



African Economic Research Consortium

ANNUAL REPORT
2014/15





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*Up to February 2015

**Up to September 2014



African Economic Research Consortium

Consortium pour la Recherche Economique en Afrique

Annual Report

2014/15

For the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015



AERC Annual Report 2014/15

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The African Economic Research Consortium

Vision

Sustained development in sub-Saharan Africa, grounded in sound economic management and an informed society.

Mission

To strengthen local capacity for conducting independent, rigorous inquiry into problems pertinent to the management of African economies, through a synergetic programme combining research with postgraduate training in economics.

Objectives

- i. Enhance the capacity of locally-based researchers to conduct policy-relevant economic inquiry,
- ii. Promote the retention of such capacity, and
- iii. Encourage its application in the policy context.



Foreword



*Prof. Lemma W. Senbet,
Executive Director, AERC*

The fiscal year 2014/15 was a remarkable turning point for the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) in many ways. In particular, it marked the end of the strategic period 2010-2015 with great success stories, including the AERC African Central Banks Governors' Forum adopting a resolution to have its members join the Consortium. This was a historic achievement for helping put AERC in a more sustainable basis while enhancing African stakeholder-ship and voice on AERC's governance. The Governors' Forum has reaffirmed the AERC value propositions for our longstanding partners, including those who have helped nurture AERC since inception, at this defining stage of the Strategy 2015-2020. I am pleased to inform you that all of our existing partners have now reaffirmed continuing membership in the Consortium and remain core supporters to AERC. Deep gratitude to all of them on behalf of AERC and its vast network.

The AERC Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 was approved for implementation at the AERC March 2015 Board meeting. The Plan describes the AERC enduring capacity building framework, characterized by its research, collaborative graduate training, policy outreach, network and institutions and then highlights key AERC achievements followed by its comparative advantage and value propositions. The Plan is informed by challenges and opportunities facing transforming Africa.

The novel features of the Strategy, 2015–2020, include inclusive capacity building measures to address the under represented groups, fragile and post-conflict states, and engagement with the private sector in mutually beneficial training, research and policy outreach activities. Private sector contribution is vital to Africa's development, and hence the need to engage with the private sector. Among other things, the private sector would also be expected to support AERC in mobilizing resources. The strategy also recognizes the need for enhanced African stakeholder-ship of AERC for its viability, diversity and sustainability. African governments have been prime beneficiaries of AERC, but they need to have a "skin in the game" both in helping diversify the resource base and in having a greater voice in AERC governance. As mentioned above, this has already begun happening as witness by the emergence of AERC African Governors of Central Banks Forum.

The strategy builds on the remarkable successes that AERC has scored over the quarter of a century, underpinned by its diverse yet integrated programmes spanning research, collaborative graduate training and policy outreach. Informed by the evolving needs and present development imperatives in sub-Saharan Africa, the strategic objectives for the 2015–2020 plan period are to:

1. Enhance capacity building for economic policy research and graduate training in sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Build and strengthen national, regional and global linkages to generate high quality economic policy research and graduate training.
3. Leverage the private sector in its contribution to development.
4. Enhance AERC visibility, outreach and policy engagement to maximize the uptake of AERC products in policy.
5. Maximize mutual benefits through diversified resource base and stakeholder-ship for sustainability.



Through this strategic period 2015–2020, AERC will, in addition to its regular capacity building activities, design targeted capacity building programmes to promote participation of the currently under-represented countries. The Consortium will ensure it does not cannibalize the high value created in existing programmes. Efforts will be directed at building institutional capacity of universities and research institutions in fragile countries to offer quality training in economics and respectively conduct rigorous and policy relevant research.

Another major activity during the fiscal year was the successful AERC’s Senior Policy Seminar (SPS XVII) on “Agriculture in Africa’s Transformation: The Role of Smallholder Farmers” held in Maputo, Mozambique from March 26-27, 2015. The seminar brought together 102 participants from 25 countries across sub-Saharan Africa who included ministers, governors of central banks, permanent secretaries and other senior government officials. The participants later made a declaration to support small holder agriculture in Africa’s transformation. The policy makers, for the first time in such an event hosted by the AERC, adopted a declaration as an affirmation of their strong commitment to supporting smallholder agriculture as an engine for growth and transformation on the continent, and its centrality to the agenda of financial sector development in Africa.

Other AERC flagship activities during the fiscal year were two biannual research workshops in June and December 2014. One was on the theme “Public Finance: Tax and Expenditure Reforms in Africa” for the Plenary Session. This was held in Accra, and the chief Guest was Dr. Henry A.K. Wampah, Governor of Central Bank of Ghana. The other was on “Youth Employment in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges” was held in Lusaka, Zambia, and was officially opened by Dr. Michael Gondwe, Governor, Bank of Zambia, on behalf of Hon. Alexander Chikwanda, Minister of Finance, Republic of Zambia. At the opening of each of the biannual plenary sessions, I have found it useful to talk about the AERC capacity building framework and updates on recent activities and outcomes.

Once again AERC was featured among the top think tanks in the Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI). AERC was ranked first in sub-Saharan Africa and 25th globally in category of International Development Think Tanks Worldwide 2014. In another international ranking, AERC was again conferred the supreme five (5) star rating by Transparify. This is an initiative devoted to advocating for greater think tank transparency worldwide, including financial transparency. Transparify assessed 169 think tanks worldwide in the 2015 report and only 31 of these, including AERC, achieved the maximum 5-star rating. While we are pleased with high international recognition among think tanks, it should be recognized that AERC is not just a think tank. It is a think tank plus with an enduring capacity building framework spanning research, collaborative training, policy outreach, and a vast network with a “think tank” just only a part of this integrated knowledge and capacity building organization.

As I conclude, as the Strategic Plan makes it clear, AERC’s achievements have been remarkable, including informed policy making as witnessed by a multitude of its alumni occupying positions at mid to highest levels of policy positions in the continent. We are determined to take this highly successful organization to the next level of excellence. The activities that are detailed in this annual report are part of the process and contribute to the realization of our vision for sustained African development. I wish to acknowledge the hard work and commitment to excellence by the AERC management and staff, network members, including international resource persons, as well as members of the AERC Board, the Programme Committee, and Academic Advisory Boards. Last but not least, my deep appreciation goes to our funding partners, including our longstanding members of the Consortium, for helping sustain this precious African success story.

I am, thus, pleased to present this Annual Report for 2014/15, with a summary of the audited financial statements, to the members of the Consortium, the Board of Directors, the Programme Committee, and other AERC stakeholders. We could not have managed without the support of all of you.

Prof. Lemma W. Senbet
Executive Director
African Economic Research Consortium.

Overview

The current fiscal year marked a significant period for AERC as the Consortium entered the final year of the strategy period 2010–2015. It provided an opportunity to take stock of our achievements and to continue to restructure in a bid to achieve the goals we set in the strategic plan. The year also witnessed remarkable efforts channelled towards developing the AERC Strategic Plan 2015–2020.

Programmes

During this period, efforts were geared towards broadening our geographical outreach and increasing the participation of women in AERC research and training activities in line with the current strategy's ambitions to increase the presence of under-represented countries and groups. The annual Senior Policy Seminar and the 2014 Biannual Research Workshops were successfully convened.

The June 2014 biannual workshop was held in Accra, Ghana, from 1 to 5 June 2014 with a total of 93 researchers – of whom 20 were Collaborative PhD Programme (CPP) students – in attendance. In total, there were 16 female participants. The December 2014 biannual workshop was held from

30 November to 4 December 2014 in Lusaka, Zambia, with a total of 91 researchers (of whom 12 were CPP students). There were 13 women (15%) among the participants.

Plenary sessions marking the beginning of the biannual research workshops are renowned vehicles for updating researchers and policy makers on frontier topics in the economics discipline—with a bearing on economic development in Africa. The 39th Plenary Session of the biannual research workshop on Public Finance: Tax and Expenditure Reforms in Africa was officially opened by Dr. Henry A.W. Wampah,

2010–2015 Strategic Objectives

1. Scale up capacity building for policy research and graduate training
2. Develop and implement an enhanced research model to mobilize the expanding research community in Africa
3. Facilitate universities to take full responsibility for the collaborative master's programmes
4. Enhance communication, outreach and policy promotion
5. Strengthen and diversify the AERC resource base



Members of the AERC Board of Directors at a recent meeting that was held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Governor, Bank of Ghana, and was chaired by Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana. The plenary session provided an opportunity for the Executive Director, Prof. Lemma W. Senbet, to update the network on AERC activities. The plenary sessions attracted a broad range of participation by policy makers, donors and academia. Among the international participants were staff of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER). The workshop also provided an opportunity to organize special sessions by AERC partners who included the World Bank, IMF and WFP.

The theme for the 40th Plenary Session was “Youth Employment in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges”. The plenary session was officially opened by Dr. Michael Gondwe, Governor, Bank of Zambia, on behalf of Hon. Alexander Chikwanda, Minister of Finance, Republic of Zambia. Dr. Michael Gondwe, chaired the plenary session while Dr. Caleb Fundanga, Executive Director, Macroeconomic and Finance Management Institute for Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI), chaired the policy roundtable.

On training, the 2014 Joint Facility for Electives (JFE), for the Collaborative Masters Programme (CMAP) was held from 23 June to 26 September 2014 at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS) in Nairobi. The year 2014 marks the third year of the JFE under the new CMAP architecture. As was the case in 2013, 59 students participated. A total of 29 of the 59 students were female, which represents 49% female participation, marking the highest level of female participation at the JFE since its inception in 1993. The previous record was 38% in the 2011 JFE. With the new architecture, a total of 112 students took elective courses at the respective Category C universities, namely Addis Ababa University; University of Dar es Salaam; University of Ghana; and University of Nairobi. The 2014 CPP JFE was held from 30 June to 31 October 2014. A total of 26 students attended, compared with 17 in 2013. Out

AERC among top think tanks in 2014

Once again, AERC featured among the top think tanks in the Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI). AERC is ranked first in sub-Saharan Africa and 25th globally in the category of International Development Think Tanks Worldwide 2014 as a premier capacity building institution for policy oriented economic research and training.

of the 26 students, 11 (42%) were female. The 2014 Shared Facility for Specialization and Electives (SFSE) was held from 4 August to 28 November 2014 at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and was officially opened by the AERC Executive Director. A total of 82 students participated compared with 68 students in 2013. There were 35 (43%) female students compared to 37% female participation in 2013.



Women policy makers at a recent policy seminar hosted by African Economic Research Consortium in collaboration with World Food Programme (WFP).



Members of the AERC Governors' Forum in a meeting. The forum has joined the consortium in accordance with the AERC bylaws for core support.

In continued efforts to build synergies between the research and training departments, joint monitoring visits were made to under-represented countries to sensitize researchers on the opportunities available at AERC. A team from the AERC Secretariat made a monitoring and sensitization tour to University of Cape Town on 13 May 2014. A monitoring and sensitization mission to Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya, was undertaken on 21 June 2014. This mission was based on the opportunity of the Collaborative Masters Programme in Agriculture and Applied Economics (CMAAE) theses dissemination workshop for Kenya held at the university. The mission established that the programme is progressing well with the university improving student gender representation and completion.

Senior Policy Seminar on Agriculture in Africa's Transformation: Smallholder Farmers

A successful AERC Senior Policy Seminar (SPS, XVII) under the theme "Agriculture in Africa's Transformation: Smallholder Farmers" was held in Maputo, Mozambique, on March 26-27, 2015. The conference, which attracted 102 senior policy makers from across the region, was jointly hosted by AERC and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) with the support from the Bank of Mozambique and the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. More than 25 African countries were represented at the forum. The AERC Executive Director, Prof Lemma W. Senbet, delivered an opening speech, highlighting the significance of the topic which stemmed from the AERC/WFP collaborative project on smallholder agriculture. "This senior policy seminar on agriculture in Africa's

transformation provided a timely forum for dialogue between senior policy makers and thought leaders, among policy makers. This debate was conducted in the best of AERC traditions, guided by rigour and evidence. This is where research meets policy. The seminar was inspired by a productive partnership between AERC and WFP on the P4P pilot programme," said Prof Senbet.

AERC among top think tanks in 2014 global index and awarded five-star rating for transparency

Once again, AERC featured among the top think tanks in the Global Go To Think Tank

"Very good seminar, it has given me the opportunity to notice where the problem lies in the strategy and policy to Transform Agriculture in Africa."

-- a policy maker at the Senior Policy Seminar XVII



Participants following proceedings during one of AERC's many workshops.

Index (GGTTTI). In 2014, AERC ranked first among economics think tanks in sub-Saharan Africa, and 25th globally among International Development Think Tanks. The launch of the 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index was hosted by Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C., USA, on 22 January 2015. AERC was one of the 80 organizations in 60 cities and 50 countries around the world that took part in the simultaneous launch.

AERC was also awarded the highest possible five-star rating by Transparify for the periods 2013 and 2014 (the results were announced in May 2014 and February 2015 respectively). These ratings make AERC the only highly transparent large think tank in Africa.

Collaboration with existing partners through various mechanisms continued while

memoranda of understanding were signed with new partners as part of AERC efforts to promote regional and global linkages and partnerships. This is undertaken with the aim of strengthening the quality of AERC research outputs and facilitating the adoption of best practices for research and policy. In addition, collaboration with world class academic institutions continued as a means of enhancing the quality of graduate training in sub-Saharan Africa.

During the period, substantial efforts were made towards developing the information and communications technology (ICT) strategy, a significant component of the AERC Strategic Plan 2015–2020. Priority initiatives undertaken include the development of the online research paper submission and review system to improve the research management process. Following the launch of the AERC Alumni Association in 2013, a

web-based alumni platform has been developed to enhance outreach and continuous participation, retention and growth of members. Implementation of the AERC events portal has contributed to the agenda of a paperless workshop. Additionally, the live web casting of the AERC biannual research workshop plenary session and the SPS has allowed a global audience to participate in the institution's flagship events. Going forward, AERC seeks to enhance the integration of technology into all its operations and programmes for greater efficiency and added value.

Transforming human resource, administration and finance processes for efficient service delivery

To support programmes and ensure their quality and reach, the administration function this



year focused on transforming the internal processes, operational efficiency and effectiveness of activities across the Consortium. During this period, activities undertaken were aimed at strengthening performance management, monitoring systems and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the financial management processes and systems.

Staff seminars held in May and October 2014 served as forums to not only discuss the draft AERC strategy for 2015–2020 but also engage in team building and bonding. A staff satisfaction survey was undertaken in May 2014 as a follow-up to the one done in 2013. The outcome of the survey is aimed at increasing Management's understanding of the areas that need to be improved within AERC.

In relation to financial management and control, statutory external audits and specialized project audits were conducted in May 2014 in compliance with the set regulations. The Global Development Network (GDN) undertook a financial review of AERC grant management systems in April 2014 in compliance with the regulations of the World Bank, a key donor to GDN. A joint mission by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the World Bank and the Swedish International Development

Cooperation Agency (Sida) was undertaken in May 2014 as a mechanism for monitoring the progress of AERC programme activities funded under the ACBF partnership.

Evaluations of AERC and development of AERC Strategic Plan 2015–2020

The evaluation of the AERC Strategic Plan 2010–2015 undertaken by Prof. John Loxley, University of Manitoba, Canada, and Dr. Caleb Fundanga, Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI), was completed in May 2014. The evaluation report considered comments made on the draft following presentations made to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors in March 2014. The strategy evaluation was conducted alongside the review of the thematic research programme by Prof. Stephen O'Connell, Swarthmore University, USA, and Dr. Dominique Njinkeu, the World Bank, USA. A mid-term review of the CMAAE programme was conducted concurrently by Dr. Alex F. McCalla, University of California, Davis, USA, and Prof. Hans P. Binswanger-Mkhize, formerly at the World Bank and currently a visiting professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa. Reports from the programme reviews fed into the evaluation of the Strategic Plan 2010–2015.

Following the presentation of the draft framework of the plan to the AERC Board in March 2014 and wide consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, the draft AERC strategic plan for 2015–2020 was presented to the Programme Committee at its June 2014 meeting. A special meeting of the Board was held in November 2014 to review the draft strategy. The finalized AERC Strategic Plan 2015–2020 was presented at the AERC Board meeting in March 2015 and officially approved by the Board.

Resource mobilization

Efforts to increase the resources available for programme activities continued to be prioritized throughout the period. Among the key strategies is deepening partnerships with current donors. A grant agreement in support of core programmes for SEK18 million (US\$2.7 million) from Sida was signed in April 2014. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Danish International Development Agency (Danida), also awarded AERC a grant of DDK10 million (US\$1.8 million) for core programme support. AfDB confirmed that its Board had approved a grant to AERC of US\$720,000 towards the Exchange Programme for Research and Mentorship between AfDB and AERC over a two-year period. Furthermore,



following the submission of a concept note for support from the Bank's African Development Fund in February 2014, a mission to prepare the appraisal report was undertaken in October 2014. It is expected that the project would be presented for approval during the next Bank's Board meeting.

In related efforts, the AERC Executive Director visited the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in September 2014, where he held meetings with the DFID Chief Economist, Prof. Stefan Dercon, and the Growth and Research Team. Similar meetings were held in October 2014 with the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in Washington, D.C. Further meetings were held with Norad and Danida in Oslo and Copenhagen respectively. A meeting was also held with Sida in Nairobi in November 2014. The meetings with key current core funders provided forums to update partners on AERC's upcoming strategic priorities and to seek support for the new strategy. Following discussions with key donors during the special meeting of the Board to review the draft strategy held in November 2014, AERC submitted funding proposals to Norad and Sida in February 2015 requesting their support for the new strategy. The Executive Director visited Sida offices in Stockholm in February 2015

to discuss their support to the new strategy. The World Bank, in February 2015, confirmed the approval of funding to AERC for a period of two years and has shared a draft funding agreement to support AERC with US \$200,000 for the current fiscal year. Discussions on potential funding from DFID with effect from April 2015 took place.

A concept note submitted to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to fund CMAAE Phase II received favourable feedback. The Executive Director and the Director of Training held meetings with the Foundation's team in Seattle, USA, in February 2015 to pursue discussions of this funding and to present the upcoming strategy. A funding proposal to WFP is being developed based on the successful pilot phase of the Data Analysis and Knowledge Management Hub (DAKMAH) project, grant expired in March 2015.

Another key strategy for resource mobilization is re-engage with donors who had exited. Efforts to re-engage with previous donors continue to realize positive results. Following meetings with IDRC, the AERC funding proposal for research activities focusing on fragile and post-conflict states was positively evaluated. In December 2014, IDRC confirmed the approval of the grant support request and a grant agreement for CAD1,300,000

(US\$1,150,700) was signed in March 2015.

AERC continues to re-engage with USAID, which hosted the March 2014 AERC Board meeting in Washington, D.C., and provided opportunities to have AERC forums, including the CSIS forum on "AERC: Research Meets Policy in Africa". In response to a request for bridge support, USAID has used a channel outside the traditional Africa Bureau, to support AERC through GDN for the Africa Voice project. A memorandum of understanding on this project and a sub-grant agreement for US\$285,000 was signed between AERC and GDN in February 2015. For the long term, Management is in communication with USAID for fully fledged re-engagement through the African Bureau. In this regard, a meeting was held with USAID in October 2014 and resulted in high level representation of USAID to the special meeting of the AERC Board in November 2014 in Nairobi. A follow-up meeting was held in January 2015 at the USAID offices in Washington D.C. The discussions to date indicate that USAID will support AERC Strategic Plan 2015–2020.

