AFRICAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

COLLABORATIVE MASTERS PROGRAMME IN AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS (CMAAE)

Agricultural Policy Analysis for Nutrition Outcomes Project (AFPON)

CALL FOR AFPON CONFERENCE PAPERS

1. Background
Established in 1988, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) is a premier capacity building institution in the advancement of research and graduate training that inform economic policies in Africa. The principal mission is to strengthen local individual and institutional capacity to conduct independent, rigorous inquiry into problems pertinent to the management of Sub-Saharan African economies through synergistic programmes combining economic research with postgraduate training in economics.

2. The Collaborative Masters in Agricultural & Applied Economics (CMAAE) Programme
AERC’s Collaborative Master of Science Programme in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE) gives a voice to the issues related to agriculture, food security and environmental management including climate change. In 2015, the AERC Thematic Group E was officially inaugurated to spearhead research efforts on Agriculture, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management. Therefore, the AFPON project complemented the efforts of the CMAAE programme and the AERC pertaining to research and capacity building around agricultural policy, food, and nutrition policies. Some of the research themes include farm input policy, irrigation policy, agricultural education and extension policy, land tenure policies, and agricultural commercialization, among others.

3. The AFPON Project
Since 2016, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) partnered with AERC to support rigorous research on the impact of agricultural and food policies on nutrition outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa with the aim of generating research for informed policy development, program design and improved nutrition outcomes. To achieve the desired outputs, the AERC used its four research delivery mechanisms, Collaborative Research (CR), Thematic Research (TR), Faculty Research (FR) and MSc and PhD Thesis research. A total of 105 papers of which 9 are framework papers, 15 country case studies, 15 faculty research, and 48 thesis research were supported under the programme.

In March 2020, AERC hosted the XXII Senior Policy Seminar on Agriculture and Food Policies for Better Nutrition Outcomes in Africa in Abuja, Nigeria, where a total of 117 senior policymakers from 37 African countries were in attendance. Various researchers have also been facilitated to
present their research in the AERC biannual research conferences, the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Conferences (ANH Accra and Hyderabad), and AERC collaborative research review workshops. With the foregoing, the project will hold the AFPON conference on May 13-14, 2021 to disseminate the research outputs to fellow researchers, policy makers, academia, and other stakeholders in the agriculture, food, and nutrition sub sectors.

4. The AFPON Virtual Conference: May 13-14, 2021

4.1 The Conference Objectives
The conference is designed to achieve the following objectives:

a) To share with policy makers and other stakeholders evidence from AERC research pertinent to issues affecting the agriculture, food and nutrition domains in sub-Saharan Africa.

b) Generate dialogue and initiate uptake of policies impacting on nutrition outcomes among SSA stakeholders.

c) Provide an opportunity for AERC and network researchers to learn of other challenges confronting policy makers that require further research.

d) Generate a volume of conference proceedings with papers presented in the conference for further dissemination and publication of the good papers in the African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AfJARE).

4.2 The Conference Theme
The thematic focus of the conference is “Nexus of Agricultural and Food Policies, and Nutrition Outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa”. This has been selected to generate a policy dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners around paths of convergence of policies and nutrition outcomes. Participants are expected to identify analytical innovations, where disciplines intersect, and cross-sectoral policies and actions where single, linear, and siloed approaches have traditionally dominated. In summary, the conference will discuss and generate perspectives for more impactful policy and action on the convergence of the three themes of agricultural policies, food and nutrition policies, and nutrition outcomes.

4.3 The Conference Participants
Participants at the AFPON conference will be senior policymakers and practitioners from Ministries of Agriculture, Ministries of Health, Ministries of Planning and National Development, Ministries of Finance, national food authorities, country and international organizations dealing with food and nutrition policies, national think tanks, and academia, among others.

4.4 The Conference Programme
The conference is scheduled for 2 days, each day structured with opening remarks, presentation of plenary papers, and 4 parallel sessions, each with a different policy theme. Each day concludes with a plenary and the day’s closing remarks.
5. **Call for Conference Research Papers**

AERC now calls for conference research papers generated under the project (framework, country case study, faculty, and thesis research papers) with the following guidelines:

a) The deadline for submission of abstracts is January 31, 2021.

b) The deadline for submission of full papers is February 26, 2021.

c) The papers should indicate the impact, pathways, or effects of the policies under study (below) on the nutrition outcomes which may include malnutrition indicators such as obesity, wasting, and stunting, among others:

   i. Farm inputs policies including subsidies
   ii. Agricultural finance and credit policies
   iii. Land use and tenure policies
   iv. Agricultural diversification and dietary diversity policies
   v. Agricultural education and extension policies
   vi. Agricultural markets and trade policies
   vii. Food security and nutrition methods and metrics
   viii. Climate and gender policies

   d) The format requirements of abstracts and papers, adapted from the *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AfJARE)*, are as shown below:

   i. On the first page of the manuscript, supply the names, affiliations, and contact details (postal address and e-mail) of all authors. Identify the corresponding author with an asterisk.
   ii. Article in a single MSWord® file
   iii. In 12-point Times New Roman font
   iv. Single spacing unnumbered pages
   v. With A4 paper size and two-centimeter borders
   vi. Use simple styles (i.e., no spacing Before or After, etc.)
   vii. Articles should be no longer than 6,500 words in length for the complete submission, including abstract, footnotes, tables, references, and appendices
   viii. Abstract: No more than 150 words, outlining in a single paragraph the aims, scope, and conclusions of the article
   ix. Key words: Maximum of five keywords
   x. Footnotes: Should be indicated in the text by superior Arabic numerals that run consecutively through the article. Do not use endnotes
   xi. Units: All measurements should be given in metric (SI) units
   xii. Tables and Figures should be included in the article in the correct place and not in a separate file
   xiii. Number the Tables and Figures consecutively and give each a caption - above for a Table and below for a Figure
   xiv. Type any notes below the Tables and Figures, and refer to these by superscript lowercase letters
   xv. Tables and Figures must be original and not be cut and pasted
xvi. Tables should have full gridlines and the contents should be in Times New Roman 10-point font

xvii. References: Use the Harvard style, providing the author(s), year, printer or publisher, place of publication, the volume and issue numbers of journals, and the page range of articles. When listing a website source, please include the date the source was accessed.

xviii. All papers should be submitted to the Director of Training at cmaae@aercafrica.org and copied to mark.korir@aercafrica.org