



Agricultural Policy Research Network

Mission Progress & Forward-Looking Strategy

Eric Eboh, President, APRNet

@ IFPRI Research Conference, 13-14 November 2012



Outline of Presentation on APRNet

- How and why we came into being?
- What we seek to achieve?
- Where we are now?
- What we aim to become?
- Our Challenges and Opportunities
- An Appeal for Collaboration, Cooperation and Support



Important Take-off Dates

- **22nd April 2009**

- APRNet was conceived



- **24th November 2009**

- Adoption of Constitution and Election of Pioneer Exco





Major Problematic

Retrospect 22nd April 2009

- Dissatisfaction with the very low interaction, collaboration and teamwork among policy researchers
- Concerns that:
 - research is not making sufficient impact on policymaking and private enterprise
 - interaction, cooperation and collaboration between researchers and policymakers have been merely ad hoc, episodic and mostly unorganised



APRNet was therefore intended to:

- **Change the status quo characterized by isolation, poor interaction and lack of organized communication across the stakeholder aisles in agricultural and rural development policy landscape**
- **Foster interaction, connections, cooperation, collaboration, complementation, communication and information sharing among the Stakeholder Quartet in agricultural, food security and rural development policy**
 - *Researchers*
 - *Government MDAs in Agric., Rural Devt. Water Res. & Evnt*
 - *Agric. Sector CSOs & NGOs*
 - *Agric. Entrepreneurs & Managers*



Quartet of APRNet Stakeholders

**Enterprise
Community –
Farmers, Managers,
Investors, Entrprnrs.**

**Policymakers &
Government
Technocrats in
MDAs**

APRNet

**Practitioner
Community –
CSOs, NGOs**

**Research
Community -
(NARIs, Univs. T-Tanks)**



APRNet Exco. reflects Stakeholder Quartet

- **Research Community**
- **Policymakers – FMARD, NPC, FMWR**
- **Enterprise Community –
Representatives of Farmer
Groups/Organisations, e.g. ALFAN,**
- **Development Practice Community –
NGOs, CSOs, PSOs, e.g. NESG**



14th JUNE 2011 - INCORPORATION

RC 959554



CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Certificate of Incorporation

I hereby certify that

AGRICULTURAL POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK LTD/GTE

*is this day incorporated under the COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS
ACT 1990 and that the Company is Limited By Guarantee.*

*Given under my hand at Abuja this Fourteenth day of June,
2011*




BELLO MAHMUD

Registrar - General

434407



Take-off Secretariat Support

- ***Computer***
- ***Printer***
- ***UPS***
- ***Modem***





VISION

- The VISION of APRNet is to become an authoritative and independent forum for promoting research for evidence-based agricultural and rural development policies in Nigeria.



MISSION

- The MISSION of APRNet is to facilitate the **conduct of research** as well as the **communication and utilization of research** results in the agriculture and rural development policy process in Nigeria.



OBJECTIVES - I

- Promote the exchange of existing research information (methods, data, publications)
- Mobilize a pool of financial resources for independent policy research
- Encourage mentoring of upcoming policy researchers



OBJECTIVES - II

- Provide peer review for researchers
- Create channels for linking research with policy process
- Encourage the use of research results in the policy process



METHODOLOGY

- Research and information sharing;
- Training/capacity building;
- Policy linkages and feedback; and
- Dissemination and public enlightenment



KEY FUNCTIONS - I

- **Facilitator of policy research and policy analysis** – provide conducive working platforms and arrangements for the conduct of good-quality research
- **Policy advocate** – promoting and projecting research-based evidence and policy recommendations through sensitisation, enlightenment and public appearances



KEY FUNCTIONS - I

- **Network loop** – connecting and linking researchers, policymakers and practitioners to increase collaboration and shared understanding, build mutual confidence and promote better interface of research, policy and practice
- **Agent of information and learning** – transmitting and diffusing research and evidence-based information for broader public consumption