The AERC Executive Director and the Director of Research met with the Managing Director for Africa at the Rockefeller Foundation in Nairobi in July 2014, to pursue the possibility of



the foundation re-engaging with AERC as a previous funder.

Yet another strategy is enhancing African stakeholders. Relentless efforts continued in reaching out to African governments and institutions as part of our strategy of ensuring sustainability of the Consortium's programmes. At the SPS XVI held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2014, a presentation of the emerging AERC framework for the next strategy for the period 2015–2020 was made to senior policy makers. This provided an opportunity to emphasize the importance of an increased African stakeholder-ship in AERC activities through resources from African governments and institutions.

A meeting was held in May 2014 with the Principal Secretary and other senior officials of the National Treasury in Kenya during which AERC updated the team of recent developments within the organization and the emerging priorities for the next AERC strategy.

The AERC Executive Director also took the opportunity of the IMF-organized Africa Rising conference in Maputo, Mozambique, in May 2014 to meet with numerous senior African government officials, who included those from the ministries of finance and central bank governors and

deputy governors from Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. As a result, the Governor of the Bank of Tanzania offered to co-host an agreed Alumni Governors' Forum.

The first ever AERC Central Bank Governors Forum was held on 13–14 August 2014, in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The meeting was an outstanding success with 10 central bank governors and deputy governors in attendance. The Forum discussed the role of African governments and institutions in supporting AERC activities for sustainability, in addition to increasing their voice in the governance of the Consortium. The 10 central banks represented at the beginning (Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) agreed to become the Founding Members of the AERC Governors Forum and to co-opt the Bank of Nigeria, whose governor was unable to attend the meeting.

On presentation of a financing gap for CMAP and CPP, the governors present at the Zanzibar meeting pledged a total of US\$650,000 to help close this financing gap. At the end of this fiscal year, a total of US\$400,000 had been disbursed to AERC, with the balance promised before the end of the current financial year. The major outcome of the August meeting was a long-term engagement and support

to AERC through a modality that would allow for annual contributions to AERC. This would in turn provide African Central Banks a bigger voice in AERC through a proposed group directorship to the AERC Board. The proposed modality was discussed with the governors at a meeting held in October 2014 in Washington, D.C., during the annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF.

A meeting co-hosted by the Bank of Zambia was held in Livingstone, Zambia, on 19–20 February 2015 to formalize the framework of the Governors Forum. At this meeting, the members of the Governors Forum signed a resolution to join the Consortium and provide core support in line with AERC by-laws. The Forum welcomed the participation of the new members, South African

Dumisani Zondiwe Moyo holds an MSc in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE) obtained from Bunda College of Agriculture of the University of Malawi. He says: "I am currently working with the United Nations Development Programme's Malawi Country Office as Programme Analyst for Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR). The knowledge I acquired from CMAAE was key to enabling me to secure the UN job and for sure, I am performing the job effectively. I am also developing a PhD concept note that will develop this thinking."



Reserve Bank and Reserve Bank of Malawi at the Livingstone meeting. The framework for the Forum's engagement with AERC was approved by the AERC Board in March 2015.

The message of the need for an enhanced African stakeholder-ship was reiterated during the meeting of the AERC alumni which was held in Accra, Ghana, in June 2014 within the biannual workshop. The attendance of senior alumni members (attending as panellists on the plenary policy roundtable and resource persons) provided an important forum to request their support in connecting AERC with their governments and other institutions they are involved with.

Engaging with new and non-traditional partners

Still on partnerships to increase resources, AERC submitted a funding proposal under the China–Africa Joint Research and Exchange Programme, which was based on a meeting held between the Chinese Embassy in Nairobi and AERC in May 2014. The programme is part of the Forum on the China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) initiative and has the potential to broaden the AERC resource base to include non-traditional partners.

A contract was signed in June 2014 between AERC and the

African Studies Centre (ASC) in Leiden, the Netherlands, for the Knowledge platform on development policies project, which is an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands. AERC is part of a consortium led by ASC that will provide the secretariat for the knowledge platform. AERC is responsible for knowledge brokering on social protection and the engagement of African policy makers as well as organizing workshops and platform meetings in Africa.

Moving forward

The future will be geared towards the implementation of the new AERC Strategic Plan 2015–2020. Objectives for the next strategy emphasize the need to enhance capacity building for the under-represented groups, focusing on post-conflict and fragile countries, and on women. Existing partnerships will be enhanced while linkages with new ones will be developed with a wide range of institutions within Africa and beyond, with special emphasis on engagement with non-traditional partners from Asia and Latin America. This is expected to promote national, regional and global linkages as a foundation for the implementation of the new strategy. Furthermore, plans are under way to promote engagement with the private sector in mutually beneficial research and training activities as a mechanism to increase our

reach and impact on capacity building and policy formulation.

Enhanced communication, outreach and policy promotion is a focus for the future and will be supported by a robust communications strategy to enable AERC to present its value propositions to diverse stakeholders. The enhanced integration of technology into all of AERC's operations and programmes is expected to create greater efficiency and provide added value in its activities.

Diversity of resources for sustainability of the AERC programme will continue to be a high priority. Strategies are already being implemented and will be enhanced towards mobilizing resources for the new strategy. The priority strategies include: enhancing our partnerships with current funders; re-engaging with previous funders; reaching out to African governments and institutions; and engaging with new and non-traditional partners, including the private sector. A key focus area is the enhancement of African stakeholder-ship for sustainability.

Objective

1

Scale up capacity-building for policy research and graduate training



Scale up Capacity Building for Policy Research and Graduate Training

This section of the report provides updates on progress in thematic research and related activities, including the June and December 2014 biannual research workshops, technical workshops, visiting scholars programme and facilitation of research opportunities for network members. It also covers activities of the Collaborative Master's Programme (CMAP), the Collaborative Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE), the Collaborative PhD Programme (CPP), and related projects such as the AERC/World Food Programme (WFP) Purchase for Progress (P4P) Data Analysis and Knowledge Management Hub (DAKMAH).

Improving technical competence of researchers and students

The AERC thematic research modality of learning-by-doing research remains a key feature of the biannual research workshops as exemplified by

the peer review process intended to maintain and yield high quality research output on topical African economic development issues. The June 2014 Biannual Research Workshop was convened in Accra, Ghana, from 1 to 5 June 2014 with a total of 93 researchers (of whom 21 were CPP students) in attendance. The thematic researchers and CPP participants were drawn from 20 African countries. Out of the 73 thematic researchers, 23 participated for the first time. There were 16 (18%) female participants. Concurrent sessions featured 77 presentations: 34 proposals, 10 interim reports, 13 final reports and 20 CPP thesis proposals. Of the 34 proposals, 23 were recommended to proceed to interim report stage, two were recommended for revision and future presentation at the biannual workshop, and nine were recommended for withdrawal.

The second biannual research workshop was held from 30 November to 4 December 2014 in



AERC Joint Facility for Electives (JFE) students listening keenly to proceedings during the official opening of the facility.



Lusaka, Zambia, with a total of 91 researchers (of whom 12 were CPP students). Together, the researchers and CPP participants were drawn from 17 African countries. Of the 79 thematic researchers, 26 were participating for the first time. There were 13 women (15%) among the participants. Researchers from under-represented countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Lesotho, Malawi, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, and Zimbabwe participated in the two workshops.

As an outcome of the two biannual research workshops a

total of 45 research grants were awarded. Details of the grantees and more statistics on the thematic research programme are provided in Annex A2.

Thesis workshops for the CPP Class of 2012

Two thesis workshops were held in the year in line with the primary objectives of ensuring that theses produced by the students are of high quality, students complete their theses within the allotted time, and that students are integrated into the AERC biannual research workshops. The first workshop was held on 2–4 June 2014 for the CPP Class of 2012 in conjunction with the May/June 2014 Biannual

Research Workshop in Accra, Ghana. A total of 15 students (five of whom were women) of the CPP Class of 2012 defended their thesis proposals while another five (two women) of the CPP Class of 2011 presented their post-fieldwork reports to an audience of fellow students, supervisors, resource persons and other participants (see Table 1). The total number of 15 students in the CPP Class of 2012 reflects a significant decrease from the 43 students of the CPP Class of 2011 students (with 16 or 37% being women) who defended their proposals in June 2013. The decrease is explained by the lower number of admissions of

Table 1: CPP Class of 2012 Thesis Proposal Workshop student distribution by country, gender and thematic group

	Country of CPP participants	June 2014					December 2014											
		Gender		Total per country	CPP student presentation by thematic concurrent group					Gender		Total per country	CPP student presentation by thematic concurrent group					
		M	F		A	B	C	D	E	M	F		A	B	C	D	E	
1	Benin	1	0	1		1				1	0	1		1				
2	Cameroon	0	1	1					1									
3	Chad	1	0	1		1												
4	Ghana	1	0	1			1											
5	Kenya	5	2	7	2	1	2		2	4	1	5	1	1	2		1	
6	Lesotho	1	0	1	1					1	0	1	1					
	Malawi									0	1	1		1				
7	Nigeria	0	1	1	1					0	1	1	1					
8	Sierra Leone	1	0	1				1		1	0	1				1		
9	Tanzania	1	0	1	1													
10	Uganda	0	1	1			1		1									
11	Zimbabwe	4	0	4		1		2	1	2	0	2				2		
	Total	15	5	20	5	4	4	3	4	9	3	12	3	3	2	3	1	

Key: Thematic groups

A: Poverty, Income Distribution and Food Security
 B: Macroeconomic Policies, Investment and Growth
 C: Finance and Resource Mobilization

D: Trade and Regional Integration
 E: Political Economy, Natural Resource Management and Agricultural Policy Issues



students into CPP Class of 2012 owing to reduction in funding of the CPP.

During the thesis research workshop held in December 2014 in Lusaka, Zambia, a total of 12 Class of 2012 students (three of whom were women) presented their post-fieldwork papers. The reduction in the number of post-fieldwork presentations can be attributed to the absence of three students who did not complete their reports on time.

Technical workshops

Courses offered through the technical workshops modality aim at familiarizing AERC researchers—particularly those from under-represented countries and groups (especially women)—with analytical tools and software to develop their capacity to apply the tools to policy research and analysis. The first technical workshop on Research Methods, Proposal Writing and Presentation Skills was held on 2–13 February 2015 in Arusha, Tanzania, with Dr. Anthony Wambugu, University of Nairobi, Kenya, as the instructor. This was the third time the course was being offered, bringing together researchers from fragile and post-conflict countries. The second workshop on Survey Methodology was also held in Arusha, Tanzania, on 5-13 February 2015 with Prof. Remco Oostendorp, Free

University, The Netherlands, as the instructor. A total of 38 researchers participated in the two technical workshops: 20 in the Survey Methodology (of whom 13 were women) and 18 in Research Methodology, Proposal Preparation and Presentation Skills (of whom 7 were women).

Learning-by-doing research through attachment programmes

The AERC/International Monetary Fund (IMF) Visiting Scholars Programme provides opportunities for AERC researchers to work on their work-in-progress or final reports using facilities at the IMF, and to interact with IMF staff in their areas of research. Two researchers—Jonathan Chipili from Zambia and Jonathan Danladi from Nigeria—visited the IMF offices in June 2014. Three other researchers—Ronald Mangani from Malawi, Jules Rene Minkoua Nzie from Cameroon and Josephine Ndambuki from Kenya—were selected in June 2013 to participate in the programme. Following the meeting in June 2014 between the AERC Executive Director and Chief of the IMF Africa region, it was agreed that there was a need for a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to accommodate the new arrangement, where AERC researchers are to be hosted by the Research Department and the African Region of the IMF.

The IMF is currently reviewing the draft MoU to have it signed. Once the MoU is signed, the programme will continue to be implemented and the three researchers (Ronald, Jules and Josephine) will visit the IMF. In February 2015, the IMF confirmed the approval of the budget for the programme and it is expected that the programme will resume in May 2015.

Another attachment programme, the AERC/Journal of African Economies Visiting Scholars Programme enables network members who have completed an AERC-supported research project to visit the University of Oxford, where they write a publishable journal article from their research reports. While at Oxford, the researchers participate in academic and research activities at the Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) and present their research outputs within the context of a seminar. It should be noted that a total of 26 researchers have participated in the programme since 2007. Of the 26, three researchers – Epo Boniface Ngah from Cameroon, Fred Matovu from Uganda and Eme Dada from Nigeria – will be attending the scholars programme during the first half of 2015. A call for expression of interest for participants in the first half of 2016 will be posted on the AERC website and circulated widely to network members in June 2015.



Participants following presentations during the June 2014 AERC's biannual research workshop. These workshops bring together a large number of economists from the African continent and outside.

AERC and the World Bank launched the AERC/World Bank Robert McNamara Women's Fellowship Programme that is targeted at building the research capacity of African women economists. A call for proposals made during the launch of the programme at the June 2013 biannual in Arusha, Tanzania, yielded a total 12 applications. Four applications selected by a panel comprising Prof. Margaret Chitiga (Human Sciences Research Council, HSRC, South Africa); Prof. Bernadette Kamgnia (African Development Bank); and Dr. Witness Simbanegavi, the AERC Director of Research, were recommended to the World Bank for the final selection. Two female researchers, Onelie Nkuna from Malawi and Susan Watundu from Uganda, were selected to participate in the fellowship at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., USA. Ms. Nkuna visited the World Bank from 1 March to 30 September 2014 while Ms. Watundu participated in the

programme between July and December 2014.

Feedback from the two participants indicates the usefulness of the programme in providing an opportunity to advance their thesis research work. Onelie has already submitted her thesis for defence while Susan is in the process of completing her thesis work. The participants also had the opportunity to present their theses and received valuable comments from both researchers and practitioners. In addition, the day-to-day interaction with peers was helpful in shaping their research. Further, the researchers attended seminars related to their work, enabling them to improve their research work and enhance their analytical skills. The programme also accorded them the exposure and experience of being at an international institution in a multicultural setting. The two researchers thanked AERC/World Bank for the opportunity.

Raising policy makers' awareness: The June 2014 Biannual Research Workshop

The plenary session

Plenary sessions marking the commencement of the biannual research workshops are renowned as vehicles for updating researchers and policy makers on frontier topics in the economics discipline. The 39th and 40th plenary sessions were held in June and December 2014 respectively. The 39th Plenary Session on "Public Finance: Tax and Expenditure Reforms in Africa" was officially opened by Dr. Henry A.W. Wampah, Governor of Bank of Ghana, and was chaired by Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana. The session chair appreciated the timeliness of the topic, its important contributions to knowledge and the lively discussions, pointing out that the topic forms a potential area

for collaborative research. The plenary sessions attracted a broad range of participation by policy makers, donors and academia. The theme for the 40th Plenary Session was “Youth Employment in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges”. The Plenary Session was officially opened by Dr. Michael Gondwe, Governor, Bank of Zambia, on behalf of Hon. Alexander Chikwanda, Minister of Finance, Republic of Zambia. Dr Gondwe chaired the plenary session while Dr. Caleb Fundanga, Executive Director, Macroeconomic and Finance Management Institute for Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI), chaired the policy roundtable discussion.

Welcoming remarks were given by Prof. Lemma Senbet, Executive Director, AERC, and Prof. Stephen Simukanga, Vice-Chancellor, University of Zambia. Three papers were presented at the plenary session. The last session of the plenary was a policy roundtable discussion with Dr. William Baah-Boateng, University of Ghana, presenting a special paper before discussions by panellists. Among other participants in the plenary session were staff of the AfDB Group, the World Bank, IMF, WFP and UNU-WIDER.

The plenary papers

The June 2014 plenary featured presentation of three papers and a policy roundtable discussion. The first paper, “Fiscal Reforms

and Public Investment in Africa”, was presented by Prof. Christopher Adam, University of Oxford. The paper illustrated the implication of bringing two issues (i.e. taxation inflicts deadweight costs and public investments impose ongoing budgetary costs for operation and maintenance costs for which provision is inadequate) from the periphery to the core of conventional IMF analysis of public investment, growth and debt sustainability. Dr. Domenico Fanizza, Assistant Director, African Department, IMF, USA, led discussion on the paper.

The second paper, “Pro-Poor Tax Review in South Africa: Potential and Limitations”, was presented by Dr. Ramos Mabugu, Research and Recommendations Programme, Financial and Fiscal Commission, Republic of South Africa. The paper uses a dynamic computable general equilibrium (CGE) model, with endogenous labour supply which integrates a range of tax instruments (direct and indirect) that contribute to financing government expenses to analyse the impact of South African Government policies to increase economic growth and reduce poverty and inequality. The paper concludes that the implication for economic growth from tax policy changes is limited, but the potential for poverty reduction is more pronounced when VAT revenues are recycled through direct transfers to poor households. Discussion on the paper was led

by Dr. William Baah-Boateng of the University of Ghana.

The third paper, “Tax Evasion, the Provision of Public Infrastructure, and Growth: A General Equilibrium Approach to Two very different Countries, Egypt and Mauritius”, was presented by Prof. Andrew Feltenstein, Department of Economics, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, USA. The paper constructs a dynamic multi-period general equilibrium model to analyse prospects for growth in Egypt and Mauritius. The analysis shows that modest increases in spending on public infrastructure, compensated for by corresponding decreases in current spending, can lead to increases in real gross domestic product (GDP) growth. Beyond certain levels, however, more infrastructure spending will actually lead to a decline in real GDP growth. Leading the discussion on this paper was Prof. Festus Egwaikhide, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

The policy roundtable focused on the theme “Tax and Expenditure Reforms in Africa” and was chaired by Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana. The panellists included Mr. Ismail Momoniat, Tax and Financial Sector Policy, National Treasury, Republic of South Africa; Dr. Ramos Mabugu, Research and Recommendations



Programme, Financial and Fiscal Commission, Republic of South Africa; Prof. Akpan Ekpo, University of Uyo, Nigeria; and Dr. Kupukile Mlambo, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

Three papers were presented during the December 2014 plenary session on “Youth Employment in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges”. The first paper, “Skills or Jobs? A Diagnostic of Youth Employment Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa”, was presented by Dr. Louise Fox, University of California, Berkeley, USA. The paper provides a context for country youth employment strategy development and project selection through a review of the development economics of the youth employment problem in the low and lower middle income countries of sub-Saharan

Africa. It analyses the broader economic development trends in the last decade or so, and what they mean for efforts to develop the country-specific strategies and programmes. The paper argues that the heart of the youth employment problem lies with sub-Saharan Africa’s economic development model. Discussions on the paper were led by Dr. Pamela Kabaso, Zambia Institute for Policy Research and Analysis (ZIPAR), Zambia.

The second paper, “What is in a Job? The Social Context of Youth (Un)employment in Africa”, was presented by Dr Olawale Ismail, King’s College, London, UK. The paper presents a social analysis of youth employment in Africa, exploring its socio-cultural, political and environmental undercurrents as it conditions opportunities and constraints. The notion of “what is in a job” foregrounds critical reflections

on the meaning, content and context of youth employment in sub-Saharan Africa. Emerging evidence points to the informal economic activities as the epicentre of youth employment in sub-Saharan Africa for years to come. The discussant was Dr. Ita Mannathoko, Economic Advisor and Consultant, Botswana.

