

NEWSLETTER

AGRODEP NETWORK | October 2026 Newsletter

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1. Hiring: Consultancy Opportunities with AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is recruiting consultants to support efforts to strengthen agriculture Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs) and national CAADP mutual accountability processes. The Kampala CAADP Declaration calls on AU Member States to integrate its commitments into their National Agrifood Systems Investment Plans (NASIPs) and to integrate the CAADP Biennial Review (BR) process into national agriculture JSRs. Stronger JSRs can provide an evidence-based platform for stakeholders to assess sector performance, strengthen mutual accountability, and identify priority actions for implementation.

Two consultancy opportunities are available:

- **Agriculture JSR Assessments**

Consultants will assess existing agriculture JSR or JSR-like processes, including their institutionalization, effectiveness, and contribution to sector performance and mutual accountability, and identify opportunities for strengthening them.

Countries: South Sudan | Burundi | Guinea Conakry | Cameroon | Gabon | Gambia

- **Integrating the CAADP Biennial Review (BR) and JSR**

Consultants will support selected countries to assess their existing JSR processes and develop approaches for integrating the CAADP BR process into national agriculture JSRs.

Countries: Kenya | Benin | Senegal | Togo | Uganda | Ghana

- AGRODEP members with relevant expertise in agriculture policy, sector coordination, monitoring and evaluation, mutual accountability, and CAADP processes should submit a short expression of interest indicating which part of the consultancy they are interested in, the country, their relevant experience, and their CVs.
- Applications should be submitted to **Dr. Paul Guthiga** (pguthiga@akademiy2063.org), copying **Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga** (sniyonsenga@akademiy2063.org).
- Deadline: **Tuesday, October 27, 2026.**
- Applicants should be residents of the selected countries of assignment.

👉 See the relevant Terms of Reference for details and application requirements:

1. [Consultancy to Evaluate the Agriculture Joint Sector Review Process and Enhance its Integration with the CAADP Biennial Review Process in Selected Countries](#)
2. [Consultancy to Undertake an Assessment of the Agriculture Joint Sector Review Process in Selected Countries](#)

2. AGRODEP Network Revitalization: Membership Survey Findings and Update

As part of efforts to revitalize the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium, AKADEMIYA2063 organized a stocktaking webinar with AGRODEP members in February 2026.

The webinar provided an opportunity to update members on the Consortium's ongoing revitalization efforts, emerging priorities in economic modeling, proposed adjustments to its institutional arrangements, and the vision for AGRODEP's future role in supporting the implementation of Agenda 2063.

The webinar provided a platform to: a. **Share updates** on AGRODEP operations and its short- to medium-term vision and priorities; b. **Present emerging ideas** for innovative features and approaches under development and to gather members' technical perspectives and feedback; and c. **Introduce emerging thematic tracks** to strengthen the alignment of AGRODEP's work with the priorities and implementation needs of Agenda 2063.

Learn more: | [\[Concept Note\]](#) | [\[Watch the webinar recording\]](#)

Help Us Keep the AGRODEP Network Up to Date

Following the stocktaking webinar, AKADEMIYA2063 is conducting a short AGRODEP Member Profile and Contact Information Survey to update members' profiles, keep the network directory current, and strengthen communication across the Consortium. To date, 128 AGRODEP members have responded.

If you have not yet completed the survey, [click here to access the survey](#). Your updated information and insights will help inform the next phase of AGRODEP's revitalization and strengthen engagement across the network.

We encourage all AGRODEP members who have not yet responded to take a few minutes to complete the survey. We look forward to your continued engagement in shaping the future of the Consortium.

3. AGRODEP Members in Action: Engagements from Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Tanzania, and Zambia

Following the adoption of the Kampala Declaration under the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)** in 2025, demand for high-quality data, evidence, and analytics to support CAADP implementation has continued to grow. In response, **AKADEMIYA2063 is leveraging the expertise of the AGRODEP Network** to support analytical and capacity-strengthening initiatives at the country and regional levels.

In recent months, AGRODEP members have contributed as **national and regional consultants** to several AKADEMIYA2063 initiatives in **Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Tanzania, and Zambia**, applying their local expertise and technical knowledge to support evidence-based agrifood systems transformation.

Innovation and Scaling Diagnostics in Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, and Tanzania

AKADEMIYA2063, in collaboration with the **World Bank Group**, is conducting a diagnostic study on **innovation management and scaling ecosystems** within agrifood systems in Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, and Tanzania. The study examines the institutional and systems-level factors that enable or constrain the development, adoption, and scaling of agricultural innovations.

The diagnostics focus on:

- **Mapping agricultural innovations**, including technological, institutional, and digital innovations.
- **Assessing the policy, institutional, and regulatory frameworks** supporting innovation.
- **Evaluating the capacity of public institutions** to package, promote, and scale innovations.
- **Identifying institutional and systemic bottlenecks** to inform investments and targeted technical assistance for scaling innovations.

Three AGRODEP members supported the country-level work:

- **Mr. Prudence Lugendo** – Tanzania
- **Dr. Souleymane Diallo** – Côte d'Ivoire
- **Dr. Saadatou A. Sangaré** – Niger

Their contributions included conducting inventories of agricultural innovations, mapping public institutions involved in agricultural innovation, reviewing relevant policies and institutional and innovation systems, undertaking field data collection and stakeholder consultations, and supporting the validation and finalization of country diagnostic reports.

