



Agricultural Policy Research Network Ltd/Gte

c/o International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
6 Ogbagi Street, Off Oro-Ago Close, Garki II, ABUJA

APRNet Newsletter, Vol. 4. No. 1; June 2013

APRNet launches her first-ever Medium-Term Strategy Plan

The Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) has developed a medium-term strategic plan known as APRNet's Strategy and Programme Framework (SPF) 2012-2016. The SPF is essentially a policy and operational document that mirrors the priorities, direction, strategies and programme thrusts of APRNet over the next 5 years. It also provides the methodology and guiding framework for achieving our programmatic activities within the given timeframe.

The strategy formulation workshop was held on 15 March 2012 in Abuja. It was based on the participatory approach involving key stakeholders. The Strategy and Programme Framework is designed to become the basis for annual operating work plans and budgets. We congratulate the president and his team for successfully articulating the first strategic plan for the Network and encourage members to support its implementation.

APRNet commences online blog discussion, reviewed the 2013 Agriculture budget

The Agricultural Policy Research Network – APRNet has joined the league of online discussants using the blog. This was made possible by the untiring efforts of Mr. President and his working crew in line with the objective of the network *"to facilitate the conduct of research as well as the communication and utilization of research results in the agricultural and rural development policy process in Nigeria"*.

This blog provides an opportunity for members of the APRNet to contribute to the review of the 2013 Agriculture budget of the federal government of Nigeria.

Given the importance of agriculture to Nigeria's socio-economic transformation, sound technical inputs of seasoned policy technocrats like APRNet members are essential to the successful implementation of the on-going Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) of the President Goodluck Jonathan led administration,



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The key objects and criteria that formed the basis for the online review of the federal government budget include the following:

- Key macroeconomic assumptions and principles as they relate to or affect agricultural and rural development;
- Synergy between agricultural policy/programmes (Agricultural Transformation Agenda) and the proposed budget;
Structure, appropriateness and adequacy of the agricultural and rural development sector budget allocations;
- Adequacy and relevance of the agriculture-related institutional reform, monetary, trade and fiscal policy measures proposed in the budget, for example, tariffs, trade, import duties, export duties, agricultural credit and finance; and
- Any other issues or considerations pertinent to making the budget better aligned to promoting agricultural and rural development in the country.

We use this forum to congratulate members for contributing immensely to the online dialogue and encourage others to join the league.

APRNet Provides Strategic Inputs into the Design of Nigeria's Agricultural Value Chain Development Programme.

The Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) has provided substantial technical inputs to the design of the Agricultural Value Chain Development Programme of Nigeria's Agricultural Transformation Agenda. This was made possible by APRNet's participation in the Stakeholders Workshop on the Staple Crops Processing Zones held between 31st January and 1st February 2013 in Abuja. The workshop which conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the value chain benefitted immensely from APRNet's technical expertise as adequately reflected in the Programmes' Logical Framework. The workshop brought together key stakeholders in the agriculture sector including the African Development Bank (AfDB) which is currently supporting the agricultural value chain with the sum of \$150 million.

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APRNet GETS A NEW PROGRAMME OFFICER

Following the disengagement of the former Programme Officer, Mr. Elijah Idoko, APRNet has successfully employed a new programme Officer, in the person of Mr. Obasi, Basil Jacob. Mr. Obasi, holds a Bachelor degree in Economics from the prestigious University of Nigeria, Nsukka and has a strong background in Economic policy research and analysis. The new programme officer assumed duty on the 2nd day of December 2012 and can be reached through phone on (08063856338) or e-mail: obasibasil22@yahoo.com. On behalf of the EXCO and members of APRNet, we wish Mr. Obasi a rewarding tenure.

More Members Join APRNet

Recently the membership list of APRNet got a boost with the registration of seven additional persons. They include:

- Dr. Oluwole Akinagbe of the Dept. of Agric. Extension University of Nigeria Nsukka;
- Mr. Ode, Oga Simon of National Bureau of statistics, Abuja;
- Miss. Nneamaka Obi of the Dept. of Agric Economics University of Nigeria Nsukka;
- Mr. Ochotukpo Ochekwu of the Hampstead Academy Apo - Abuja;
- Mr. Ochigbo Ekwoji of Ochigbo Development Foundation;
- Mr. Richard Mark Mbaram of the Committee of Community of Agricultural Stakeholders of Nigeria(CASON)and
- Dr. (Mrs.) D. I. Ekine of Rivers State University of Science & Technology, Port Harcourt.



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It is remarkable to note that within the last ten months (July 2012 and April, 2013), APRNet has recorded 20 new members bringing the total number of registered members from 83 to 103.

APRNet family is pleased to welcome these new members on board and hope that they will bring their wealth of experience to bear upon the vision, goals and objectives of APRNet. We continue to implore all our members to personally publicize the activities of APRNet in their various organizations and provide the secretariat with feedback accordingly.

News bits

Progress towards Programme Implementation

APRNet made vital progress in consultations and mobilisation towards two activities in the 2012/2013 work programme. They are:

- **The 2nd National Symposium on “Making Agricultural Research Work for End-Users”:** The progress includes making contacts with and securing the interests of the respective National Agricultural Research Institutes for their participation. Also, progress was made on the preparation and review of agenda topics and subtopics for the Symposium.
- **Policy Analysis Training for APRNet core team:** Important progress was made on the agenda of a training course for enhancing skills and competencies in policy analysis within APRNet. The brochure stating the rationale, objectives and expected impacts of the “Policy Analysis and Impact Assessment Classroom” (PAIAC) for APRNet is under preparation.
- **Agenda for Training on Using Research in Policymaking:** Progress is being made to develop a menu of topics and issues for a possible training of government officials (federal and state) on the use of research information (findings and recommendations) for policymaking and programme planning. The training initiative is designed to promote evidence-based policymaking from the demand-side.



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Payment of annual dues

Members are reminded to update their annual dues for 2012. Account details are: United Bank for Africa (UBA PLC), Maitama, FCT branch, Account number 1015661697; Account name - Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet Ltd/Gte).