“The impact of Exogenous Policy Shocks on Young People: The Case of Sectoral Minimum Wages in South Africa” was the third paper, and it was presented by Prof Haroon Bhorat, University of Cape Town, South Africa. This paper examined the impact of the introduction of sectoral minimum wage laws on youth employment in six sectors. The paper shows a lower number of young workers in minimum wage sectors relative to workers in comparable sectors not

covered by minimum wages. The ratio of youth to adults in the covered sectors decreases over the period, while the opposite trend takes place in non-covered sectors. This suggests a move away from younger workers over time in these sectors, but not necessarily as a result of minimum wages. Discussions were led by Prof. Francis Baye, University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon



Participants in a technical workshop. Courses offered through these workshops are aimed at equipping AERC’s researchers - particularly those from under-represented countries/groups - with analytical tools to apply those to policy research analysis.



The last session was a policy roundtable discussion. The session was chaired by Dr. Caleb Fundanga, Executive Director, MEFMI). Dr. William Baah-Boateng, University of Ghana, made a special presentation on “Youth Employment Challenges in Africa: Policy Options and Agenda for Future Research”. Thereafter, there was a panel discussion involving several panellists. These were Dr. Louise Fox, University of California, Berkeley, USA; Mr. Hazele Chilala, Zambia Federation of Employers (ZFE), Zambia; and Ms Everlyne Mulenga, President of Zambia Famers Union.

Special sessions during the June and December 2014 biannual research workshops

The June 2014 Biannual Research Workshop featured three special sessions. The first was on “Accelerating Poverty Reduction in Africa” presented by Dr. Francisco H.G. Ferreira, Chief Economist, and Dr. Luc Christiaensen, Senior Economist, both from World Bank’s Africa Region. The session was chaired and moderated by the AERC Executive Director and the Director of Research respectively.

The second session was on Fostering inclusive growth by Dr. Domenico Fanizza, African Department, IMF, and was chaired by the AERC Executive Director. The last session was on

“Linking Smallholder Farmers to Markets: Lessons Learned from the WFP-Purchase for Progress (P4P) Pilot Programme” by Ken Davies, P4P Global Coordinator; Clare Mbizule, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Advisor, WFP; and Paulo Dias, Project Manager for P4P Hub. The session was chaired and moderated by the AERC Executive Director and Director of Training, respectively.

The June 2014 biannual workshop also provided an opportunity for the steering committee of the AERC Alumni Association to meet with AERC network members and update them on the progress of the Association. Dr. Rose Ngugi and Prof. Peter Quartey, members of the steering committee, provided the update and led the discussions.

The special session during the December 2014 biannual workshop featured three presentations. The first was on “Dynamic Industrial policy in Africa: Innovative Institutions, Effective Processes and Flexible Mechanisms” by Dr. Adam B. Elhiraika, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The second session was on “Potential Funding Opportunities for AERC Graduate Students’ Research on child Labour and Youth Employment: An introduction to the research collaboration between the AERC and Understanding Children’s Work” by Dr. Jacob

de Hoop, International Labour Organization (ILO)/UCW. The final special session was on “The Government Revenue Database—An Introduction to a New Tax Database” compiled by the International Centre for Taxation and Development (ICTD) by Prof. Oliver Morrissey, Nottingham University, UK. The session was chaired and moderated by the AERC Executive Director.

Back-to-back workshops within the biannual research workshop

Capitalizing on the large gathering of researchers and resource persons that is a trademark of the AERC biannual workshops, two workshops were convened back-to-back with the June 2014 biannual in Accra, Ghana, and the December biannual workshop in Lusaka, Zambia.

The CMAAE Faculty Research Workshop held on 31 May 2014 provided an opportunity for CMAAE faculty to present their research papers for peer review and to receive comments from resource persons. The AERC Executive Director made the opening remarks in the session that witnessed the presentation of five research papers.

The Global Development Network (GDN)/AERC Training Workshop on policy briefs and research communication



was held on 6–8 June 2014, bringing together a total of 18 participants: 13 researchers, two policy makers from Ghana and three facilitators. The main purpose of the workshop was to train researchers on how to communicate research findings to policy makers.

The Capital Flight and Tax Havens Interim Report workshop was held on 6–7 December 2014. Nine interim reports were presented during the workshop. The researchers were expected to revise their research reports based on the comments received and submit the revised drafts by 15 March 2015.

Enriching the learning experience

Admissions for 2014 and Scholarship Awards

The 2014/2015 admissions for the three programmes—CMAP, CMAAE and CPP—were successfully concluded.

Under CMAP, all the category B and C universities made admissions. A total of 19 CMAP scholarships were awarded, an increase from the 15 awarded in 2013/2014. Out of the 19 scholarships, 10 were awarded to Kenyan students under the AERC/Government of Kenya Capacity Building Project for Policy Analysis, and seven were awarded to students from

under-represented countries, namely: Gambia (2), Rwanda (1), Sierra Leone (1) and Zambia (3). In terms of gender distribution, just like it was in 2013, 53% of the scholarships were awarded to female students.

A total of 96 students from the seven accredited departments were admitted into CMAAE programme. Thirty-five of the 96 first-year students admitted were awarded scholarships to study at Egerton University in Kenya, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Malawi, Makerere University in Uganda, Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania, and the universities of Nairobi (Kenya), Pretoria (South Africa) and Zimbabwe. Of the 35 scholarships, 20 (58%) were awarded to qualified female students – a 3% improvement on 2013's awards (55%). Among the beneficiaries are students from Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and South Sudan—countries that have had either limited participation in the programme or none at all.

Admissions for the CPP Class of 2014 were completed with students undertaking course work at the CPP host-degree universities of Dar es Salaam and Ibadan reporting in November 2014. However, the group admitted at the universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand during the same period, reported in January 2015 for teaching of

core courses (microeconomics, macroeconomics and quantitative methods). A total of 13 scholarships were awarded, a significant decrease from the 34 awarded in 2013/2014. The drop is attributed to a decline in funding for CPP as several grants had not been renewed. In addition, there was a decline in the number of Kenyan students awarded the Government of Kenya scholarships. Of the 13 scholarships awarded in 2014/2015, 10 were awarded to Kenyan students while the remaining three were awarded to other students admitted at the University of Dar es Salaam (1), the University of Ibadan (1) and the University of the Witwatersrand (1). One of the scholarships had been awarded to a student admitted at the University of Cocody, who failed to take it up. In terms of gender, six (46%) scholarships were awarded to female students.

PhD Fellowships and Grant Awards under CMAAE and CPP

During the reporting period, the CMAAE programme continued to support five PhD fellows who are currently in their third year of study. Two fellows are currently undertaking research work at the University of Pretoria, having successfully completed their course work at Cornell University under a sandwich arrangement. Another two fellows are pursuing theses

Table 2: CPP JFE 2014 student participation by university and gender

	Degree-awarding university	CPP Class of 2013 students			Of which non-AERC sponsored
		Male	Female	Total	
1	Benin	1	0	1	0
2	Cape Town	5	5	10	0
3	Felix Houphouet-Boigny	1	0	1	0
4	Dar es Salaam	4	1	5	1
5	Ibadan	2	0	2	0
6	Nairobi	3	2	5	0
7	The Witwatersrand	0	0	0	0
8	Yaoundé II	0	2	2	0
	Total	16	10	26	1

The University of Cocody in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, has been officially renamed Felix Houphouet-Boigny University (Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny).

research at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Bunda, in Malawi and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The other fellow, who was admitted at the University of Pretoria, has also completed course work and commenced research work in May 2014. Cumulatively, a total of eight PhD fellows have benefitted from the CMAAE staff development fellowships. Three of the eight had successfully graduated by December 2014. These are Jackson Langat (registered at Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya) and Elias Kuntashula and Christopher Fakudze (admitted to the University of Pretoria, South Africa).

The period also witnessed the award of thesis research grants to 16 CPP Class of 2012 students who successfully presented their proposals at the thesis proposal workshop held on 2–4 June 2014

at the same time as the May/June 2014 biannual research workshop held in Accra, Ghana.

The 2014 CPP Joint Facility for Electives

The 2014 CPP Joint Facility for Electives (JFE) was successfully held from 30 June to 31 October 2014. A total of 26 students in the CPP Class of 2013 attended the JFE compared with the 17 CPP Class of 2012 students who attended the course in 2013. Out of the 26 students, 11 (42%) were female, a number notably higher than 24% in 2013 and 36% in 2012. Table 2 shows the distribution of the students by university and gender.

The University of the Witwatersrand was not represented at JFE 2014, because it had not admitted students for two consecutive years, 2011 and 2012.

Student distribution by nationality

The 26 CPP students were drawn from eight African nationalities, which is the same nationality spread as in 2013, but understandably lower than the 14 and 17 nationalities represented in the 2012 and 2011 JFE sessions respectively, when the overall student enrolments were significantly higher. The significant increase in the participation of Kenyans in the programme in the past three years is due to the targeted sponsorship by the Government of Kenya (GoK) under the AERC-GoK project. Out of a total of 26 CPP Class of 2013 students, 14 (54%) were Kenyans.

CPP JFE 2014 courses and visiting lecturers

A total of six elective courses, namely, Development Economics, Econometrics, Environmental Economics, Health Economics, International Economics and Public Sector Economics plus French and English language modules were offered. Six visiting lecturers per semester were appointed



to teach the elective courses and one additional instructor to teach the language modules.

The 2014 CMAAE Shared Facility for Specialization and Electives

The 2014 Shared Facility for Specialization and Electives (SFSE) commenced successfully at the University of Pretoria on 4 August 2014. An event to mark the official opening of the facility by AERC Executive Director Prof. Lemma Senbet was held on 11 August 2014. The event provided an opportunity for an introductory lecture delivered by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Process Project Coordinator, Mr. Andre Lechappelle, from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Investment Planning

Department. A total of 82 students participated. This is an increase of 20% from 68 in 2013. A total of 16 elective courses were offered and examined without any challenges. The SFSE 2014 was concluded successfully on 28 November 2014.

SFSE 2014 student distribution by gender and nationality

The proportion of female students stood at 43%, which is an improvement from 34% in 2013. This is partly attributed to the sensitization missions in 2012 that saw a larger number of female applicants admitted in 2013. In addition, a new scholarship selection procedure was introduced in 2013 that raised the chances of qualified female students being awarded scholarships. This resulted in 50% of all scholarships being awarded to female students

in the CMAAE class of 2013. Through continued sensitization missions to network universities, the programme expects to increase female participation to at least 50% in the next two years.

For the first time, students from Lesotho participated in the programme. With the admission of the University of Juba from South Sudan in the CMAAE network in 2013, and the needs assessment and sensitization mission to Angola, the programme expects to reach out to many post-conflict and fragile states.

The 2014 CMAP Joint Facility for Electives

The 2014 edition of the JFE for the CMAP Class of 2013 students admitted in Category B universities commenced on 23 June 2014 and ended



Collaborative Masters in Agriculture and Applied Economics (CMAAE) students listen to presentations during the official opening of the shared facility for specialization at University of Pretoria, South Africa. The proportion of female students was 43%, an improvement from 34% in 2013.

on 26 September 2014. The JFE was held at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS) in Nairobi. A total of six elective courses were offered, namely: Corporate Finance and Investments; Econometric Theory and Practice; Health Economics; International Economics; Monetary Theory and Practice; and Public Sector Economics. A total of 59 students drawn from all the seven Category B universities (Botswana, Cape Coast, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Makerere and Zimbabwe) attended the JFE. Sixty students took part in the 2012 session. The student numbers had risen to 143 (at the JFE 2011) before the elevation of the four universities (Addis Ababa, Dar es Salaam, Ghana and Nairobi) into Category C.

CMAP JFE 2014 gender distribution

Out of a total 59 students who participated in the CMAP JFE 2014, 29 (49%) were female. This marks the highest level of female participation in the programme since the inception of the JFE in 1993, and a significant milestone in the programme’s continued efforts towards achieving gender parity in graduate training and research in economics. Previously, the record of highest female enrolment stood at 38% that was recorded in 2011. The University of Botswana has maintained its consistency in high female enrolment with 75% (12 out of 16 students) being female, while remarkable improvements have been made by most of the other universities, except the universities of Malawi and Namibia. Overall, there have been gradual and significant improvements in the enrolment of women in the programme over

the years.

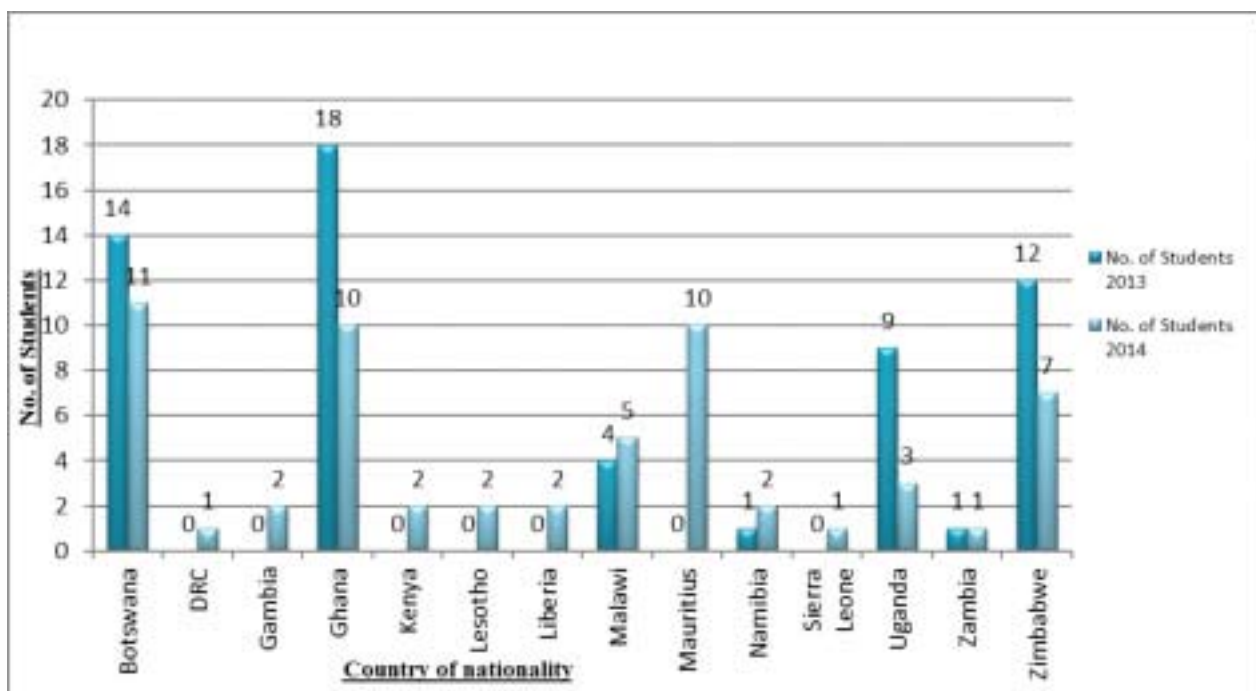
CMAP JFE student distribution by nationality

The participating students at the JFE 2014 were drawn from 14 African nationalities, double the nationality spread in last year’s JFE, and significantly higher than the 10 recorded in 2012. Figure 1 compares the students’ nationality distribution in 2013 and 2014.

While there is remarkable improvement in nationality distribution, the current Category B universities – particularly Cape Coast, Makerere, Malawi and Zimbabwe – need to increase efforts to admit foreign students.

In 2012 and 2013, no student from under-represented

Figure 1: CMAP JFE 2013 and 2014 student distribution by nationality





countries, including the post-conflict and fragile states, participated in the JFE. Understandably, the nationality spread has diminished considerably in recent years following the exit of the four Category C universities in 2012.

Teaching of CMAP JFE Courses

Twelve visiting lecturers were engaged to teach the six elective courses. Each field was taught by two lecturers, one for each semester. Out of a total of 75 applications for CMAP visiting lectureship, only four were by female applicants, two of whom were competitively appointed to teach Econometrics Theory and Practice (Dr. Angelica Njuguna), and International Economics (Prof. Imogen Patience Mogotsi). However, Prof. Mogotsi withdrew her participation citing other work commitments.

CMAP Category C universities

The year 2014 marked the third year since four Category C universities took full responsibility for teaching both core and elective courses, and did not send students to JFE. The total number of students admitted in Category C universities increased significantly to 138 in 2014/2015, compared with 112 in 2013/2014, 125 in 2012/2013, and 117 in 2011/2012. The University of Ghana recorded the highest admission (57) in 2014/2015,

followed by the University of Dar es Salaam (38). Addis Ababa University maintained its admission of 30 students every academic year. There has been a gradual drop of admission of students at the University of Nairobi to 13 in 2014/2015, down from 22 in 2013/2014, 26 in 2012/2013, and 33 in 2011/2012. This could partly be explained by the change in preferences of students to enrol into the part-time evening programme, which has been occasioned by the declining scholarship support to Category C universities.

Regarding the teaching of elective courses at the four Category C universities, the University of Dar es Salaam offered five elective courses (Corporate Finance and Investment, Econometrics Theory and Practice, Environmental Economics, Health Economics and International Economics) in 2014 to CMAP class of 2013 students. University of Ghana offered seven elective courses (Development Economics, Environment Economics, Health Economics, International Economics, Managerial Economics, Money and Banking, and Public Finance), while University of Nairobi offered six elective courses (Corporate Finance and Investment, Economic Policy Analysis and Planning, International Economics, Management Decision Analysis, Public Sector Economics, and Research Methods and Computer

Applications). Addis Ababa University offered six elective courses (Microeconomic Policy, Macroeconomic Policy, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, Environmental Valuation and Policy, International Trade Theory and Policy, and International Finance Theory and Policy).

Quality assurance under the new CMAP architecture

To ensure that the MA programme offered by Category C universities maintains the level of quality that has been the hallmark of CMAP since inception, several measures have been put in place. First, the academic members of staff from the Category C universities were among the experts who participated in the two subject specialist workshops held in February 2014 to review the three core courses (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Quantitative Methods), and in September 2014 to review five elective courses offered at the JFE (Agricultural Economics, Development Economics, Environmental Economics, Industrial Economics, and Monetary Theory and Practice). The Category C universities are expected to implement the newly revised core and elective course outlines.

The Secretariat conducted



monitoring visits to Addis Ababa University and University of Dar es Salaam in November 2014. The main aim of the visits was to assess the quality of teaching of core and elective courses at the respective universities.

The measures that have been put in place by the universities to enhance quality of teaching of core and elective courses include:

- Introducing co-teaching in several core and elective courses. A course coordinator is appointed for each course, who assigns each lecturer topics and hours of course coverage.
- Conducting student and peer evaluation of lecturers. The reviews are usually taken into consideration in the promotion of academic members of staff.
- Establishing a Quality Assurance Unit to monitor service delivery in the universities.

Finally, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Category B and C universities continues to engage external examiners to jointly externally examine the teaching of all courses in a Category C university and in at least two Category B universities.

The following challenges were, however, identified as impediments faced by Category C universities:

- a. The number of students enrolled in the programme in various Category C universities was not large enough to allow the respective universities to offer a wide menu of elective courses, as was the case at the JFE.
- b. Several Category C universities lacked adequate office space for lecturers, classrooms, computer laboratories and/or postgraduate resource centres to accommodate the increasing number of students. In addition, they lacked sufficient number of computers and statistical software, as well as reference textbooks.
- c. The dwindling sponsorship for MA students admitted to the programme had resulted in the reduction of the number of students enrolling in CMAP.
- d. Lack of participation of Category C universities at the JFE eroded the networking among students in the CMAP network.

