

The Constitution



Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
FAO RAP Annex Building, 202/1, Larn Luang Road
Pomprab Sattrupai, Bangkok 10100
THAILAND

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The constitution of APAARI was adopted in December 1990 by the General Assembly in its second meeting held at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand.

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**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
(APAARI)**

APAARI CONSTITUTION

The constitution of APAARI was adopted in December 1990 by the General Assembly in its second meeting held at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand.

First edition of the Constitution was published in December 1991, second in September 1994, third in February 2003, and fourth in January 2009. It has 17 articles and 32 paragraphs covering name, seat, objectives, functions, members, membership subscription, other sources of funds, the general assembly, duties of general assembly, executive committee, duties of the executive committee, executive secretary and secretariat, duties of officers, rules and regulations, quorum, amendment of the constitution and dissolution.

PREAMBLE

1. The agricultural research institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region being:
 - ◆ Aware of the problems and challenges facing the development of agriculture in the region;

APAARI Constitution

- ◆ Conscious of the responsibilities which they must assume if they are to contribute to the process of social and economic development in the region; and
- ◆ Convinced that the role and impact of the respective institutions can be enhanced through effective collaboration and consultation among them; and
- ◆ Have decided to establish a neutral and apolitical regional association of agricultural research institutions in the pursuit of their common objectives (under the sponsorship of FAO).

Article I: NAME

2. The name of this Association shall be “Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions”, and the acronym will be ‘APAARI’, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

Logo: The logo of the Association comprises of two hands opening sideways and with the full name of the Association arched over them, forming an umbrella. A grain earhead in the middle of the logo is in recognition of the strength that agriculture provides in sustenance of the region. The green color of the hands and the grain earhead symbolizes prosperous agriculture.

Article II: SEAT

3. The Association shall have its seat at Bangkok, Thailand.

Article III: OBJECTIVE

4. The Association is a non-profit organization with an overall objective to foster the agricultural research and development in the Asia-Pacific Region so as to help address the concerns of hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and sustainability of agricultural production.
5. More specifically, the objectives of the Association shall be
- i) Promote the exchange of scientific and technical know-how and information in agriculture;
 - ii) Encourage the establishment of appropriate co-operative research and training programmes in accordance with identified regional, bilateral or national needs and priorities;
 - iii) Assist in prioritizing NARS/regional needs; strengthening of research organizational and management capabilities of member institutions including information and communication technology;
 - iv) Strengthening cross-linkages between national, regional and international research centres and organizations, including universities, through involvement in jointly planned research and training programmes; and
 - v) Promote collaborative research among member institutions, including need based support to regional research networks.

Article IV: FUNCTIONS

6. In pursuance of the above objective, the Association may undertake one or more of the following activities:

- i) Convene General Assembly to discuss the Association's administration, general programme, policies, and priorities;
- ii) Organize working groups, meetings and seminars to discuss specific problems or sponsor technical studies, training courses and workshops;
- iii) Collect, collate and disseminate research information;
- iv) Maintain links with agencies, institutions, or organizations and other entities undertaking similar activities within and outside the region including donor institutions; and
- v) Promote collaborative research among member institutions.

Article V: MEMBERSHIP

7. Membership shall be open to national agricultural research institutions/councils/organizations/universities from countries of the Region, ARD fora in other regions, etc. In countries where agricultural research is handled directly by a government department, the relevant unit/bureau will be eligible to become member of the Association. Membership in the Association may be sought by submitting an application to the Executive Secretary and approved by the Chairman of the Association. The members are classified as:

- i) Regular members: NARS in the region.
- ii) Associate Members: IARCs/CG Centres/ARIs having an interest in the region.

- iii) Reciprocal members: Other regional/global ARD fora that recognize APAARI also as their member with condition of mutual waiver of any membership fee.
 - iv) Affiliate Members: Agricultural universities and research institutions beside NARS, but with no voting right.
8. Any member institution desiring to withdraw from the Association shall notify the Executive Secretary in writing, and such withdrawal shall take effect three months from the date of receipt of the notice by the Executive Secretary.

Article VI: MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

9. For the purpose of determining annual subscription by member institutions, the countries where they are located shall be deemed to be categorized as follows:
- ◆ Category I: Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Thailand.
 - ◆ Category II: Bangladesh, DPR Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, The Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka.
 - ◆ Category III: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cook Islands, Cambodia, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Guam, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Republic of Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Island, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam.
 - ◆ Category IV: Associate membership is for the regional institutions/IARCs/CG Centers/ARI/the Private Sector ARD organizations.
 - ◆ Category V: Reciprocal Membership.