COMESA Capacity Needs Assessment – Zambia

In July 2026, AKADEMIYA2063 engaged **Dr. Edna Kabala-Litana**, an AGRODEP Member and Lecturer and Researcher in the Department of Economics at **Copperbelt University in Zambia**, to conduct a **capacity needs assessment for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**.

The assessment examined COMESA's current and potential capacities in **policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation (M&E)**, and knowledge management, including the extent to which its M&E systems capture indicators relevant to the **CAADP Biennial Review (BR)**. It also assessed technical expertise, skills, analytical tools, institutional capacities, and M&E and knowledge management systems to identify key gaps and areas for strengthening.

Based on the findings, Dr. Kabala-Litana developed an **Action Plan** focused on:

1. **Strengthening** COMESA's technical and institutional capacities for policy analysis, M&E, and knowledge management.
2. **Strengthening** the integration of COMESA's M&E system with the electronic CAADP Biennial Review (eBR).

These engagements demonstrate the value of the **AGRODEP Network as a pool of African expertise** that can be mobilized to support country and regional institutions through context-specific knowledge, technical analysis, and capacity strengthening for the Kampala CAADP agenda.

4. AGRODEP Member Spotlight: Prof. Olawale Emmanuel Olayide's Recent Engagements

Prof. Olawale Emmanuel Olayide (Wale), an AGRODEP Member from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, recently contributed to major continental agrifood systems events in Kigali, Rwanda, and Harare, Zimbabwe, sharing research findings and insights on youth engagement and agroecology in Africa's agrifood systems.

Africa Food Systems Forum (AFS), August 31 – September 4, 2026 | Kigali, Rwanda

Prof. Wale actively participated in the Youth Pavilion, which showcased findings from a pilot study on the development of the Youth in Agrifood Systems Performance Index (YAPI). Conducted across 11 African countries, the study explores a framework for assessing and tracking youth performance in agrifood systems. Prof. Wale served as the Lead Consultant for the study, which was facilitated by the African Union Commission and funded by AGRA.



22nd Annual CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP), September 15–18, 2026 | Harare, Zimbabwe

At the 22nd Annual CAADP Partnership Platform, Prof. Wale spoke at a session organized by the CAADP Non-State Actors (CNG). He also presented findings from a recently completed study on the Business Case for Agroecology in Africa, which examined agroecological approaches across 10 African countries. Prof. Wale served as Co-Lead Consultant for the study, which was supported and funded by ActionAid International.

Through these engagements, Prof. Wale continues to contribute to continental policy dialogue and evidence generation on youth empowerment, sustainable agriculture, and inclusive agrifood systems transformation.



5. Calls for Papers, Opportunities, Upcoming Events

Below is a selection of resources, events, and professional opportunities that may be of interest to AGRODEP members, including calls for papers, upcoming conferences, and opportunities to share research and engage with the broader agricultural economics and agrifood systems community.

1. Springer Nature Collection: “Sustainable Food Engineering and Future Food Systems” *Green Technology, Resilience, and Sustainability*

The Springer Nature Collection on “Sustainable Food Engineering and Future Food Systems” is now accepting submissions. The collection welcomes **original research articles**, **review papers**, and **interdisciplinary studies** exploring innovative approaches to sustainable food engineering and future food systems.

 **Submission deadline:** December 30, 2026

 **Submit your paper:** <https://link.springer.com/collections/fdebeaaech>

2. Conference on Advancing Africa’s Industrialization: Building Regional Value Chains for a Green and Resilient Future

The conference will bring together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to explore pathways for advancing Africa’s industrialization through **regional value chains**, **sustainable production**, and **resilient economic transformation**.

 **Conference:** April 14–16, 2027

 **Venue:** Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town

 **Full paper submission deadline:** January 31, 2027

 **Submission link:** <https://rb.gy/fo4hox>

3. 33rd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE 2027): “Growing Food for Sustainability and Health”

The 33rd ICAE will bring together agricultural economists and researchers from around the world to exchange research and insights on **food systems, sustainability, health, and agricultural development**.

 **Conference:** August 8–13, 2027

 **Venue:** Radisson Blu Hotel & Convention Centre, Kigali, Rwanda

 **Conference information:** <https://iaae-agecon.org/page/33ICAE2027>

About AGRODEP

The [African Growth and Development Policy \(AGRODEP\) Modeling Consortium](#) aims to position African experts as leaders in the study of strategic development issues in Africa and in the broader debate on agricultural growth and policy. AGRODEP facilitates the use of economic modeling tools, promotes access to data sources, provides training and research grants, and supports collaboration between African and international researchers.

Inquiries

AKADEMIYA2063 Headquarters

Kicukiro/Niboye KK 341 St 22
P.O. Box 1855, Kigali-Rwanda

Regional Office for West & Central Africa

Lot N°3, Corniche des Almadies
P.O. Box 24 933, Dakar-Senegal

info-agrodep@agrodep.org

 AKADEMIYA2063 – Kicukiro/Niboye KK 341 St 22 | 1855 Kigali-Rwanda

 +250 788 318 315 | +221 33 865 28 81 |  kigali-contact@akademiya2063.org

 www.akademiya2063.org / www.agrodep.org |    @AKADEMIYA2063   @AGRODEP