To enhance the sharing of resources in the teaching of elective courses, AERC proposes the introduction of video conferencing and blended e-learning at the JFE and at Category C universities during the strategic plan period 2015–2020. Efforts will be made to encourage lecturers to develop online course materials for elective courses. These measures

**Babatunde Israel Ekundayo—
CPP Class of 2009 graduate
from University of Ibadan**

“I started my PhD immediately I finished my MSc programme. I was not employed in any paid job then because I was a full-time student. Upon successfully completing my studies in 2013, I was employed as a research fellow in a Federal Government Research institute, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, situated in the city of Ibadan, Nigeria.”

are expected to standardize the teaching of elective courses, encourage networking between students from Category C universities and those from Category B, promote efficiency, and minimize costs of offering elective courses in the long run.

**CMAP/CPP subject
specialist workshop**

A joint CMAP/CPP subject specialist workshop was held on 1–4 September 2014 in Nairobi, whereby CMAP/CPP electives, namely, Agricultural Economics, Development Economics, Environmental Economics, Industrial Economics and Monetary Economics Theory and Practice were revised. It is expected that the updated course outlines and reading lists produced at the workshop will be used in the next academic year, 2015/2016.

Develop and implement an enhanced research model to mobilize the expanding research community in Africa





Develop and Implement an Enhanced Research Model to Mobilize the Expanding Research Community in Africa

Intensifying the generation and use of policy-oriented research

By design, collaborative research projects serve as vehicles for retaining built capacity, increasing outreach and drawing in policy makers by producing a body of sound policy-relevant research.

Climate change (Window 1)

The capacity for effectively addressing the issues of poverty, gender, economic growth and climate change—as well as a whole range of cost-benefit analyses of climate change adaptation strategies—does not currently exist in the AERC network. AERC previously engaged professors Channing Arndt and Wisdom Akpalu from UNU-

WIDER to develop a full proposal for the joint Climate change project. A draft proposal was submitted early in the year, and AERC developed a concept note to facilitate resource mobilization efforts for the project. At the same time, as a result of consultations held between AERC and UNU-WIDER, the institutions are jointly working on mounting a far-reaching research project on Climate change in Africa that can leverage the strengths of both the institutions. Thus, AERC, in collaboration with UNU-WIDER and JPEG-MIT, engaged in the process of developing a broader proposal for a joint research project, responding to a call by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The consortium's "C" expression of interest was successful, paving the way for the submission of a fully-fledged proposal.



Participants follow discussions during one of AERC's research workshops.



Unfortunately, the Consortium recently abandoned the proposal development, owing to financial technicalities associated with some of the partners. AERC and UNU-WIDER have since agreed to jointly pursue the climate change research agenda, but would have to fundraise for it, a process which has begun.

Financial sector reforms and development

To shed light on these complex issues pertaining to financial sector development, and its linkages to economic performance in Africa, and to better support financial sector policy efforts in Africa, AERC launched a project on financial sector reforms and development in Africa. A total of 67 proposals were received in 2013 and sent out for external review.

Following the review process, 13 were selected for further work. The authors were asked to revise their proposals, based on the comments given by external reviewers, in readiness for a brainstorming workshop that was held on 20 March 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. During the workshop Prof. Isaac Otchere, Carleton University, Canada, was selected as the Project Coordinator. The selected research projects were commissioned in April 2014. AERC held a framework paper review workshop from 31 January–1 February 2015

in Nairobi, Kenya, where draft interim research reports were presented. Researchers were expected to revise their work and submit draft final research reports by April 15, 2015. A final reports review workshop is planned for mid-August 2015.

Health care financing in sub-Saharan Africa

AERC proposes launching a collaborative research project on Health care financing in sub-Saharan Africa. In this regard, AERC engaged Prof. Martine Audibert from Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International (CERDI), France, to develop a full proposal on the project. Prof. Audibert developed and submitted the final revised proposal in August 2014 following comments from AERC. Out of the full proposal, AERC developed a concept note with a budget to use for fundraising purposes.

Capital flight and tax havens

To provide insight into the problem of capital flight, AERC with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), launched a special research project on capital flight. Following approval from the Programme Committee, a call for expressions of interest for framework papers posted on the AERC website yielded 40 proposals. Fifteen papers that were commissioned after a brainstorming workshop held

in November 2012 yielded draft interim reports that were presented at a paper review workshop held in March 2013 in Kigali, Rwanda.

An edited final manuscript of the book containing framework papers of the project was submitted in February 2014 to Oxford University Press (OUP) with professors Leonce Ndikumana and Ibi Ajayi as editors. The book was published during the fourth quarter of 2014. Some of the framework papers provided input into the AERC Senior Policy Seminar on Capital flight from Africa held on 9–10 April 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Following an inception and capacity building workshop in March 2014 for 12 pre-selected country case studies under this project, the authors submitted inception research reports in April 2014. The inception reports were assigned among five resource persons—who constitute the steering committee for Phase 2 of the project. Based on the review reports, nine research projects were commissioned in June 2014 while three were discontinued.

An interim review workshop was held on 6–8 December 2014 back-to-back with the biannual research workshop. The researchers were expected to revise their research reports using the comments received



Prof. Germano Mwabu (left in spectacles) of University of Nairobi guiding researchers to expand their capacity for analysis and use of Service Delivery Indicators data in national policy dialogue on education and health issues in Kenya. The course was held on 18-24 August 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya.

and submit the revised drafts on 15 March 2015. A final review workshop is expected to be held on 29–30 May 2015 back-to-back with the AERC June 2015 Biannual Research Workshop.

Senior Scholars Research Programme

The Senior Scholars Research Programme (SSRP) provides an opportunity for senior members of the network to engage in AERC research. The objective of the programme is to retain senior scholars in the AERC network. A call for proposals was developed and posted on the AERC website and sent to network members in November 2012. The themes of the call were “Youth Unemployment; Sources and Spread of Growth Opportunities and Distribution of Benefits; and Natural resource management, climate change and economic development nexus”.

A total of 30 proposals received in March 2013 have undergone three rounds of external review, with three of them on the theme Youth unemployment considered promising. Given funding constraints, the need to manage this research programme and comments from reviewers, the Secretariat has decided to award two grants under the SSRP.

Capacity for Service Delivery Indicators

The Capacity for Service Delivery Indicators (CSDI) project has been developed jointly by AERC and the World Bank. The objective of the project is to expand the capacity for analysis and use of SDI data in national policy dialogue on education and health issues in Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania. The CSDI project has three components: Capacity for SDI analysis; Capacity for SDI policy dialogue; and Capacity

for service-delivery related communication and public accountability. The duration of the SDI project, which commenced in October 2013, is three years. Unfortunately, due to the strict World Bank financial management and procurement procedures, the

activities of the project have been considerably delayed. Nevertheless, a basic SDI training course was held in Kenya on 18–22 August 2014 with Prof. Germano Mwabu, Dr. David Muthaka, Dr. Eldah Onsomu and Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye as instructors.

A basic training course for Tanzania planned for 23–27 February 2015 was postponed due to the delay in the launch of the SDI survey results (country report). It is expected that the launch and the training course will be held in May 2015. Meanwhile, the country report for Nigeria was launched in Abuja, Nigeria, in September 2014. It is expected that the basic training for Nigeria will be held in June 2015.



Knowledge Platform Development Project

The knowledge platform on inclusive development policies brings together researchers from Africa and the Netherlands who work with the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and governments in exchanging information and ideas about how to achieve better research-policy linkages on economic transformation and inclusive development. The platform is one of five knowledge platforms that were initiated by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to generate knowledge that increases the effectiveness of (Dutch) donor policies and contributes to knowledge and effective policies in developing countries. The Secretariat of the Platform, which is responsible for the Platform's knowledge management, is being hosted by the African Studies Centre (ASC) in Leiden. It is a consortium made up of ASC, AERC, The Broker and the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS/EUR).

During the reporting period, stakeholder mapping in both Kenya and Mozambique in the areas of productive employment, strategic actors and social protection was undertaken and reports finalized and submitted. The Knowledge Platform Secretariat organized a workshop for the research consortia and a

platform meeting from 20 to 21 October 2014 in The Hague, the Netherlands. The first day was a workshop with Platform members and representatives from the research groups that have been granted funding by NWO/WOTRO. During the workshop the research groups introduced themselves and their research projects and discussed their research uptake activities. The second day was a meeting for Platform members to discuss the future knowledge activities.

Wrap up of old collaborative research projects

Growth-poverty nexus

The Growth-poverty nexus project has three components: two related to health and one related to growth-poverty links as discussed in the following sections.

Sub-project on understanding the links between growth and poverty reduction in Africa

The project seeks to identify the nature of economic growth that results in poverty reduction. This project is coordinated by Prof. Andy MacKay and began in June 2007. It has 10 framework papers and 13 country case studies: Two each for Cameroon and Nigeria, and one each for Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi and Senegal.

An edited final manuscript of a book proposal containing framework papers of the project was submitted on 28 April 2014 to OUP with professors Andy McKay and Erik Thorbecke as editors. It is expected that the book will be published later in the year (2015). Meanwhile, the country case studies have also been completed and plans are under way to publish a book volume.

Sub-project on health, economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa

This sub-project was initiated primarily to explore the effects of health-related variables (preventive and promotive measures such as vaccination and nutrition, spread of health facilities, HIV/AIDS infection rates, malaria, etc.) on poverty via their impact on economic growth in 10 African countries. Because empirical evidence on the interactions among health, economic growth and poverty in Africa is lacking, the research project on Health, economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa was expected to facilitate evidence-based policy responses to managing the African health crisis. The project, which began in 2008 and has eight framework papers and 15 country case studies, is coordinated by Prof. David Sahn.

An edited manuscript of a book volume that contains selected



framework papers and country case studies was submitted in March 2014 to the University of Nairobi Press with Prof. Sahn as the editor. It is expected to be published under the AERC imprint in 2015.

Several grants have been awarded to national think tanks to organize national stakeholder workshops where researchers from this project got another opportunity to disseminate their research findings. The think tanks are:

1. The Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), Uganda, 8 October 2013
2. The Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER), Nigeria, 19 November 2013
3. Zimbabwean Economic Policy Analysis and Research Unit (ZEPARU), Zimbabwe, 22 January 2014
4. Botswana Institute of Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA), Botswana, 1 April 2014
5. Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Analyses et Politiques Economiques (CERAPE), Congo Brazzaville, 30 April 2014
6. Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa, 28 March 2014
7. The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), Kenya, 11

September 2014

8. The Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), Ghana, 8 May 2014
9. Centre Autonome d'Etudes et de Renforcement des Capacités pour le Développement au Togo (CADERDT), Togo, 30 July 2014
10. Action en Faveur de l'Elimination du Travail des Enfants au Niger (ONG AFETEN), Niger, 23 April 2014
11. Economic Policy Research Unit (EPRU), Sierra Leone (date to be decided; delayed by the Ebola outbreak)

The main challenge to this project is that the research methodology is difficult to comprehend. However, the support received from the steering committee has been very helpful.

Sub-project on reproductive health, economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa

The purpose of the project was to investigate the complex interactions among reproductive health, economic growth and poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa, considering the initial conditions in each of the countries where case studies will be conducted. The project

began in May 2006 and has 13 framework papers and 20 country case studies.

Selected papers from the project were submitted in January 2014 to the Journal of African Development (JAD) to be published in a special issue with Prof. Germano Mwabu as the guest editor. Five papers have since been selected from among the thematic papers dealing with the issue of health and are currently under review by JAD. Prof. Mwabu will remain the editor of this special issue.

In an event held recently on the side-lines of the AfDB annual meetings, a participant from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) indicated that the research results from this project have a very powerful message—that reproductive health can now be looked at as an investment with positive impacts on economic growth and poverty reduction rather than as a population control strategy. He commended AERC and the researchers for their good work and said that this is a new vision that should have a positive impact on the advocacy functions of organizations like UNFPA that are interested in promoting reproductive health services in Africa and beyond.

Objective

3

Facilitate universities to take full responsibility for the collaborative master's programmes (CMAP)



Facilitate universities to take full responsibility for the collaborative master's programmes (CMAP)

This section of the report provides updates on activities carried out in order to support the collaborating universities take full responsibility of the respective collaborative postgraduate programmes – CMAP, CMAAE and CPP.

Maintaining academic excellence

Setting and grading of comprehensive examinations under CPP

As part of the coursework requirement, students write comprehensive examinations in microeconomics, macroeconomics and two elective fields. To facilitate this activity, a meeting of experts to set comprehensive examinations for the CPP Class of 2012 students was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 1 to 3 February 2014. Seven examination papers were set, namely, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Development Economics, Econometrics, Environmental

Economics, Health Economics and International Economics. The examinations were subsequently conducted at the universities of Cape Town, Dar es Salaam, Ibadan and Yaoundé II between 11 February and 3 March 2014. A total of 17 students sat the examinations, which were then graded by internal and external examiners during the period 18 March to 30 April 2014. Subsequently, the PhD Academic Board approved the results at its 26th meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 13 May 2014.

The CPP Class of 2012 students, who had sat, but failed, the JFE elective courses and comprehensive examinations sat supplementary examinations in the respective units in August 2014. The scripts were graded by internal examiners in September 2014 and the results were approved at a PhD Academic Advisory Board (AAB) meeting held on 2 February 2015.

The meeting of the PhD Academic Advisory Board was held concurrently with that of experts to set comprehensive examinations for the CPP



Professor Lemma W. Senbet (centre) poses for a photograph with students from various African Universities who had congregated at University of Pretoria in South Africa for a joint programme.



Class of 2013 students held in Nairobi on 1–3 February 2015. Eight examination papers were set (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Development Economics, Econometrics, Environmental Economics, Health Economics, International Economics and Public Sector Economics) and conducted at the host-degree awarding universities from 10 February 2015 to 3 March 2015. Thereafter, the examinations were graded by internal examiners in March 2015 and sent to external examiners together with the JFE examinations for review. Both results are scheduled to be presented for approval at the meeting of the PhD Academic Advisory Board in May 2015.

Enhanced quality assurance through Academic Advisory Board meetings

During 2014/15, all the AAB meetings and their sub-committees were held as planned in the three respective collaborative graduate programmes. Under CMAP, two back-to-back meetings were held. The set of meetings was held from 5 to 6 May 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya, and involved the Committee on Core and Elective Courses, and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee considered and approved the supplementary examination results for CMAP 2013 JFE, as well as the list of visiting lecturers for JFE, paving the way for the 2014

JFE. The second meeting was held in November 2014 in Entebbe, Uganda, and involved the Committee on Programme Evaluation and Institutional Development, and the CMAP Academic Advisory Board, which considered and approved the 2014 JFE results.

The Academic Sub-Committee of the CMAAE programme also held its meeting on 26 May 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya, to consider and approve the list of visiting lecturers, the venue for the 2014 SFSE and the external examiners for the SFSE courses. This was followed by the main Academic Advisory Board meeting held on 15 October 2014 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to consider programme implementation. The second meeting of the Academic Sub-Committee and the Academic Advisory Board was held on 27–28 January 2015 in Kampala, Uganda, to consider and approve the 2014 SFSE examination results. All the meetings went on smoothly and accomplished their mandate, paving the way for implementation of the programme in 2015/2016.

Similarly, CPP Academic Advisory Board meetings were held on 13 May 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa, to consider and approve the 2014 JFE and comprehensive examination results for CPP Class of 2012. The meeting of the Committee on Core and Electives was held on 14 May 2014 to consider the

Pieterse Duncan—CPP Class of 2009 graduate from University of Cape Town

“Before I joined CPP, I worked as a Project Manager, with Kaiser Associates Economic Development Practice. Upon attaining my doctorate degree in 2013, I am working as Director, Microeconomic Policy at the National Treasury, South Africa.”

electives and visiting lecturers for the 2014 JFE. On 2 February 2015, the Executive Committee considered and approved the supplementary examination results on behalf of the PhD Academic Advisory Board. The decision of the Executive Committee will be ratified during the May 2015 meeting of the PhD Academic Advisory Board. Going forward, AERC plans to consolidate or merge some of the board meetings as part of enhancement of both operational and cost efficiency.

Supporting CMAP, CMAAE and CPP universities

Annual operating grants were issued to all participating CMAP Category B and C universities, and to the eight CPP universities in support of their operations for the 2014/2015 academic year. The grants cover programme operating costs, allowances to university officials involved in programme implementation and fees for students (including thesis supervision fees). Expenditure on maintenance of



Ms. Sithole N. Lamie from Swaziland receiving a prize for being the best student at the SharedFacility for Specialization 2013 from Prof. Lemma W. Senbet, AERC Executive Director who presided on the award ceremony.

computers and other equipment is also covered by the grants. Hence, among other things, the grants improve teaching and research facilities at the universities as part of AERC's institutional capacity building.

The Secretariat also renewed service grants to eight universities for the CPP Class of 2011 and 2012 (universities of Benin, Cape Town, Cocody, Dar es Salaam, Ibadan, Nairobi, Yaoundé II, and the Witwatersrand).

Transitioning graduates into policy analysis and employment through internship

The programme continued to support internship, with the second cohort of interns who have been under the International Laboratory for

Agro-Biotechnology (ILTAB) project successfully presenting final results of the project at a one-day workshop held at the AERC premises on 26 September 2014. The workshop was attended by, among others, the ILTAB coordinator Dr. Claude Fauquet, and the interns' supervisor Dr. John Lynam. Ms. Ayele Yahnabeba, who is the only intern in the third cohort, is attached to Hawassa National Research Institute in Ethiopia. In January 2015, the programme recruited four new interns under the International Fund for Agricultural Development-African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (IFAD-AFRACA) project on Rural finance and knowledge management. This group of interns is attached to AFRACA country projects in Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland and Zambia. The project also has a survey research component

where two CMAAE faculty members in Ethiopia and Mozambique are undertaking a study on impact assessment and lessons learnt on the intervention of rural financing by AFRACA. This project is the pilot phase for the AERC engagement with AFRACA, and is expected to end in June 2015. The output from the survey work is expected in the form of policy briefs and some case study reports from interns.

Blended learning and CMAAE mid-term review

In an effort to re-examine the structure of CMAAE and develop appropriate strategies to reduce the delivery cost of the programme, the AERC Secretariat hired a platform development consultant in January 2015 to develop the delivery modalities



before conducting a content development workshop by April 2015. As part of the 2015–2020 strategic plan the Training Department plans to implement the blended learning modules to help overcome challenges at the SFSE and JFE in terms of large student numbers and high costs to the programmes, and to ensure wider outreach of the programme. The ultimate goal is to teach at least 50% SFSE/JFE courses through the e-learning platform by 2017/18.

On the CMAAE mid-term review, this was successfully completed in July 2014 through a submission of evaluation report by the evaluators. Recommendations from the report form an important component of the AERC 2015–2020 Strategic Plan. The report also forms the basis for ongoing phase II funding from the Bill

Beatrice Wambui Muriithi, a young professional scientist and a CMAAE graduate from Egerton University, says: “After finishing CMAAE, I was awarded a prestigious DAAD scholarship by the German Government in the year 2010 to pursue a PhD course in Development Economics at the Centre for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany. I have also worked with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and I am currently working with ICIPE as a socio-economist.”

and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Graduation of universities as evidence of built institutional capacity

As stipulated in the Strategic Plan 2010–2015, AERC plans to increase the number of CPP degree-awarding universities from eight to 12 with three of these earmarked for francophone Africa for wider outreach and coverage across the subcontinent. A total of three universities have applied to join the CPP degree-awarding university status. These are: Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, University of Botswana in Botswana, and University of Abomey-Calavi in the Republic of Benin.