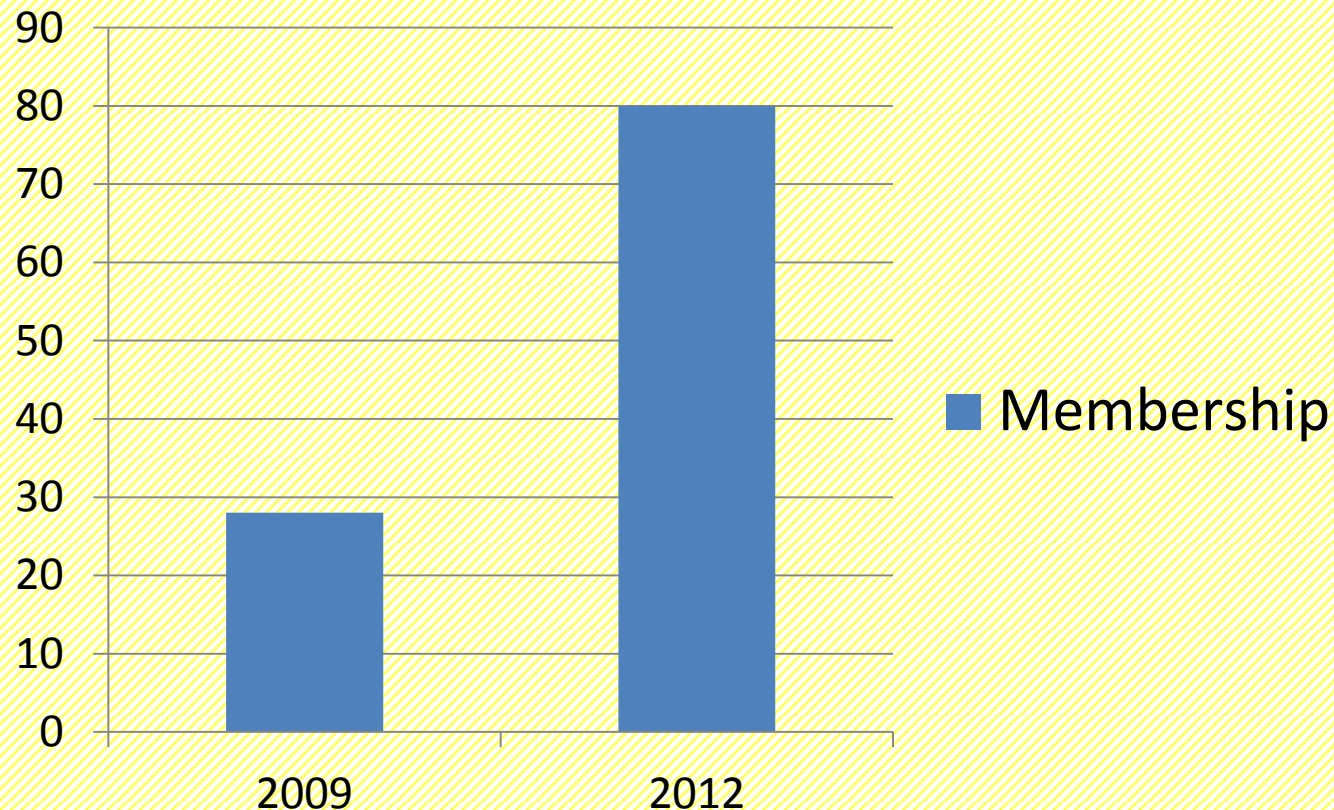
KEY FUNCTIONS - II

- **Services provider** – providing client-oriented expert and technical services for capacity enhancement of policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in support of Nigeria’s agricultural development policies, institutions and programmes



PROGRESS DASHBOARD

- Membership growth – from 28 at registration to more than 80 presently





PROGRESS DASHBOARD

- Training and capacity building
 - *Mendeley Web-based research writing resources 10th February 2010, Sheraton Hotel, Abuja*





PROGRESS DASHBOARD

- **Training and capacity building**
 - *Research Writing and Policy Communications workshop 31 August – 1 September 2010, Enugu*





PROGRESS DASHBOARD

- Training and capacity building
 - *Training workshop on methodologies and tools for agricultural policy analysis from 20-23 March 2012 at Enugu*





Policy Dialogue and Stakeholder Engagement

- National Policy Symposium on “Making Research Work for End-Users”, held on 24th May 2011 at Abuja – *in collaboration with NARIs and ARC/N*





APRNet Launched its Secretariat

- Office Accommodation and Resumption of Program Officer- 1st June 2012





APRNet website launched

www.arprnetworkng.org

- On 6th May 2012

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AGRICULTURAL POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK

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Agricultural Policy Research Network

NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK (NAPR)
Constitution Review and Election Meeting
Gracious Hotel, Akemesi Crescent,
Abuja
2010

APRNet Workshop

APRNet Strategic Planning Workshop was held on 15 March, 2012

Recent Publications

NEWSLETTER
At last! EMAKD and NPC fill slots at APRNet

The APRNet Newsletter for the month of July is out. For more News on the latest developments of APRNet...

