flagship programs, analytical leadership in support of CAADP design and implementation, the institution has now resolved to progressively expand and align its mission’s scope, programs, and analytical platforms with the full scope of the African Union Agenda 2063. This shift reflects a recognition that agrifood systems transformation is not an isolated sectoral objective, but a foundational pillar for delivering multiple Agenda 2063 aspirations (African Union 2015)¹, including:

- Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development;
- Aspiration 2: An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa’s Renaissance;
- Aspiration 3: An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law;
- Aspiration 4: A peaceful and secure Africa;

¹ African Union. 2013. Agenda 2063 Framework Document. The Africa We Want. Addis Ababa. https://archive.uneca.org/sites/default/files/images/final_draft_agenda_2063_framework.pdf



- Aspiration 5: An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics;
- Aspiration 6: An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children; and
- Aspiration 7: Africa as a strong, united, resilient, and influential global player and partner.

Within this expanded mandate, AGRODEP, as a flagship modeling and analytical consortium of AKADEMIYA2063, must itself evolve — from a CAADP-focused modeling network into a multi-purpose continental analytical asset capable of supporting evidence-based decision-making across interconnected Agenda 2063 priority areas, while maintaining its strong anchoring in agrifood systems.

The combination of the above-mentioned factors has triggered an urgent and deep rethinking of the entire institutional arrangements and delivery mechanisms currently in place, with the aim to arrive at the most optimal model that could be adopted by the Modeling Consortium to continue to effectively deliver the services that will benefit its network members as they continue to shape data-driven and future-proof policies under the broader African Union Agenda 2063.

2. Rationale

AKADEMIYA2063 is convening a Seminar to share key updates with AGRODEP members, review emerging issues and opportunities, and discuss early ideas for its plan to revitalize the consortium and its networks in 2026, in full alignment with the AU Agenda 2063.

3. Objectives

The Seminar aims to bring together AGRODEP members to engage with AKADEMIYA2063 senior management and receive updates on ongoing efforts and emerging thinking around key thematic areas of modeling, and adjustments needed in the current institutional arrangements, as well as on the future directions being envisaged for a new-look AGRODEP Consortium and its strategic positioning as a key player in the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063.

More specifically, the webinar will provide a unique platform to:

- Share key updates on AGRODEP Modeling Consortium operations and present AGRODEP’s vision and priorities for the short to medium term;
- Present early ideas on innovative features to embrace by the consortium that are currently under development, and receive feedback from members, and invite feedback and technical insights from AGRODEP members in line with the revitalization efforts; and
- Introduce members to the set of thematic tracks intended to help solidify alignment between the delivery and the requirements of Agenda 2063.

4. Expected Outcomes

The following four core outcomes are expected from this seminar:

- Update on the current status of affairs
- Harmonized understanding of AGRODEP’s future strategic direction, with member-driven inputs in shaping the revitalization process embedded.
- Technical alignment around emerging thematic priorities



5. Provisional Agenda

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Speakers
I. SETTING THE SCENE			Moderator: Dr. Layih Butake , Director, Communication and Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063
12:00 – 12:05	Opening and Housekeeping	5 min	
12:05 – 12:10	Welcome and Opening Remarks	5 min	
12:10 – 12:20	Framing Remarks: <i>Deploying Economic Modeling in Support of the CAADP Kampala Declaration</i>	10 min	
12:20 – 12:30	Overview of AGRODEP Activities and Current Status	10 min	
12:30 – 12:40	Q&A	10 min	
The Journey Toward Creating a Critical Mass of African Modelers			
12:40 – 12:45	Introduction	5 min	Dr. Debisi Araba , Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063
12:45 – 13:00	Reflections on 15 Years of AGRODEP – Looking Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where did we start? ▪ What have we achieved? ▪ What lessons have we learned? ▪ What must we do now? ▪ How should we do that? ▪ What will be the result/impact? 	15 min	Prof. Christian Henning , Chief Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063
13:00 – 13:10	Q&A	10 min	
II. A GLANCE AT THE EMERGING KEY THEMATIC CLUSTERS			Moderator: Dr. Katrin Glatzel , Director for Global Strategy and Programs, AKADEMIYA2063
13:10 – 13:20	Artificial Intelligence and Geospatial Technology in African Agrifood Systems	10 min	
13:20 - 13:30	Artificial Intelligence as a practical business tool in African Agrifood Systems	10 min	
13:30-13:40	M&E and Impact support —increasing demand for M&E and impact support to help develop theory of change, result frameworks, performance tracking systems, and conduct rigorous impact evaluations.	10 min	
13:40 – 13:50	Computational modeling frameworks for Kampala (CAADP) diagnostics.	10 min	
13:50 – 14:00	BREAK	10 min	



Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Speakers
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Moderated Brainstorming</p> <p>Question 1: Strategic Value Proposition Looking back over the last 15 years, what has been AGRODEP’s unique added value to African policy and modeling ecosystems? Where has that value clearly fallen short of emerging demands?</p> <p>Question 2: Lessons for the Next Phase What are the two or three most critical lessons from AGRODEP’s experience that should explicitly shape how the consortium repositions itself under Kampala and the broader Agenda 2063?</p> <p>Question 3: Future Scope and Architecture Given the shift from agriculture to food systems and now toward Agenda 2063-wide delivery, what should AGRODEP do differently in terms of its technical scope, membership structure, and modes of engagement with countries?</p> <p>Question 4: Impact and Readiness If we reconvene in five years, what tangible changes should demonstrate that AGRODEP has successfully repositioned itself? What must we start doing immediately to get there?</p>	60 min	<p>All AGRODEP Members</p> <p>Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga, Head of AGRODEP Unit and Country Coordinator, Rwanda</p>
15:00– 15:10	SUMMARY & CLOSING REMARKS	10 min	Dr. Debisi Araba , Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063

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