Under CMAAE, the year witnessed accreditation of Haramaya University to host CMAAE core courses. The accreditation mission (made up of four AAB members and the AERC Secretariat) undertook evaluation of the university on 14–15 April 2014. The Sub-Committee report was positive and was formally approved during the 15 October 2014 meeting of the AAB, paving the way for admission of Haramaya University as the eighth accredited department under CMAAE. Consequently, the university will commence admission of CMAAE students in September 2015.

During the period 2014/15,

the training programme fully admitted University of Juba, South Sudan, as a Category A (or non-accredited) university. This has already started yielding fruit, with one student from South Sudan being admitted under the CMAAE programme at the University of Nairobi.

Joint enforcement of standards through monitoring and sensitization visits to network universities and to under-represented countries

During the 2014/2015 financial year, a team from the AERC Secretariat conducted monitoring and sensitization visits to three CMAP universities, namely Addis Ababa University, Makerere University and University of Dar es Salaam, in November 2014. A similar monitoring visit was conducted in May 2014 to the University of Cape Town, which is a CPP host-degree awarding university. During the visits, the Secretariat held meetings with the heads of department, teaching members of staff and students. The Secretariat noted that the universities had sufficient infrastructural and teaching capacity to offer graduate training and supervision of thesis research. However, among the challenges faced by some universities are inadequate stock of relevant textbooks and journals in the libraries, and lack of adequate space and equipment in

the computer laboratories to accommodate the increasing number of students.

Under the CMAAE, the Secretariat held a monitoring and sensitization mission to three universities: Egerton University on 21 June 2014, Sokoine University of Agriculture on 16 October 2014 and Makerere University on 27 January 2015. All the missions were successful as the team held discussions with students and staff besides sensitizing potential students about joining the AERC programmes.

In an effort to ensure inclusiveness in capacity building for policy making in Lusophone countries, the AERC Secretariat conducted a needs

assessment mission to the Agostinho Neto University in Angola in October 2014, to evaluate whether the university is suitable to join the CMAP and CMAAE network. At the moment, the Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique is the only university from the Lusophone countries in the CMAP and CMAAE network. A follow-up mission to finalize the partnership with Agostinho Neto University is planned for 2015.

CMAAE thematic faculty research support

To facilitate contribution to policy, research and networking, the CMAAE programme continued to support faculty members to undertake empirical research. During the reporting

period, the programme received five new proposals, which were presented at a side meeting held on 31 May 2014 during the June 2014 biannual research workshop held in Accra, Ghana. The presentations were reviewed by biannual resource persons, with four of the five proposals being approved as work-in-progress. As part of the full integration of CMAAE into mainstream AERC research, this group of grantees will present their work-in-progress within Group 5: Political Economy, Natural Resource Management and Agricultural Policy Issues at the biannual thematic research workshop in December 2015.



Students listening to speeches during the official launch of the shared facility for specialization 2013 at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Participation of female students has increased in the recent years

Objective

4

Enhance communication, outreach and policy promotion



Enhance Communications, Outreach and Policy Engagement

Publicizing AERC through policy outreach and other activities

Senior Policy Seminar XVII on “Agriculture in Africa’s Transformation: The Role of Smallholder Farmers”

Senior policy makers from sub-Saharan Africa assembled in Maputo, Mozambique on 26-27 March 2015 to discuss “Agriculture in Africa’s Transformation: The Role of Smallholder Farmers.” This was a successful policy seminar which ended with a declaration. The conference, which saw participation of 102 senior policy makers from across the region, was jointly hosted by AERC and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) with support from the Bank of Mozambique and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mozambique. More than 25 African countries

were represented at the forum. The AERC Executive Director delivered an opening speech by highlighting the significance of the topic, which stemmed from an AERC/WFP collaborative project on smallholder agriculture.

“This senior policy seminar on agriculture in Africa’s transformation provided a timely forum for dialogue between senior policy makers and thought leaders, and among policy makers themselves. This debate was conducted in the best of AERC traditions, guided by rigour and evidence. This is where research meets policy. The seminar was inspired by a productive partnership between AERC and WFP on the P4P pilot programme,” said Prof Lemma W. Senbet, Executive Director of AERC.

Media coverage

The AERC Secretariat made significant effort to ensure that the seminar drew extensive media coverage, with the result that leading



African Senior Policy Makers and participants pose for a photograph during the Senior Policy Seminar XVII held in Maputo, Mozambique on the theme “Agriculture in Africa Transformation: The Role of small holder farmers.



local newspapers, as well as television and FM radio stations allocated considerable space and time to enlighten the Mozambicans on the event. The *O Pais*, *Domingo*, and *The Noticias* all had articles about the seminar. The *Mozambican National Broadcasting Corporation*, (a national television station) with a massive reach also had slots between their programmes for the seminar. The television station also carried interviews with seminar participants. These interviews received more than three minutes of airplay on the national broadcaster.

AERC biannual research workshops: June and December 2014

The plenary sessions of the AERC biannual research workshops held in June and December 2014, on “Public Finance: Tax and Expenditure in Africa and Youth Employment: Challenges and Opportunities” respectively, attracted good media presence and coverage. Proceedings of the opening and the plenary sessions received extensive media coverage as local media houses and news agencies in Accra, Ghana, and Lusaka, Zambia, covered the events.

At the June 2014 plenary, state-owned *Ghana Television* (GTV), which prides itself for providing coverage throughout the country, covered the event.

Other television stations that covered the workshop were *TV3*, *Independent Television (ITV)*, and *Metro TV*. *The Daily Graphic*, one of the two state-owned daily newspapers in Ghana and the paper with the highest circulation, *The Ghanaian Times*, *Daily News*, the *Guardian*, *Business Times*, *The Citizen*, and *Daily Guide* all carried articles about the conference.

As for radio, *Citi FM*, and *Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC)* Radio (a state-owned radio station with satellite stations in all the regional capitals in Ghana) carried the story, which was also available on the *GBC website at <http://www.gbcbghana.com/1.1750502>*. *Peace FM*, *Joy News*, *Hot FM* and *Adom FM* also fully covered the meeting. The sessions were also streamed live and AERC network members who were not able to participate physically were able to follow the proceedings and send in their comments through Twitter. See also: <http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php/2012-02-08-08-32-47/general-news/5762-african-economicresearch-consortium-workshop-opens- for additional coverage of the workshop>.

During the December 2014 plenary in Lusaka, the *Times of Zambia*, *ZNBC Television*, *Daily Mail*, *ZANIS*, *ZBS*, *5 FM*, *MUVI Television*, *Comet Radio*, and *HOT FM* had articles or clips about the workshop on air. AERC also had the event on live stream, with a total of 139 viewers. We

got 112 followers on twitter with a total of 188 re-tweets. In total, there were 7,357 impressions. Interviews with presenters were broadcast on Zambian television stations.

AERC among top think tanks

AERC has once again featured among the top think tanks in the Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI). AERC is ranked first in sub-Saharan Africa and 25th globally in the category of International Development Think Tanks Worldwide 2014. AERC is a premier capacity building institution for policy oriented economic research and training in sub-Saharan Africa. AERC was second in this particular category in the last ranking. In the new category of International Economic Policy Think Tanks, AERC is ranked number two in sub-Saharan Africa and 35th globally. In the narrow category of economic policy focused think tanks in sub-Saharan Africa, AERC emerged second, and overall it was placed in position 11 out of the 469 think tanks assessed. The global launch of the 2014 Go To Think Tank Index was hosted by Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C., USA, on 22 January 2015. About 80 organizations in 60 cities and 50 countries around the world, took part in this simultaneous launch. AERC was one of the organizations chosen to take part in this live event.

AERC attains maximum five star Transparency award

The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) was conferred the supreme five (5) star rating by Transparify. Transparify is an initiative devoted to advocating for greater think tank transparency worldwide, including financial transparency. It rates the extent to which think tanks publicly disclose their sources of funding, the funding levels, and specific research projects, in an open and timely manner, in addition to disclosure on website. Transparify assessed 169 think tanks worldwide for its 2015 report and only 31 of these, including AERC, achieved the maximum 5-star rating. This means that AERC is among the global leaders in terms of financial transparency, a select group that includes some of the best-known names in the field. AERC is in the top 20% of think tanks worldwide, and apparently they only found two highly transparent think tanks in Africa this year, both of them from Kenya namely AERC and the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA). "We are delighted with this top transparency ranking. AERC endeavors to observe best global practices in everything it does, and it is encouraging that our outstanding efforts are receiving global acknowledgment," said Prof. Lemma W. Senbet, AERC Executive Director.



Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u (foreground), Governor Central Bank Kenya, listening to proceedings at the AERC Senior Policy Seminar. These are annual forums convened by AERC that provide high level African Policy makers the opportunity to come together to learn about results of AERC research and exchange policy experiences with each other.

Theses dissemination workshops

To empower smallholder farmers with best practices and policy makers with evidence-based recommendation for policy, the CMAAE programme successfully held two theses dissemination workshops during the 2014/2015 period. The first workshop was held at Egerton University, Kenya, on 24–25 June 2014, while the second one was held on 26 January 2015 at Speke Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop at Egerton had a total of 102 participants, while the Kampala workshop attracted 45 participants. As usual, the attendees were drawn from smallholder farmers, farmer group representatives, extension officers, policy makers, NGOs, local media and theses supervisors. The 2014/2015 workshops bring the total number of dissemination workshops held since 2011 to 13.

WFP-P4P Data Analysis and Knowledge Management Hub (DAKMAH) Project

AERC has since March 2011 partnered with WFP to establish and run a Data Analysis and Knowledge Management Hub (known as "the Hub") in support of the Purchase for Progress (P4P) pilot programme. The partnership was planned to run for a period of four years ending March 2015 and was intended to secure high quality monitoring and evaluation (M&E) technical support for the WFP/P4P programme. Under this partnership, AERC technical support to WFP had to deliver on the following objectives:

- Establishing a solid foundation for the measurement of the impacts of P4P;



- Promoting the accuracy, efficiency, and depth of the reporting of the P4P M&E results;
- Relieving WFP and partner staff of the pressure and constraints of data analysis and reporting;
- Enhancing the objectivity of P4P data analysis thus ensuring that the learning through P4P is not only relevant but seen as credible and legitimate by stakeholders and other intended targets of the lessons learnt;
- Facilitating deeper exploration of the P4P results, including comparison across countries and regions;
- Providing valid data to feed into policy development and advocacy processes at national, regional and global levels; and,
- Contributing to the capacity development of a centre of expertise that would have a recognized value as an indigenous knowledge repository of lessons and best practices in pro-smallholder agricultural and market development.

The following are the main accomplishments of the project since its inception in March 2011:

(i) Data

A key deliverable under the DAKMAH contract was to ensure that P4P data received

from WFP country offices are accurately collated, cleaned and made available to interested students, researchers and development agencies for their use. To this end, all the country offices, which have received technical support from the Hub, have completed their final round of surveys for both households and farmer organizations, except Ghana and Guatemala. To date, the Hub has cleaned the final survey data sets for six countries—Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi and Tanzania—using the harmonized data cleaning procedures developed. This cleaning process is expected to be completed during the course of 2015 for the remaining countries and the data will be uploaded onto the data portal.

(ii) Descriptive report writing

Much of the Hub's effort since the second half of 2014 was concentrated on finalizing the baseline and follow-up reports to be shared with the team conducting the final evaluation of the P4P pilot. Thirteen baseline reports were finalized and submitted to the P4P coordination unit in Rome. Nine out of 12 follow-up reports were finalized and submitted to the P4P coordination unit. It is expected that the remaining follow-up reports for DRC, Rwanda and Zambia will be finalized by March 2015, after incorporating the final year of data collection.

(iii) Data portal

One of the major activities under the AERC collaboration with WFP/P4P is developing a web-based data portal with the aim of making the data widely available, sharing and disseminating lessons learned from the P4P pilot. The development of the data portal started in 2012, and has been online since July 2014 (<http://www.aercdevdata.org/>). The data portal will share the lessons learned from the pilot project as well as the data generated over the five years of the pilot programme. For this to happen, the preparation of the data dissemination guidelines started in October 2014 and was finalized in February 2015. The Hub is working with the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) team from the World Bank on the development of the data portal to benchmark with international best practices and standards.

(iv) Dissemination and validation

Since the inception of the AERC/WFP project in 2011, the Hub in collaboration with the P4P HQ has organized six technical workshops: i) Technical Workshop for Internal Validation of P4P data in Nairobi, Kenya (30 January–5 February 2012); ii) Academic Peer Review and Validation Workshop in Zambia (29–31 August 2012); iii) P4P Instrument Review Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya



(4–5 February 2013); iv) Latin America Validation Workshop in El Salvador (16–18 April 2013); v) P4P Special Session at AERC Biannual Workshop in Accra, Ghana (4 June 2014); and vi) P4P Data Validation Workshop in Accra, Ghana (9–11 June 2014).

A P4P side event at the biannual research workshop (Accra, June 2014) was the first of its type organized by the Hub and the P4P coordination unit in Rome since the inception of the project. The goal of the side event was to expose the AERC network of researchers to the information and data that has been collected and is available for further analysis on the outcomes of P4P. The side event set the stage for the joint organization (AERC/WFP) of the AERC Senior Policy Seminar (SPS), which took place in Maputo, Mozambique, on 26–27 March 2015 on the theme Agriculture in Africa's Transformation: The Role of Smallholder Farmers.

The future of DAKMAH

As mentioned previously, the data portal will provide a platform for AERC to begin sharing data with African researchers and students. AERC is expected to build upon the portal to share data and other research material not available elsewhere for purposes of strengthening policy research in the sub region. It is also expected that an avenue to

share the results of the project will be sought, initially in the form of a series of publications or a book volume with a separate synthesis report accessible to policy makers.

Publications

Thematic research papers

Twenty (20) research papers were produced and distributed during the period under review (see Table 3).

Books and Reports

- *The Macroeconomics of Africa's Recent Growth*. This volume was drawn from final research papers developed under the auspices and support of the Thematic Research Programme of AERC. The book is edited by Prof. Ibi Ajayi and Shantayanan Devarajan and was published as a joint venture between the AERC and the World Bank. It was delivered for distribution in late 2014.
- *Capital Flight and Tax Havens*. The volume is an outcome of a Collaborative effort in the best of AERC's traditions, and focuses on capital flight from Africa; a key issue that African policy makers are grappling with. The book is edited by Prof. Ibi Ajayi and Prof. Leonce Ndikumana. It was published by the Oxford University Press (OUP) and delivered in

late 2014.

- *AERC Special Project on ICT and Economic Development in Africa*. This volume was processed for publication and published on the AERC website for wider circulation.
- *Impact of China and India on Sub-Saharan Africa* has been edited and typeset. The manuscript was shared with Moran Publishers Limited for possible publication under joint copyright, but negotiations did not bear fruit. This volume was then processed and published on the AERC website for wider circulation.

Promoting regional and global linkages and partnerships

Efforts to promote linkages continued during this period with the aim of enabling AERC to strengthen the quality of its research outputs and to ensure adoption of best research practices for research and policy. Such linkages not only improve the quality of research outputs, but also deepen capacity within the AERC network through synergetic interaction. In addition, collaboration with world class academic institutions continued as a means of enhancing the quality of graduate training in sub-Saharan Africa. Collaboration with existing partners



Table 3: New AERC research papers published

RP	Author	Titles of research papers
266	Abou Kane	Analysis of Labour Market Participation in Senegal
267	Mohammed Amidu	What Influences Banks' Lending in Sub-Saharan Africa?
268	Jonathan Mpundu Chipili	Central Bank Intervention and Exchange Rate Volatility in Zambia
269	Ameth Saloum Ndiaye	Capital Flight from the Franc Zone: Exploring the Impact on Economic Growth
270	Barthelemy M. Senou	Dropping Out of School in the Course of the Year in Benin: A Micro-econometric Analysis
271	Niringyiye Aggrey	Determinants of Private Investment Behaviour in Ugandan Manufacturing Firms
272	Luc Nembot Ndeffo, Tagne Kuelah Jean René and MakouDEM Téné Marienne	Determinants of Access to Education in Cameroon
273	Zakarya Keita	Current Account Sustainability in the West African Economic and Monetary Union Countries
274	Wumi Olayiwola, Olusanjo Oyinyole and S.L. Akinrola	An Empirical Assessment of Old Age Support in sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Ghana
275	Laurent Ndjanyou and Sébastien Djiénouassi	Characteristics and Determinants of Child Labour in Cameroon
276	Mohamed Jalloh	Private Sector Investment in Sierra Leone: An Analysis of the Macroeconomic Determinants
277	Bruno L. Yawe	Technical Efficiency and Productivity of Primary Schools in Uganda
278	Samuel Fambon	Comparisons of Urban and Rural Poverty Determinants in Cameroon
279	Akanni O. Lawanson	Impact of External Debt Accumulation and Capital Flight on Economic Growth of West African Countries
280	Asumani Guloba and Edward Bbaale	Female Education and Maternal Health Care Utilization in Uganda
281	Ibrahim Kasirye	HIV/AIDS Sero-prevalence and Socio-economic Status: Evidence from Uganda
282	Edward Bbaale	Female Education, Labour Force Participation and Fertility: Evidence from Uganda
283	Robert Nkendah, Chantal Beatrice Nzouessin and Njoupouognigni Moussa	Estimating the Informal Cross-border Trade in Central Africa
284	Eric Kehinde Ogunleye	Health and Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan African Countries
285	Kamden Cyrille Bergaly and Melachio Tameko Andre	Effects of Collective Marketing by Farmers' Organizations on Cocoa Farmers' Price in Cameroon



Other AERC publications

- Senior Policy Seminar XIV Report: A report titled Health, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa was published and distributed to the network.
- Senior Policy Seminar XV Policy Brief: A policy brief titled Youth and Unemployment in Africa was published in January 2014 and distributed.
- Senior Policy Seminar XV Report: A report titled Youth and Unemployment in Africa was published in January 2014 and distributed.
- Senior Policy Seminar XV Papers: A book titled Youth and Unemployment in Africa was published in February 2014 and distributed.
- Senior Policy Seminar XVI Policy Brief: A policy brief titled Capital Flight from Africa was published and distributed.
- Senior Policy Seminar XVI Report: A report titled Capital Flight from Africa was published and distributed.

Policy briefs

A total of 24 policy briefs were produced from the collaborative research projects during the period and posted on the AERC website for wider circulation. The policy briefs are AERC publications that provide a concise, readable summary of a specific research paper that is particularly intended for use by policy makers.

Other important publications and promotional materials

Updates from the AERC Executive Director's desk

Two AERC Updates were circulated to network members and other stakeholders. This is intended to be a regular activity in which the Executive Director updates AERC network members twice a year on recent and upcoming activities.

AERC Annual Report

The AERC 2013/14 Annual Report was published, and distributed to stakeholders.

Newsletter Issue Number 30

The AERC Newsletter Issue Number 30 was published and distributed to network members and other stakeholders.