Latest News

Programme Officer, A New Stride for APRNet

APRNet has followed up with the employment of a Programme Officer to coordinate its activities. He is Mr. Bright Idoko and has assumed duty since 1 June, 2012... read more



Publications

- **ANNUAL REPORTS** – 2010 & 2011 uploaded in the website
- **APRNet Information Brochure**
- **APRNet: Mission Progress and Forward-Looking Strategy** – an upcoming Flyer



FINANCES

- **Membership Subscription**
- **IFPRI grants for Secretariat support**
- **Donations from members and stakeholders (time, intellect and materials)**
- **Exploring new Funding and Resources** – Development Partners, Research Networks, Government Partners, project-based sources
- In line with good corporate governance, **AUDIT REPORTS** accomplished for 2010 and 2011.



Communication and Advocacy

- Newsletters

Agricultural Policy Research Network Ltd/Gte

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, NO. 1 JULY 2012

At last! FMARD and NPC fill slots at APRNet

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) and the National Planning Commission (NPC) have finally taken up their statutory slots in the Executive Council of the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet). The cheering news was confirmed by the recent nominations made by the respective ministers of the two public institutions. The constitution provides for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) and the

represent the National Planning Commission as official member of the APRNet Executive Council.

In line with the constitutional provision of APRNet, the official nominee of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Director, Planning, Research and Statistics becomes the 2nd Vice President of APRNet. This development is a significant boost to the functioning and respect of APRNet as it is expected to strengthen more effective collaboration and



Communication and Advocacy

- Media Interviews and Press Releases (6 July 2012)



APRNet tasks FG on creation of agric loans database

The Federal Government has been urged to put in place a National Agricultural Loans Database to ensure better coordination and tracking of agricultural lending.

The submission was made by the president of the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet), Professor Eric Eboh, at the weekend.

Eboh said the database would collate, archive and

ing research work for end-users, including policymakers, farmers, investors and practitioners.

Eboh noted further that it is highly commendable that there is an ongoing project to produce a comprehensive farmer database for the country, on a progressive basis. He added that the database will contribute valuable information about and clarify the characteristics of the Nigerian farmer, for planning

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development should be strengthened, to increase their effectiveness in policy coordination, monitoring and feedback. Federal and State governments should provide greater public policy support for building the critical services for value chain development in the country.

"Currently, value chains lack business and market linkage services providers because of low capacity,

resources in the fund-starved agricultural sector. But, greater institutional coordination and monitoring are needed to ensure that these overlapping lending schemes are delivering on their unique respective outcomes and that there are no duplications and misapplications of lending.

In order to upscale the coverage of the various measures and schemes under the Agricultural Transformation

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AGRO-BUSINESS

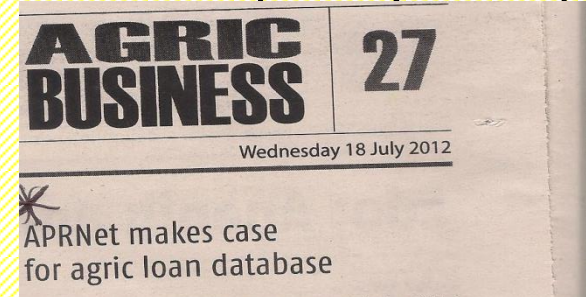
'How to revamp extension services'

STRENGTHENED measures are needed to ensure that the extension services provided by the Federal Government could assist state and local governments with needed resources.

Like said, these include institutional, managerial, finance and appropriate policy, governmental. That said the government should ensure that the

State of Nigerian Agriculture Report (SNAAR) which would be produced early in the next year. APRNet is a stakeholder's organization devoted to promoting agricultural productivity, economic growth and poverty reduction in Nigeria by using research and advisory services to farmers and stimulate rural and regional development. It is also involved in policy and programmatic work for end-users, including policymakers,

oriented, private sector and business-oriented agricultural investment opportunities in the country. He said that the country's features and design of the scheme are good for extending the benefits of agricultural investment to the farmer. He said that the country's features and design of the scheme are good for extending the benefits of agricultural investment to the farmer. He said that the country's features and design of the scheme are good for extending the benefits of agricultural investment to the farmer.