Capacity building through grant support

During the period, AERC awarded several grants to support conference participation, national policy workshops and professional associations as provided in Annex C.



through various mechanisms continued while memoranda of understanding were signed with the following new partners:

- The Human Science Research Council (HSRC), South Africa;
- The Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet), Kiel World Institute, Germany;
- South Africa Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA);
- Understanding Children's Work (UCW) programme, which is an inter-agency research cooperation initiative involving the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank;
- The African Studies Centre, Yunnan University, China, under the China–Africa 10+10 think tank Programme; and
- Global Development Network on extended partnership of research and capacity building.

Information and Communications Technology

From the outset of the 2014/15 fiscal year, the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) unit has made significant efforts to increase efficiency and create new value through improved alignment and integration with operations and programme activities. A

significant milestone during this period was the development of the ICT strategy, which has provided a reference point to harness ICT in enhancing research, capacity building and operations in AERC. This strategy seeks to increase the integration of technology into AERC operations and programmes for greater efficiency and added value.

i. Online paper submission system

The online paper submission system is geared towards increasing the efficiency of the research management cycle by automating the paper submission and review process. This will result in reduced turnaround time, enhanced monitoring, interactive communication and transparency of operations. A pilot system is currently running to test the submission of new proposals through an automated workflow managing submissions and reviews. The next step will be the automation and integration of the publication process into the workflow.

Additionally, following a proposal to collaborate with the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) on the development of a Research Management System (RMS), an evaluation was conducted to determine the viability of this system as a long-term cost-effective solution. Based on this evaluation and upon commissioning through the internal procurement process,

a prototype will be developed as a mechanism for gathering requirements and enable incremental development of the system. With the ongoing work on automating paper submission, reviews and publication cycle, this process has been planned for the 2015/16 fiscal year.

ii. AERC alumni platform

The online AERC alumni platform thus far has grown in subscriptions to 133 registered members. This follows continued outreach by the interim steering committee, including the use of automated email campaign/marketing tools, to target individual network members. The implementation of a blog facility and a content management system to automate the news content life cycle is under way. This would ensure timely publishing of news content generated directly by the alumni whilst maintaining adequate quality controls.

iii. Digitizing AERC events and social media

The implementation of the AERC events portal has played an integral role in AERC's agenda towards paperless workshops. The portal hosts electronic versions of all workshop material thereby providing an aggregated information resource for participants. Integrated links to AERC social media

platforms, including Twitter and blogs, promote continuous engagement of participants on the workshop’s content and other pertinent topics informing future research agenda. Additionally, the live webcasting of AERC biannual research workshops and SPS has allowed a global audience to participate in these AERC flagship events.

iv. Digital library

Progress has been made towards the library digitization project including the activation and integration of an online subscription to the Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium. This provides access to online databases comprising over 50,000 journal titles from renowned publishers including Springer, Emerald Insight, Wiley Online Library and OUP.

v. AERC information systems move to the public/Internet cloud

In the wake of stable and cost-effective Internet services in the region, AERC is now well positioned to take full advantage of public/Internet cloud-based technologies. Leveraging economies of scale, cloud-based services offer global accessibility, scalability, reliability and improved performance at a low cost through well-defined rented services. Driven by the need for cost reduction, enhanced productivity, collaboration and ability to meet dynamic programme requirements, the Internet cloud presents an optimal solution. This strategy has seen the implementation of Office 365, a cloud-based application for Microsoft Office tools enabling file storage, email processing and archiving, collaboration, web conferencing among other productivity enhancing tools.

Backup and disaster recovery has also been augmented by cloud storage facilitating an additional layer of backup to the offsite processing facility in Arusha, Tanzania. This move follows the successful implementation of internal core computing applications on shared hardware infrastructure that has allowed cost savings by minimizing investments in capital intensive hardware purchases. This public/Internet cloud implementation is a hybrid of both local on premise systems and a virtual AERC Internet cloud ICT infrastructure. This approach will make the most of public cloud advantages whilst maintaining critical local instances of systems to mitigate control and security risks.

The AERC website

The AERC website now has 261 research papers, 63 policy briefs, newsletters, annual reports, and other materials. Posting of AERC publications, announcements of events, notifications and other relevant information to the website is an ongoing process to ensure users have the most up-to-date information about AERC and AERC activities. Figure 2 shows the monthly average website hits for the fiscal period 2014/15. Currently, a solution to link to RePec is being worked out to solve compatibility issues between the RePec and AERC platform.

Figure 2: Breakdown of website traffic sessions by continent for the period

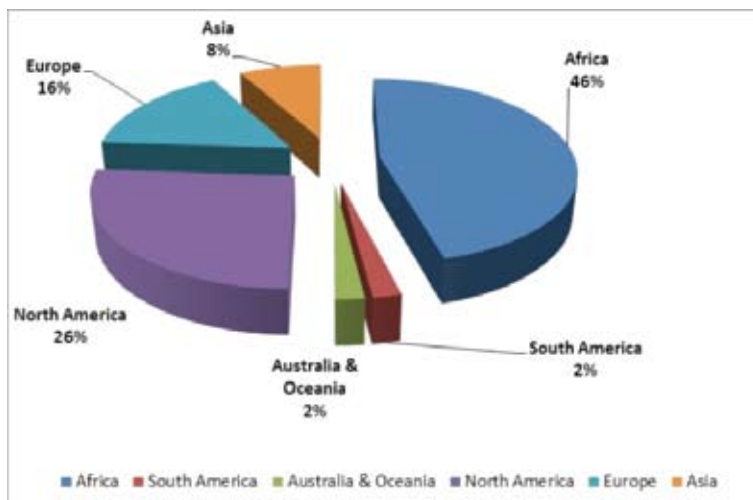



Table 4: Most downloaded publications in 2014/15

Publication name	Category	RP No.	Downloads
Import Demand in Ghana: Structure, Behaviour and Stability	Research Papers	RP233.pdf	3565
Determinants of Venture Capital in Africa: Cross Section Evidence	Research Papers	RP237.pdf	3125
The Effect of Price Stability on Real Sector Performance in Ghana	Research Papers	RP228.pdf	2965
Government Capital Spending and Financing and its Impact on Private Investment in Kenya: 1964-2006	Research Papers	RP236.pdf	2458
An Empirical Evaluation of Trade Potential in Southern African Development Community	Research Papers	RP235.pdf	2274
Efficiency Wage, Rent-sharing Theories and Wage Determination in the Manufacturing Sector in Nigeria	Research Papers	RP222.pdf	2169
Rural Non-Farm Incomes and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria	Research Papers	RP224.pdf	2074
Government Wage Review Policy and Public-Private Sector Wage Differential in Nigeria	Research Papers	RP223.pdf	1986
Volatility of Resource Inflows and Domestic Investment in Cameroon	Research Papers	RP221.pdf	1547
Urban Youth Labour Supply and Employment Policy in Côte d'Ivoire	Research Papers	RP240.pdf	1168
Trade Liberalization Financing and its Impact on Poverty and Income Distribution in Ghana	Research Papers	RP234.pdf	823
Factors Influencing Technical Efficiencies among Selected Wheat Farmers in Uasin Gishu District, Kenya	Research Papers	RP206.pdf	779
Investment in Technology and Export Potential of Firms in Southwest Nigeria	Research Papers	RP231.pdf	772
The Determinants of Private Investment in Benin: A Panel Data Analysis	Research Papers	RP209.pdf	748

Table 5: Most visited pages in 2014/15

Pages	Hits
Announcements	24,325
AERC Overview	17,584
AERC News	12,354
Collaborative PhD Programme (CPP) in Economics Overview	10,874
CMAAE overview	7,698
Research overview	6,587
Training overview	4,314

Objective

5

Strengthen and diversify the AERC resource base





Strengthen and Diversify the AERC Resource Base

As outlined in the Programme of Work and Budget 2014/15, the focus this year included: transforming the internal processes for increased operational efficiency and effectiveness of activities across the Consortium; strengthening the performance management and monitoring systems; strengthening financial management processes and systems; and ensuring resource mobilization efforts are sustained and expanded. Similarly, the development of the AERC Strategic Plan 2015–2020 was a key activity for the year.

Transforming human resource, administration and finance processes for efficient service delivery

Management and staff changes

The Consortium continued to operate with a staff complement of 35. The Data Analysis and Knowledge Management Hub (DAKMAH) project had a total of six staff members. Additionally there

were seven temporary support staff bringing the total work force at AERC to 48. However, several staff changes occurred during the period. The Manager, CMAAE, Dr. George Owuor, tendered his resignation which took effect in March 2015. The recruitment for the position commenced in September 2014 and Dr. Mark Korir was identified to fill the position. Dr. Korir was the Head of Economics Department at Moi University in Kenya and joined AERC on 1 April 2015. Following the departure of the Accountant during the first quarter, Ms. Pamela Kilwake joined AERC on 1 October 2014 from KIPPPRA, where she was an Assistant Accountant. Ms. Anna Owino, also joined AERC, in November 2014, as Personal Assistant to the Executive Director, following the departure of Ms. Roberta Muigai, who left the organization to pursue personal interests.

Staff development

During the period, two staff members participated in a conference titled International Conference on ICT Development for Development, Education and Training. As AERC looks into e-learning, this



Hearty Laugh: Prof. Augustine Langyintuo, World Bank and Prof Lemma W. Senbet share a joke during one of AERC's meetings.



course is useful in building our internal capacity in this area and exposing us to the various technologies available. One staff member attended a three-day procurement training course organized by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) in Johannesburg, South Africa. In-house training in procurement was also held and facilitated by ACBF. At the same time, Damaris Michoma, Procurement Administrator, undertook the first of the procurement certification examinations in November 2014. The period also saw Bertha Chedeye, the Programme Assistant for the CMAAE programme, graduate with a bachelor's degree while Charles Owino was awarded a PhD in Communications and Information Studies.

Performance management

The process of performance management was reviewed internally to ensure that performance is matched with rewards. This began with standardization of performance measurement for staff in the same level and with the same nature of activities. Various internal sessions have been scheduled to fine-tune the assessment forms. Non-performance reward initiatives were shared with staff during the October 2014 staff seminar. These will be enhanced and applied alongside the improved

performance management system.

Procurement processes

The new procurement policies and procedures as approved by the Executive Committee of the Board in March 2014 are now under implementation. For effective implementation of the new policies and procedures, a Procurement Consultant was engaged to assist in the development of procurement systems and processes, and to mentor and build internal capacity of staff on procurement for a period of six months. The Human Resources Administrator was re-assigned to handle the function of procurement and has already sat the first examinations in the process of acquiring the requisite certifications. There is continuous consultation and feedback with staff as the new procedures are implemented to ensure that there is clear understanding of what is expected and adherence to the set guidelines. Procurement plans have been developed for the Secretariat. These plans serve as a guide for the procurement unit and allow for frequent review of activities as per the programme of work and budget.

Staff seminar

A staff seminar was held in May 2014 at the Boma Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. The one-day seminar provided an opportunity for staff to discuss the draft AERC strategic plan for 2015–2020 and

to brainstorm on the proposed procurement processes aligned to the Procurement Manual that was approved by the Executive Committee in March 2014 as a working document. The staff engaged in discussions on the proposed pillars for the 2015–2020 strategic plan and gave suggestions for input into the draft document. The seminar also provided an opportunity for team building and bonding among staff. A second staff seminar was held in October 2014 at Simba Lodge in Naivasha. It was a two-day team building exercise with several engaging activities. The seminar also provided a forum for staff to discuss the outcome of the staff satisfaction survey and brainstorm on ways to improve the work environment and make AERC a better place to work.

Staff satisfaction survey

Two staff satisfaction surveys have been undertaken in the past two years. This year's (2014) results indicate a drop from last year (2013). Senior Management has discussed the report with the consultants, (IPSOS Synovate) and further examined the tools and areas that have contributed to the drop. Change management is among major contributors, but reading the report suggests other important elements as well: dissatisfaction with the current performance instrument and resistance to being evaluated under this system this year; lack of



AERC members of staff enjoying a game during a team building session.

growth opportunities and flat structure; technology; and lack of incentive-based pay.

Management has introduced several positive changes, mainly to enhance transparency, openness and inclusiveness. Among these changes are being more prudent in managing costs related to travel and per diems, and strengthening the contract renewal processes. To enable Management address the staff issues adequately, a number of group sessions have been held to further probe areas that may be of concern. It is anticipated that the information generated would enable Management to adequately address the key areas for improvement. However, Management will continue with the reform process and culture change within the Secretariat, as this will have a long-term positive effect on the image of the organization. Following the exercise, a consultant was tasked with carrying out focus group discussions to get better

input on the issues raised in the survey for presentation to Management. Staff and Management had an opportunity to discuss some of the issues arising out of the survey during the October staff seminar.

Staff Committee

Management continues to facilitate activities of the Staff Committee, which also serves as an alternative channel of communication for staff. The following members continue to serve as the officials: Chair, Damaris Michoma; Secretary, Emma Rono; Treasurer, Lamiku Kidamba. The role and mandate of the staff evaluation committee is under review to determine the most effective modality to make the committee a more effective channel for staff to provide feedback.

Staff Provident Fund

The Staff Provident Fund is managed by a Board of Trustees comprising staff members whose role is to oversee all matters

related to the fund in terms of its administration, investments, compliance and appointment of service providers. During the period, the trustees approved the 2013 financial statements of the Fund.

The quarterly review meetings with the Board of Trustees and service providers were held at the end of each quarter. The members' Annual General Meeting was held on 20 June 2014. The meeting provided a forum to present the Fund's audited accounts for 2013. It also served as an avenue to educate the members on the latest developments in the social security sector and the management of retirement benefits. During the period, a new member, Susan Miyengi, was elected to the Board of Trustees to replace Mathew Maiyo who left the organization. The regulatory body for the provident and pension schemes requires that all Boards of Trustees are trained and



certified. This year all the Board of Trustee members attended the certification training and were certified as Trustees. It is expected that with the training and certification, the Board of Trustees will be able to better manage the day to day operations of the fund.

Strengthen financial management and reduce risk exposure

Audits

The statutory audit for 2013/14 was conducted in May 2014 by the Consortium's external auditors, Ernst and Young. The audit reports were presented and approved by the Executive Committee of the Board in July 2014. Thereafter, the approved audited accounts were submitted to all funders along with the AERC published annual report for the same period. At the same time, the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) returns were completed and submitted to ensure compliance with the registration requirements.

The Special Audit of ACBF for CMAAE and CPP was also carried out in May 2014. In preparation for the main audit, an interim audit for 2013/14 was carried out in February 2014. The outputs of the audit include management letters which provide recommendations for

strengthening internal controls and any areas where weaknesses are noted. A finance and systems review workshop was carried out in September 2014 to discuss the issues raised from the audit and to address general work processes in an effort to enhance efficiency. Recommendations and time lines for implementation were also agreed upon.

The interim audit for the 2014/15 financial year took place in February 2015 and formed part of the statutory audit that took place in May 2015. The final audit will include the specialized audits for the World Bank SDI project and ACBF audits for CPP and CMAAE. The audited reports will be presented for approval in the July 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee of the AERC Board.

The Microsoft Information Product (MIP) Accounting System

The current system used for bookkeeping and financial reporting is the Sage Microsoft Information Product (MIP) fund accounting system. The system has been working as a standalone alongside other systems, which include the Grants Management System (GMS) that is used to keep grantee and payee details and print payment vouchers. Efforts to link the two systems in the past to eliminate duplication of efforts in data input were

made by Ziegner Technologies Consultants, who provide support for Sage MIP, but to no avail. The weakness in the MIP system has been raised as a concern by various audits including the recent ACBF audit mission. Inadequate support and training have thus resulted in the underutilization of the system.

To facilitate integration with other processes like procurement, an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, would be required. The system's requirements and mapping of processes have been developed and the procurement process has commenced. It is envisaged that a reputable firm would have been identified by early April 2015 to enable implementation process in modular stages commence. This would transform the current manual processes, enhance efficiency and reduce costs of paperwork. Funding support for the procurement of an ERP system has been provided by Sida.

Global Development Network financial review

The Global Development Network (GDN) undertakes periodic reviews of its grantees in fulfilment of the funding conditions of the World Bank, one of its key donors. A financial review of AERC was undertaken by a GDN team on 28–29 April



2014. The review confirmed that AERC has a sound internal control system in place and well defined finance, procurement and other relevant policies and procedures. However, the review noted weaknesses in the AERC grant management system that must be addressed, such as the need to reduce the period between the end of the grant and the time when a grantee is expected to refund unspent funds under the grant. The review noted that there was a need to provide additional clauses in the current grant agreement, including a clause to indemnify AERC against any actions by the grantee in implementing activities funded by the AERC grant; and another to oblige grantees to undertake only original work to safeguard against plagiarism. Management has taken these recommendations into consideration and will review their implementation on a periodic basis.

ACBF, World Bank and Sida joint mission

A joint mission of ACBF, the World Bank and Sida was undertaken in May 2014 to monitor the progress of the AERC programme activities funded under the ACBF partnership. The mission provided a forum to jointly and critically analyse the programmes' achievements and challenges and consider priorities of the partnership in future.

Evaluations of AERC programmes and development of the new strategic plan

Evaluation of the Strategic Plan for 2010–2015

To guide our future programme focus and delivery for more impact, a systematic review of the AERC Strategic Plan 2010–2015 was commissioned by the Board of Directors in 2013. Prof. John Loxley, University of Manitoba, Canada, and Dr. Caleb Fundanga, Executive Director, MEFIM, were recruited to undertake the evaluation. This was done alongside the review of the thematic research programme undertaken by two consultants, namely Prof. Stephen O'Connell, Swarthmore University, USA, and Dr. Dominique Njinkeu, the World Bank, USA. A mid-term review of the CMAAE programme was also conducted concurrently by Dr. Alex F. McCalla, University of California-Davis, USA, and Prof. Hans P. Binswanger-Mkhize, formerly at the World Bank and currently a visiting professor at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

The evaluation reports have been submitted. The reports considered comments made on the draft reports following their presentation to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors in March 2014 and to the Programme Committee

in June 2014. The external evaluators presented their report to the special meeting of the AERC Board that was held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 14 November 2014.

Development of AERC Strategic Plan 2015–2020

The development of the new strategic plan has involved wide consultations with a broad range of stakeholders and has also been informed by recent evaluations and recommendations. Following the presentation of the draft framework of the plan to the AERC Board in March 2014, the draft AERC strategic plan for 2015–2020 was presented to the Programme Committee at its June 2014 meeting. The Committee, whose role is to set the agenda and goals of the AERC research and training programmes, in consultation with the Executive Director as per AERC by-laws, provided valuable input on the draft plan that was presented to the Executive Committee of the Board in July 2014. Based on the comments received, Management revised the plan, resulting in a shorter version that was shared with the Executive Committee in September 2014. A special meeting of the Board was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2014 to review the draft strategy. The ultimate target is to present the finalized AERC Strategic Plan 2015–2020 for approval by the AERC Board



in March 2015. The special meeting of the Board provided a forum for AERC to seek support from existing donors for the new strategy with effect from April 2015.

Resource mobilization

Deepening partnership and sustaining existing funders

Efforts to increase the resources available for programme implementation continued to be prioritized throughout the period. A grant agreement in support of core programmes for SEK18 million (US\$2.7 million) from Sida was signed in April 2014, to provide 18 months bridging support to the end of the current strategy. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Danish International Development Agency (Danida), also awarded AERC a two-year grant of DDK10 million (US\$1.8 million) for core programmes. AfDB confirmed that its Board has approved a grant to AERC of US\$720,000 towards the Exchange Programme for Research and Mentorship between AfDB and AERC over a 2-year period. Furthermore, following the submission of a concept note for support from the Bank's African Development Fund in February 2014, the AfDB Operational Committee approved the preparation and submission of the appraisal

report of AERC's proposal. As a result, a mission to prepare the appraisal report was undertaken in October 2014 and negotiations on this funding are ongoing. It is expected that the project would be presented for approval during the next AfDB Board meeting.

In related efforts, the Executive Director visited DFID on 25 September 2014, where he held meetings with the DFID Chief Economist, Prof. Stefan Dercon, and the Growth and Research Team, the focal unit in DFID responsible for support to AERC. Similar meetings were held in October 2014 with the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in Washington, D.C., as well as with Norad and Danida, in Oslo and Copenhagen respectively. A meeting was also held with Sida in Nairobi in November 2014. The meetings with key current core funders provided forums for the Executive Director to update the partners on AERC's upcoming strategic priorities proposed in the draft strategic plan for 2015–2020 and to seek support for the new strategy. Following the September meeting, a DFID team visited the Secretariat in November 2014 to work with AERC on the business case and logframe for the new strategy. Discussions on potential funding from DFID with effect from April 2015 are ongoing.

Following discussions with key donors during the special

meeting of the Board to review the draft strategy held in November 2014, AERC has since then submitted funding proposals to Norad and Sida in February 2015 requesting their support for the new strategy. The Executive Director visited Sida offices in Stockholm in February 2015 to discuss their support to the new strategy. The World Bank, in February 2015, confirmed the approval of funding to AERC for a period of two years and has shared a draft funding agreement to support AERC with US\$200,000 for the current fiscal year.

A concept note submitted to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for funding CMAAE Phase II received favourable feedback. Related to this, the AERC Executive Director and the Director of Training held meetings with the Foundation team in Seattle, USA, in February 2014 to pursue discussions of this funding and present the upcoming strategy.

A funding proposal to WFP is currently in development based on the successful pilot phase of the DAKMAH project as the current grant for this project comes to an end in March 2015.

Re-engaging with previous donors

Efforts to re-engage with previous donors continue to realize positive results. Following meetings with the



Hon. Luisa Meque, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Mozambique at the official opening of the AERC Seminar Policy Seminar held in Maputo on the theme “Agriculture in Africa’s Transformation: The Role of Smallholder Farmers”

International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the AERC funding proposal for research activities focusing on fragile and post-conflict states was positively evaluated. In December 2014, IDRC confirmed the approval of the grant support request and a grant agreement for CAD\$1,300,000 (US\$1,150,700) is currently in development and is expected to be signed by March 2015.

There are also continuing efforts to re-engage with USAID, which hosted the March 2014 AERC Board meeting in Washington, D.C., and provided opportunities to have AERC forums, including the CSIS forum on “AERC: Research Meets Policy in Africa”. In response to a bridge support request, USAID has used a channel outside the

traditional Africa Bureau, to support AERC through GDN for the Africa Voice project. An MoU on this project and a sub-grant agreement for US\$285,000 was signed between AERC and GDN in February 2015. For the long term, Management is in communication with USAID for fully-fledged re-engagement through the African Bureau (which has been the traditional channel of support to AERC). In this regard, a meeting was held with USAID in October 2014 and led to high-level representation by USAID to the special meeting of the AERC Board in November 2014 in Nairobi. A follow-up meeting with USAID was held in January 2015 at USAID offices in Washington, D.C. The discussions to date indicate that USAID will support the AERC Strategic Plan 2015–2020.

The AERC Executive Director and the Director of Research met with the Managing Director for Africa at the Rockefeller Foundation in Nairobi in July 2014, to pursue the possibility of the Foundation re-engaging with AERC as a previous funder.

Enhancing African stakeholder-ship

A meeting was held in May 2014 with the Principal Secretary and other senior officials of the National Treasury in Kenya during which AERC updated the team on recent developments within the organization and the emerging priorities for the next AERC strategy.

The AERC Executive Director took the opportunity of the IMF-organized Africa Rising conference in Maputo,



Prof. Lemma W. Senbet, AERC Executive Director stresses a point during a Governors' Forum meeting. Looking on is Prof Benno Ndulu, Governor, Bank of Tanzania. Prof. Ndulu was the first African Executive Director of AERC.

Mozambique, in May 2014 to meet with numerous senior African government officials, who included those from the ministries of finance and central bank governors and deputy governors from Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. As a result, the Governor of the Bank of Tanzania offered to co-host an agreed Alumni Governors' Forum. The first ever AERC Central Banks Governors' Forum was held on 13–14 August 2014, in Zanzibar. The meeting was a resounding success with 10 central bank governors and deputy governors in attendance. The Forum discussed the role of African governments and institutions in supporting AERC activities for sustainability, in addition to increasing their voice in the governance of the Consortium. The 10 central banks represented at the beginning (Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda,

Zambia and Zimbabwe) agreed to become the Founding Members of the AERC Governors' Forum and to co-opt the Bank of Nigeria, whose governor was unable to attend the meeting.

A follow-up meeting was held on 19–20 February 2015 in Livingstone, Zambia, during which the members of the Governors' Forum resolved to join the Consortium and provide core support in line with AERC bylaws. The forum welcomed the participation of the South Africa Reserve Bank and Reserve Bank of Malawi at the Livingstone meeting.

On presentation of a financing gap for CMAP and CPP, the governors present pledged a total of US\$650,000. To date, a total of US\$400,000 has been disbursed to AERC, with the balance pledged to be cleared before the end of the current financial year. The major outcome

of the August meeting was the support of a long-term engagement and support to AERC through a modality that would allow for annual contributions to the Consortium. This would in turn provide a bigger voice in AERC through a proposed group directorship to the AERC Board. The proposed modality was discussed with the governors at a meeting held in October 2014 in Washington, D.C., during the annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF. A meeting co-hosted by the Bank of Zambia was held in Livingstone, Zambia, on 19–20 February 2015 to formalize the framework of the Governors' Forum. The framework for the Forum's engagement with AERC was approved by the AERC Board in March 2015.

The need for an enhanced African stakeholdership was reiterated during the meetings of the AERC alumni which were held in Accra, Ghana, in



June 2014 within the biannual workshop. The attendance of senior alumni members (attending as panellists on the plenary policy roundtable and resource persons) provided an important forum to request their support in connecting AERC with their governments and other institutions.

Engaging with new and non-traditional partners

Still on partnerships to increase resources, AERC submitted a funding proposal under the China–Africa Joint Research and Exchange Programme, which was based on a meeting held between the Chinese Embassy in Nairobi and AERC in May 2014. The programme is part of the Forum on the China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) initiative and has the potential to broaden the AERC resource base to include non-traditional partners.

A contract was signed in June 2014 between AERC and the African Study Centre (ASC) in Leiden, the Netherlands, for the Knowledge platform for development policies project, which is an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands. AERC is part of a consortium led by ASC that will provide the Secretariat for the knowledge platform. AERC is responsible for knowledge brokering on social protection and the engagement of African policy makers as well

as organizing workshops and platform meetings in Africa.

AERC ranked high in global transparency ranking

AERC was twice during this period awarded the maximum possible five-star rating by Transparify in its results announced in May 2014 and February 2015. The May 2014 rating recognized AERC as one of only 21 transparency leaders identified worldwide, out of a total of 169 institutions, including the world's most prominent think tanks. This also makes it the only highly transparent large think tank in Africa. Transparify is an initiative devoted to advocating greater think tank transparency worldwide. This project assesses and rates the financial transparency of think tanks globally. It rates the degree to which a think tank publicly discloses its funding, including sources, funding levels, and specific research projects, in an open and timely manner, including on websites. AERC's rating moved up to the maximum five-star rating this year from a four-star rating in the previous ranking.

Key challenges

The key challenges experienced during the period include:

- Limited capacity due to a heavy workload occasioned by the implementation of the new procurement

procedures. This has been dealt with, in part, by engaging a procurement consultant on a short-term basis to assist in setting up systems.

- The limited automation and integration of administrative processes continues to be a challenge, as the systems currently entail significant duplication of effort. This is being addressed through the proposed installation of the ERP system. The requirements and mapping of processes and the initiation of the procurement of the ERP system are ongoing.
- To realize results from fundraising efforts, there is a need to have face-to-face meetings of the Executive Director, in particular, and other senior AERC staff with numerous partners, especially senior officials from African governments, those being re-engaged with, and new partners. This requires heavy investment in the time of senior Management, particularly the Executive Director.
- The evolving change management with a variety of reforms and changes are stressful but necessary. Things will improve as we adapt to changes and reforms, but the transition is a challenge.

Financial Performance





Introduction

The Programme of Work and Budget for the year was approved by the Board in March 2014 with income and expenditure levels of US\$ 11.0 million and US\$ 17.4 million respectively. The excess expenditure over the income of US\$ 6.4 million was to be financed from the net assets carried forward from the previous year of US\$ 11.4 million (US\$ 1.9 million unrestricted and US\$ 9.5 million restricted).

Key Financial Highlights

The Consortium's auditor Ernst and Young carried out the main statutory audit for the 2014/15 a long side the special audits of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and World Bank, Service Delivery Indicators (WBSDI) Project.

The Financial statements reflect actual income of US\$ 13.2 million. This was 20 % over the planned PWB levels and 48 % increase over the previous year's income of US\$ 8.9 million.

The increase in income is mainly attributed to advance receipt of income for 2015/16 from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and International Development Research Centre (IDRC). As well, additional income of US\$ 450,000 received from the African Central Banks and increase in the level of investment income. The expenditure for the period was US\$ 12.5 million. This was 28 % less the level of planned PWB expenditure and more or less at same level as the previous year. The net assets of the



AERC Governors' Forum members pose to take a picture after attending a meeting: The move to have this forum join the AERC consortium was a historic achievement for helping AERC in a more sustainable basis while enhancing stakeholder ship.



Consortium at the year-end amounted to US\$ 25.7 million, out of this US\$ 10 million pertains to the Consortium's Board Reserve Fund (US\$ 3.9 million) and Research Innovations Endowment Fund (RIEF) (US\$ 6.1 million). The balance of US\$ 15.7 million are Programme Funds available for Programme activities in

the coming period and beyond (US\$ 6.7 million of this amount is earmarked for Government of Kenya Special capacity Building Project).

The Consortium's financial statements were duly approved at the July 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee of the AERC Board. The approved financial statements as well

as the memorandum on examination and internal control were subsequently shared with all donors. A summary of the approved audit report for the fiscal year is presented on the financial pages.



2014-2015

Summary Financial Report

Report of the Independent Auditors To the Members of African Economic Research Consortium, Inc.

We have audited the financial statements of the African Economic Research Consortium for the year ended 31 March 2015 from which the summarized financial statements on pages 59 to 62 were derived, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. In our report dated July 23, 2015, we expressed an unqualified opinion of the financial statements from which the summarized financial statements were derived.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarized financial statements are consistent in all material respects with the financial statements from which they were derived.

For a better understanding of the Consortium's financial position and statement of activities for the year and of the scope of our audit, the summarized financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements from which they were derived, and our audit report thereon.



Certified Public Accounts

Nairobi

July 23, 2015.



Statement of Financial Position for the Year Ended 31 March 2015 (US\$)

	2015 US\$	2014 US\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and bank balances	1,487,852	1,269,697
Short-term investments	13,250,960	12,501,913
Grants receivable	206,812	502,215
Other receivables	<u>512,923</u>	<u>679,188</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>15,458,547</u>	<u>14,953,013</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Long-term investments	10,122,564	9,636,505
Property, plant and equipment	134,313	111,154
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>10,256,877</u>	<u>9,747,659</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>25,715,424</u>	<u>24,700,672</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accruals	549,631	630,543
Sundry creditors	158,551	94,797
Grants payable-grantees	3,809,759	3,535,820
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>4,517,941</u>	<u>4,261,160</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	1,107,490	1,525,101
Board restricted reserve	3,932,499	3,797,511
Temporarily restricted net assets	10,681,066	9,822,602
Research innovations endowment fund	5,476,428	5,294,298
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>21,197,483</u>	<u>20,439,512</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>25,715,424</u>	<u>24,700,672</u>



Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended 31 March 2015 (US\$)

	Operating Reserve	Board Restricted Reserve	Temporarily Restricted Reserve	Permanently Restricted Reserve	Total 2015	Total 2014
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Support and revenues						
Grant from Governments	3,953,193	-	5,157,876	-	9,111,069	6,471,873
Grants from Foundations	-	-	1,706,314	-	1,706,314	1,344,697
Grants from Other Organizations	395,412	-	969,857	-	1,365,269	418,620
Investment income	213,017	134,988	471,192	182,130	1,001,327	633,143
Other income	5,128	-	-	-	5,128	67,137
	<u>4,566,750</u>	<u>134,988</u>	<u>8,305,239</u>	<u>182,130</u>	<u>13,189,107</u>	<u>8,935,470</u>
Net assets released from restriction						
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	7,483,067	-	(7,483,067)	-	-	-
Grants forfeited	-	-	36,292	-	36,292	-
Appropriation to/from Board Reserve/ RIEF	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustment in fair value of Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>7,483,067</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,446,775)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,292</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Support and Revenues	12,049,817	134,988	858,464	182,130	13,225,399	8,935,470
Expenditure						
General administration	1,262,147	-	-	-	1,262,147	1,464,781
Program management	77,430	-	-	-	77,430	143,018
Research Program	3,138,715	-	-	-	3,138,715	3,039,816
Communications	722,189	-	-	-	722,189	965,787
Masters Program	2,118,924	-	-	-	2,118,924	1,478,877
CMAAE Program	2,593,512	-	-	-	2,593,512	2,890,035
Doctoral Program	2,554,511	-	-	-	2,554,511	2,708,417
Total Expenditure	12,467,428	-	-	-	12,467,428	12,690,731
Change in Net Assets	<u>(417,611)</u>	<u>134,988</u>	<u>858,464</u>	<u>182,130</u>	<u>757,971</u>	<u>(3,755,261)</u>
Net Assets at the beginning of the year	1,525,101	3,797,511	9,822,602	5,294,298	20,439,512	24,194,773
Net Assets at the end of the year	<u>1,107,490</u>	<u>3,932,499</u>	<u>10,681,066</u>	<u>5,476,428</u>	<u>21,197,483</u>	<u>20,439,512</u>



Grant Income for the Year Ended 31 March 2015

		Income for Year 2014/15	Income for Year 2013/2014
Government Entities			
Danish International devt agency (DANIDA)	U	1,621,614	862,073
Int Devt Research Centre (IDRC)	U	-	28,185
Int Devt Research Centre (IDRC)	R	654,156	-
Norwegian Agency for Devt Co-op (NORAD)	U	268,863	275,838
Norwegian Agency for Devt Co-op (NORAD)	R	1,162,015	1,681,318
The Netherlands: African Studies Centre (ASC)- Knowledge Platform	R	57,662	-
Dept for International Devt (DFID)	U	1,230,469	2,137,650
Swedish Int Devt Co-op Agency (Sida)	U	832,247	-
Swedish Int Devt Co-op Agency (Sida)	R	816,650	-
USAID	U	-	36,302
USAID	R	-	(66,734)
Government of Kenya	R	2,017,393	1,517,241
Central Bank of Zambia	R	50,000	-
Central Bank of Tanzania	R	100,000	-
Central Bank of Burundi	R	50,000	-
Central Bank of Uganda	R	100,000	-
Central Bank of Ghana	R	100,000	-
Central Bank of Mozambique	R	50,000	-
Subtotal		9,111,069	6,471,873
Foundations			
African Capacity Building foundation (ACBF)	R	1,609,714	899,746
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - CMAAE	R	-	321,876
DAAD	R	96,600	123,075
Subtotal		1,706,314	1,344,697

Note: R – Restricted funding U – Unrestricted funding

Continued on Page 63



Continued from Page 62

	Type of Funding	Income for Year 2014/15	Income for Year 2014/2013
Other Organizations & Individuals			
Int Bank of Recn & Devt (IBRD)	U	200,000	-
Global Development Network (GDN) (IBRD)	U	-	198,000
Global Development Network (GDN) (IBRD)	U	195,412	37,737
GDN/USAID	R	142,500	-
World Food Programme (WFP)	R	591,186	-
UN Weider	R	-	(48,237)
African Development Bank	R	76,700	50,000
Donald Danforth Plant Science Centre	R	-	29,120
World Bank SDI	R	-	150,000
Other Income -RIEF(Individual contributions)	U	-	2,000
African Rural & Credit Association	R	159,471	-
Subtotal		1,365,269	418,620
GRAND TOTAL		12,182,652	8,235,190

Note: R – Restricted funding U – Unrestricted funding

Annex A: Research Programme statistics for 2014/15

Table A1: Distribution of research reports and CPP theses by thematic group

June 2014 Group	NP	RP	WIP	FR	CPP	Total
Group A	7	0	1	4	5	17
Group B	6	1	0	5	4	16
Group C	5	0	3	2	4	14
Group D	6	1	3	1	3	14
Group E	8	0	3	1	4	16
Total	32	2	10	13	20	77
December 2014 Group	NP	RP	WIP	FR	CPP	Total
Group A	5	0	5	2	3	15
Group B	6	0	3	2	3	14
Group C	7	0	3	3	2	15
Group D	4	0	4	3	3	14
Group E	9	1	2	1	1	14
Total	31	1	17	11	12	72

Key

Thematic groups

A: Poverty, Income Distribution and Food Security

B: Macroeconomic Policies, investment and Growth

C: Finance and Resource Mobilization

D: Trade and Regional Integration

E: Political Economy, Natural Resource Management and Agricultural Policy Issues

Research reports

NP: New proposal;

RP: Revised proposal

WIP: Work in progress

FR: Final report

CPP: PhD thesis

Table A2: Number of grants given during the year 2014/2015

No.	Grant no.	Grantee name	Title	Grant amount
1	RT13520	Clarisse Metseyen	Implications du capital social sur l'access au microcredit parmi les menages ayant different niveaux de revenu au Cameroun: 2001-2007	12,500.00
2	RT13521	Motio Simo Epiphanie	Impact des ecoles paysannes sur la production du cacao: une evidence empirique des producteurs du cacao au Cameroun	12,500.00
3	RT13522	Chukwuma Agu	An assessment of remittances as potential complement to conventional sources of development finance in Nigeria	12,500.00
4	RT13523	Edward Bbaale	Breast feeding and child health outcomes in Uganda	12,500.00