'GES can change the face of agro-business'

BY EGWIM MELVINE

The Growth ranging. It contains commodity marketing system current value chain approach to commodity development integrated set of measures and the proposed marketing innovations are a welcome adopted by the Federal

AGRO-BUSINESS

'How to revamp extension services'

THE GUARDIAN, Monday, July 9, 2012

How to make agric loans more effective

From Joke Akanmu, Abuja

To enhance better co-ordination and tracking of agricultural loans, greater public policy support for building the critical services for value chain development, farmer, for planning and policy implementation purposes.

APRNet tasks FG on agric loan database

AGRICULTURAL Policy Research Network (APRNet) has called on the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to ensure better coordination and tracking of agricultural loans by creating a National Agricultural Loans Database.

The president of APRNet, Prof. Eric Eboh, said the database would collate, archive and update the lending portfolio, sources and uses of agricultural loans and loan outcomes, adding that it would serve as a reference framework for current and future design and implementation of private and public sector agricultural loan schemes.

APRNet is a stakeholder's organization devoted to promoting agricultural productivity, economic growth and poverty reduction in Nigeria by using research and advisory services to farmers and stimulate rural and regional development. It is also involved in policy and programmatic work for end-users, including policymakers,

FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGY

2012-2016

Concept Paper presented by the President at the 2011 Congress Meeting 23rd November 2011, Enugu





Strategy Development Process

**Strategy Workshop –
15th March 2012**



**EXCO Ratification of
Strategy – 6th July 2012**



President

SECRETARIAT

[Program Coordinator, Research Coordinator, Advocacy Coordinator Program/Admin Officer, Mobilisation Officer, Zonal Liaison Officers (6nos.), Website Manager]

**Vice Presidents
(2nos.)**

Treasurer

Secretary

Organogram of APRNet



Policy Research & Policy Analysis

- In support of evidence-based policymaking and programme/project planning
 - *Budget Analysis and Reviews*
 - *State of Nigeria Agriculture Series (SONAS)*





Research Communications & Policy Dialogue/Advocacy

- National Policy Dialogue Series on “Making Research Work for End-Users”
 - Examine, disseminate and promote best practices and innovative models for research delivery by the National Agricultural Research Institutes and by individual policy researchers
- Research Monographs, Research Summaries/Abstracts, Policy Briefs, Policy Primers, Policy Papers & Policy Memos to Government MDAs and Legislative Committees.
- Evidence-based Annual Reviews/Dialogue on “State of Nigeria Agriculture”
 - Quarterly Series - Reviews/Publications/Releases
 - Annual Series - Reviews/Publications/Releases



CAPACITY BUILDING for LINKING RESEARCH, POLICYMAKING & ENTERPRISE

- **Training and Technical Assistance on Policy Analysis (working with ARCN)**
- **Training Policymakers and Technocrats on finding/accessing and using Research Findings in Policymaking**
- **Training of Researchers on Research Dissemination, Communications and Methods/Practices for Linking/Engaging in the Policy process**



Methodology/Approach

- Program-based Resource mobilisation (human, material, logistics, financial)





Methodology /Approach

- Collaboration, Cooperation and Joint Programming





Critical Challenges and Opportunities – Creating Value for Policymakers

- Providing real-time research, analysis and evidence feedback and knowledge needs for topical ATA Initiatives such as
 - Fertilizer Vouchers & Input Subsidies
 - Commodity Value Chains
 - Agricultural Credit Schemes
 - Staple Crop Processing Zones
 - Growth Enhancement Scheme
- Engaging with State Governments on topical policy questions such as
 - agric. budgets, fertilizer markets, agric. extension and capacity building of agric. ministry and officials



Critical Challenges and Opportunities – Creating Value for Members - I

- Creating benefits and value to members to elicit greater individual interest, teamwork and participation
- Creating novel researcher-esteeming channels for beneficial interaction with policymakers, development partners, research-funding institutions



Critical Challenges and Opportunities – Creating Value for Members- II

- Providing greater access to training, professional growth, career building and research funding opportunities – e.g. *building a critical mass of well-tooled policy researchers within APRNet, need help from IFPRI*
- Giving corporate “impersonal” voice to policy advocacy and research dissemination that will otherwise be risky with individual researcher approaches – providing researchers a “special window” to the outside world



Looking Forward - OUR VISION IS CLEAR

To Become the Foremost
Research-based Change
Agent in Nigeria's Drive for
Agricultural Transformation





But, as a budding organisation, our **Challenges** are Daunting, with Implicit **Opportunities** waiting to be tapped for us to **Grow.....**

**So, we need your Experiences,
Advice and Suggestions!**

THANK YOU!