No.	Grant no.	Grantee name	Title	Grant amount
5	RT14501	Ousseni Mongbet	Implications Of Labour Market Performance Indicators For Pro-poor Growth In Cameroon	12,500.00
6	RT14502	Ameth Ndiaye Saloum	Effects of Institutions on Tax Revenue in WAEMU: What Are The Implications for Public Investment Decisions?	12,500.00
7	RT14503	Dongue Ndongo Patrick	Mondialisation et efficacite de Politique monetaire en Afrique Subsaharienne	12,500.00
8	RT14504	Josephine Ndambuki	Capital Flight and Net Foreign Direct Investment in Kenya	12,500.00
9	RT14505	Tabi Atemnkeng Johannes	Gender-Based Credit Constraints and Firm Performance in Cameroon	12,500.00
10	RT14506	Magda Kasyoka wilson	Determinants of Intra-African Mergers and Acquisitions 2000-2013	12,500.00
11	RT14507	Strike Mbulawa	Determinants of Capital Structure Choices in the Zimbabwean Corporate Sector	12,500.00
12	RT14508	Abdoulaye Seck	Trade facilitation and Trade Flows in Africa	12,500.00
13	RT14509	Adeoulu Adewuyi	Does Governance Institution Matter for Trade Flows Between Sub-Saharan Africa and its Trading Partner?	12,500.00
14	RT14510	Ningaye Paul	Inegalites D'Opportunités et Distribution du Développement Humain au Cameroun	12,500.00
15	RT14511	Christian Zamo	Genre, Emplois, et Salaires Sur le Marche du Travail Camerounais	12,500.00
16	RT14512	Novice Bakehe	Adoption et usages de l'internet au Cameroun	12,500.00
17	RT14513	Daniel Tambi Mbu	The Effects of Maternal Immunization on Birth Weight in Rural Cameroon	12,500.00
18	RT14514	Marinus Arrey	Explaining Well-Being and Inequality in Cameroon: A Regression Based Composition	12,500.00
19	RT14515	Reuben Alabi	Pro-Pooriness of Fertilizer Subsidy and its Implications on Food Security in Nigeria	12,500.00
20	RT14516	Yacoubou Sanaoussi	Inegalite D'Opportunité de Sante Chez les Enfants Ages de Moins de 5 Ans au Togo	12,500.00
21	RT14517	Achi Marius	Les Politiques Monetaire de la BCEAO et de la BEAC: Apport de la Regle de Taylor Augmentee	12,500.00
22	RT14518	Albert Makochehanwa	The Impact of Regulatory Barriers on Investment in Mobile Cellular Services: The Case of SADC Countries	12,500.00
23	RT14519	Isabelle Beyera	Impact de la Qualite des Institutions sur le Revenu Fiscal en Cote d'Ivoire	12,500.00
24	RT14520	Pierre Joubert Nguetse Tegoum	Impacts Potentiels de la Liberalisation des Prix des Produits Petroliers sur la Croissance et la Pauvrete et Mesures d'Accompagnement	12,500.00
25	RT14521	Kisu Simwaka	Migrant Remittance Flows to Southern African Countries: Determinants and Impact	12,500.00



No.	Grant no.	Grantee name	Title	Grant amount
26	RT14522	Emsen Chiwenga	Assessing Welfare Implication of Trade Policy on Poverty in Zimbabwe's Agricultural Sector	12,500.00
27	RT14523	Friday Ademola Ajagbe	Impact of Investment Climate on Total Factor Productivity of Food Industry in Nigeria	12,500.00
28	RT14524	Saleu Feumeni	Le Role de L'Education de la Mere Sur L'utilisation des Service de Sante Prenatale dans les Menages Avec Differentes Niveaux de Bien-etre	12,500.00
29	RT14525	Mpabe Bodjongo	Analyse Economique du Marche de la Religion au Cameroun: L'Emergence du Pentecotisme Americain	12,500.00
30	RT14526	Chuku Chuku	Macroeconomic consequences of terrorism and anti-terrorism expenditure in Nigeria	3,000.00
31	RT14527	Musoni Rutayisire	Modelling interest rate pass-through in Rwanda: Is the interest rate adjustment dynamics symmetric or asymmetric?	12,500.00
32	RT14528	Austin Chiumia	Interest rate pass-through in Malawi	12,500.00
33	RT14529	Chinyamata Chipeta	Improving access to banking services in Malawi	12,500.00
34	RT14530	Mouhamed Abdoulaye Seck	Access au financement bancaire des petites et moyennes entreprises au Senegal	12,500.00
35	RT14531	Elizabeth Nanziri Lwanga	Financial inclusion and welfare in post-apartheid South Africa	12,500.00
36	RT14532	Kanga Desire	Les banques et la transmission de la politique monetaire : une analyse comparative des zones Cemac, Uemoa et Zmao	12,500.00
37	RT14533	Mamadou Laye Ndoye	Liberalisation commerciale et mobilisation des recettes fiscale dans les pays de la CEDEAO	12,500.00
38	RT14534	Eric Kouassi	Reexamen de la creation de commerce au sien de L'UEMOA	12,500.00
39	RT14535	Alhadj Gadam Djal-Gadam	Poverty Dynamics in Chad Between 2003 and 2011: The Role of Economic Growth and Poverty Gap Pertaining to the Regional Allocation of Oil Revenues	12,500
40	RT14536	Urama Nathaniel	Impact of Remittances on Labour supply by the Recipients in Nigeria	12,500
41	RT14537	Bezeme Yves Valery Franck	Pacte de Stabilite et Stabilisation en Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest Africaine	12,500
42	RT14538	Morakinyo O. Adetutu	The Impact of Cross Country Heterogeneity on Consumer Energy Efficiency: Evidence from a Panel of African Countries	12,500
43	RT14539	Oulai Sieni Toussaint	External Shocks and Short-Term Fluctuations in Ivory Coast	12,500
44	RT14540	Mireille Ntsama	Boom Petrolier et Commerce Transfontalier des Produits Alimentaires en Afrique Centrale	12,500
45	RT14541	Ousmanou Njikam	Foreign Direct Investment, International Trade and Productivity Growth: Firm Level Evidence From Cameroon	12,500



Table A3: Implementation status of collaborative research projects as at March 2015

	Project title	Prop. Approv	Comm. FP	FPRW	FP Public.	CfP for CCS	Rev. prop	Comm. CCS	CBW		Inception report
									1	2	
1.	RHEGPR	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
2.	ISD	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
3.	HEGPR	C	C	C	C	O	C	C	C	C	C
4.	GPN	C	C	C	C	O	C	C	C	C	C
5.	MACRO-ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT OF AID	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	C	C	C	N/A	N/A	N/A
6.	CAPITAL FLIGHT	C	C	C	O	C	C	C	C	C	C
7.	SENIOR SCHOLARS PROGRAMME	C	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8.	FINANCIAL SECTOR REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT	C	C	C	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
9	CLIMATE CHANGE	O									
10	HEALTH CARE FINANCING	C									
11	CAPACITY FOR SERVICE DELIVERY INDICATORS	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations and symbols:

FP: Framework papers; RHEGPR: Reproductive Health, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction; CCS: Country Case Studies; HEGPR: Health, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction; CBW: Capacity Building Workshop; GPN: Growth–Poverty Nexus; SR: Status Report; CfP: Call for Proposals; IRW: Interim Review Workshop; FRW: Final Report Workshop; FPRW: Framework Paper Review Workshop; TBD: To be determined; C : Completed; O Ongoing; PIP: Policy Issues Paper; CCSP: CCS Publication; NA: Not Applicable.

Project coordinators:

HEGPR: Germano Mwabu, David Sahn; GPN: Ali Ali, Andy McKay; ISD: Mwangi Kimenyi, Ritva Reinikka; Capital Flight: Leonce Ndikumana, Financial Sectpr: Isaac Otchere

Annex B: Training Programme statistics for 2014/2015

Table B1: List of students awarded CMAAE scholarships in 2014/2015

	Name of Candidate	Gender	Country of Nationality	University Admitted
1	Dube Biru Gelgo	M	Ethiopia	Egerton
2	Adera Asnakech Kabede	F	Ethiopia	Egerton
3	SekgopaTaboka Kealeboga	F	Botswana	Egerton
4	Mbudzya Joseph Jabu	M	Kenya	Egerton
5	Mukami Njeri Naomi	F	Kenya	Egerton
6	Nakeel Mark Sanka	M	Kenya	Egerton
7	Wekesa Bright Masaka	M	Kenya	Egerton
8	Ajak Mamer Kuer	M	S. Sudan	Nairobi
9	Moikgofe Lorato Charity Mpho	F	Botswana	Nairobi
10	Oreeditse Shirley	F	Botswana	Nairobi
11	Mutiso Janet Mwende	F	Kenya	Nairobi
12	Okuku Isaiah Odhiambo	M	Kenya	Nairobi
13	Msukwa Wupe	M	Malawi	Bunda
14	Grevulo Joyce Angella	F	Malawi	Bunda
15	Bokang Mabitso	F	Lesotho	Bunda
16	Chikobola Musaka Mulanga	M	Zambia	Bunda
17	Kiconco Racheal	F	Uganda	Makerere
18	Nabukeera Caroline	F	Uganda	Makerere
19	Asaasira Susan	F	Uganda	Makerere
20	Byishimo Patrick	M	Rwanda	Zimbabwe
21	Mugura Kumbirai	F	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
22	Mutodi Knowledge	M	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
23	Gakaka Abigail	F	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
24	Bakanyane Bokang	F	Botswana	Sokoine
25	Subert Moses Peter	M	Tanzania	Sokoine
26	Mallogo Diana Peter	F	Tanzania	Sokoine
27	Mutanyagwa Ange Pacifique	F	Rwanda	Sokoine
28	Stoffel Labuschagne	M	Namibia	Pretoria
29	Alefa Banda	M	Zambia	Pretoria
30	Eustencia Munsaka	F	Zambia	Pretoria
31	Gcina Dlamini	F	Swaziland	Pretoria
32	Aubrey Victor Chimalin	M	Zambia	Pretoria
33	Bertha Ijambo	F	Namibia	Pretoria
34	Tsepiso Elliot Mokhothu	M	Lesotho	Pretoria
35	Graca Manjate	F	Mozambique	Pretoria
	SUMMARY	Female = 58%		



Figure B1: Employers evaluation of performance by CMAAE graduates (Source: Survey Monkey)

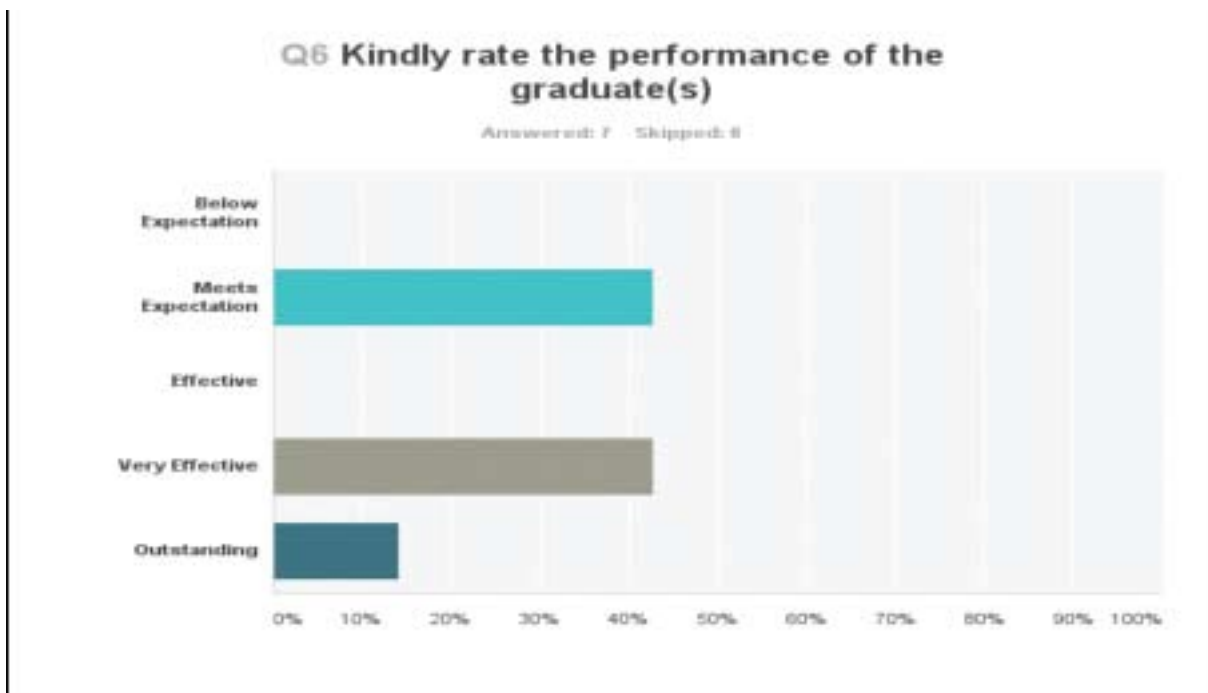


Table B2 Scholarship Awards under CMAP in 2014

	Name of Candidate	Gender	Country of Nationality
1	Mbithi Juliana Mukonyo	Female	Kenya
2	Mwathi Ruth Muthoni	Female	Kenya
3	Ngotho Saitoti Peter	Male	Kenya
4	Celine Katunda Mutie	Female	Kenya
5	Muthoka Jacob Sila	Male	Kenya
6	Ndegwa Veronicah Ngonyo	Female	Kenya
7	Murigi Michael Njoroge	Male	Kenya
8	Maina Leah Wambui	Female	Kenya
9	Simiyu Everlyne	Female	Kenya
10	Mwangi Carolyn Wairimu	Female	Kenya
11	Aruna Alfred Jeremiah H.	Male	Sierra Leone
12	Chizonde Bright	Male	Zambia
13	Gyan Baffour Akosua Owusu	Female	Ghana
14	Kasalirwe Fred	Male	Uganda
15	Touray Adama	Female	The Gambia
16	Sanneh Tumani	Male	The Gambia
17	Josiane Dusabe	Female	Rwanda
18	Mulenga Kabaso	Male	Zambia
19	Michelo Tobias	Male	Zambia
	SUMMARY	Female = 53%	

Table B3 CMAP scholarships 2014/2015

University	Year I	Gender	Nationality	Year II	Gender	Nationality
Botswana	Mbithi Juliana Mukonyo	Female	Kenyan	Chemnyongoi, Jepkorir Hellen	Female	Kenyan
	Mwathi Ruth Muthoni	Female	Kenyan	Mwila, Chiwe	Female	Zambia
				Mahamo, Lerato Agnes	Female	Lesotho
Dar es Salaam	Gyan-Baffour Akosua Owusu	Female	Ghanian	Omanyo, Daniel Odhiambo	Male	Kenyan
	Kasalirwe Fred	Male	Ugandan	Rashid, Athman Zuleikha	Female	Kenyan
	Chizonde Bright	Male	Zambian	Mukoki, James	Male	Ugandan
Cape Coast	Aruna Alfred Jeremiah H.	Male	Sierra Leonean			
Ghana, Legon	Ngotho Saitoti Peter	Male	Kenyan	ISSA, Khamis Salma	Female	Tanzanian
Nairobi	Josiane Dusabe	Female	Rwandese	Apunda, Rose	Female	Kenyan
	Ndegwa Veronicah Ngonyo	Female	Kenyan	Yanga, Ahmed Morgan	Male	South Sudanese
	Murigi Michael Njoroge	Male	Kenyan			
	Maina Leah Wambui	Female	Kenyan			
	Simiyu Everlyne	Female	Kenyan			
	Muthoka Jacob Sila	Female	Kenyan			
Mauritius	Mwangi Carolyn Wairimu	Female	Kenyan	Kinyua, Samuel Githae	Male	Kenyan
	Mutie Katunda Celina	Female	Kenyan	Jammeh, Lamin	Male	Gambia
	Touray Adama	Female	Gambian	Singhateh, Fatoumata	Female	Gambia
	Sanneh Tumani	Male	Gambian			
Namibia				Lavally, Mohamed	Male	Sierra Leone
				Cassell Varney Alvin	Male	Liberian
	Michelo Tobias	Male	Zambian	Tembo, Mike Alex	Male	Zambian
Zimbabwe	Mulenga Kabaso	Male	Zambian			



Annex C: Conference participation, national policy workshops and professional association grants

Table C1: Conference participation grants, 2014/15

Name	Amount (US\$)	Type/theme	Affiliation	Country
Prof. Melvin D. Ayogu	3,264	Travel grant to attend the 32nd Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime at the University of Cambridge from 1–7 September 2014	Department of Economics, University of Sharjah	UAE
Dr. Olusanya E. Olubusoye	3,000	Grant to participate at the African Econometric Society (AES) Conference to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 16–18 July 2014.	Centre for Econometric and Allied Research (CEAR), University of Ibadan	Nigeria
Dr. Maureen Were	3,825	Grant to present a paper: Gender, Economic Growth and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa at the 2014 International Association of Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Conference to be held in Accra, Ghana, on 27–29 June 2014	Kenya School of Monetary Studies	Kenya
Mr. Ramaele Moshoeshoe	2,000	Travel grant to present a paper: Heterogeneous Effects of School Inputs on Educational Achievement at the 1st Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics (IAAE 2014) at Queen Mary College, University of London, from 26–28 June 2014	School of Economics University of Cape Town	South Africa
Dr. Elizabeth A. Owiti	5,000	Travel grant to present a paper: Cost Effectiveness Analysis of HIV and AIDS Treatment in Kenya: A comparative analysis of Mbagathi District and Moi Teaching and Referral hospital at the 19th ISPOR Annual International Meeting from 31 May to 4 June 2014 in Montreal, QC, Canada	School of Economics University of Nairobi	Kenya

Table C2: National policy workshop grants, 2014/15

Name	Amount (US\$)	Type/theme	Affiliation	Country
South African Institute for Economic Research (SAIER)	9,294	Grant to enable SAIER hold a national policy workshop with the theme: Malawi at 50: Toward Alternative Development Strategies and Policy at the Malawi Institute of Management in Lilongwe on 22–24 September 2014	South African Institute for Economic Research (SAIER (Prof. Chipeta Chinyamata)	Malawi
Africa Growth Institute	10,000	11th African Finance Journal Conference on 7–8 May 2014 in Durban, South Africa with the theme: Research Trends in Accounting, Financing and Economics for Africa's Development	African Finance Journal (AFJ)	South Africa

Table C3: Professional Association grants, 2014/15

Name	Amount (US\$)	Type/theme	Affiliation	Country
Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists (AAWE)	10,000	Conference on "Economic Development in Africa" to be held on 22–24 March, 2015 at Oxford University, England.	Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists	Ghana
African Farm Management Association (AFMA)	7,500	The 9th AFMA Congress to be held at Cape Sun Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa on 16–20 November 2014	Moi University	Kenya
Ethiopian Economics Association/ Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute	5,000	Grant to host the 19th Annual Conference of the African Region Chapter of Econometrics Society Conference from 16–19 July 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	African Econometrics Society (AES)	Ethiopia
The Centre for Research on Political Economy (CREPOL)	5,000	Annual Conference on Regional Integration in Africa (ACRIA) on 2–3 July 2014	Centre for Research on Political Economy (CREPOL)	Senegal



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Mathew Maiyo	Accountant
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Damaris Michoma	Human Resources Administrator
Rose Atieno	Receptionist/Secretary
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Witness Simbanegavi	Director of Research
Damiano Manda	Manager, Research Programme
Samuel Mwakubo	Manager, Research Programme
Sheila Lyaga	Programme Administrator
Vacant	Research Administrator
Susan Miyengi	Programme Assistant
Nancy Muriuki	Programme Assistant
Training	
Innocent Matshe	Director of Training
Tom Kimani	Manager, Training Programmes
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Catherine Cheng'oli	Training Administrator
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Paul Ngugi	JFE Assistant
Bertha Chedeye	Programme Assistant (CMAAE)
Elizabeth Mboi	Programme Assistant (CPP/CMAP)
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Paulo Dias	Project Manager
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Claris Riungu	Data Analyst
Judith Mutuku	Data Analyst
Rebecca Wairimu	Data Analyst