- ◆ Category VI: Affiliate Membership.

The annual subscription from each member institution shall be as follows:

Member institution falling in	Annual subscription
Category I	US\$ 10,000
Category II	US\$ 6,000
Category III	US\$ 3,000
Category IV	US\$ 5,000
Category V	No Fee (Mutually waived)
Category VI	US\$ 1,500

The subscription falls due on 1st January every year.

Article VII: OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS

10. In addition to the annual membership subscription, other sources of funds shall consist of:

- Grants and donations from governments, national, regional or international organizations, donor institutions, and development banks and others;
- Proceeds from the sale of publications issued by the Association; and
- Fees, if any, collected from participants of any technical meeting organized by the Association.

Article VIII: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11. There shall be a General Assembly of the Association, in which each member institution shall be represented by one delegate.
12. The General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years.
13. Each regular member organization of the Association shall have one vote at the General Assembly for voting at ordinary or extraordinary meetings. The Chairman shall allow some time for mutual consultation among members prior to voting on any issue.
14. All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote, except for those decisions relating to amendments to the Constitution, and those related to the dissolution of the Association. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

Article IX: DUTIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15. In fulfilment of its objectives, the General Assembly shall determine the policy of the association, approve the programme of work and budget formulated and put up by the Executive Committee, review progress, and shall exercise other powers conferred upon it under the Constitution.

Article X: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

16. The Association shall have a 12 member Executive Committee, composed of: Six members representing NARS – two each from the Pacific, South-East Asia and South-West Asia sub-regions; One *ex-officio* member – the incumbent Executive Secretary of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR); One *ex-officio* member represented by one of the CGIAR

Center Directors General being associate members on rotational basis; Two members from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) – one from regional farmers’ associations and one from NGO’s associations/communities; One representative of the private sector; and the incumbent Executive Secretary of APAARI as *ex-officio* member. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and other members shall be elected/nominated by the General Assembly from among the regular member institutions at the biennial meeting and they shall hold office for two years and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office. However, the outgoing Chairman will continue as a member for the next term to ensure continuity and needed guidance.

The Executive Secretary of APAARI shall be appointed according to Article XII, Paragraph 22. No country NARS members will have more than one representative on the Executive Committee.

17. If any one of the offices of Chairman or Vice-Chairman becomes vacant for any reason, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall elect one of its own members to fill the vacancy. A position of member of the Executive Committee which falls vacant shall be filled by the next candidate who has the highest number of votes in the election of the Executive Committee at the preceding General Assembly. Persons who become members of the Executive Committee under this provision will remain in office until the next Session of the General Assembly.

Article XI: DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

18. The Executive Committee shall manage the affairs of the Association in accordance with this Constitution and the policies and directives adopted by the General Assembly.

19. The Executive Committee shall report to the Assembly on the implementation of the approved programme of work and the progress made in fulfilling the objectives of the Association.

20. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every year and shall be convened by the Executive Secretary.

Article XII: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND SECRETARIAT

21. Secretariat of the Association shall be headed by the Executive Secretary.

22. The Executive Committee shall appoint/elect/nominate the Executive Secretary, either on honorary or payment basis for a given tenure of two years, renewable each time based on performance assessment by the Executive Committee and approval by General Assembly, with suitable experience and acknowledged leadership in agricultural research. He/she will be supported by a minimal technical and administrative staff in the secretariat office.

Article XIII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

23. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

24. The Vice-Chair shall perform all duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the latter, and such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Chairperson.

25. The Executive Secretary shall be the chief of the Secretariat of the Association. He/she shall be responsible for the affairs of the Association and execution of all activities approved by the General Assembly, including

preparation of programme of work and budget, monitoring of progress, and arrangement for meetings of the General Assembly and Executive Committee. He/she shall collect and disseminate information pertaining to the activities of the Association. He/she shall prepare the minutes for the Assembly and Executive Committee meetings, and arrange for the publication, distribution and maintenance of the reports and proceedings of all meetings of the Association. He/she shall receive annual subscriptions and any other financial contributions to the Association, account for all money received and make payments in accordance with policies established by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, and he/she shall submit audited accounts to the biennial General Assembly meeting.

Article XIV: RULES AND REGULATIONS

26. The General Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly of the Association. Amendments to the Rules and Regulations may be adopted by a simple majority vote at any session of the General Assembly.

27. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for utilization of the approved budget of the Association and shall maintain full accounts, records and documents. Duly audited accounts shall be presented to the General Assembly.

Article XV: QUORUM

28. The quorum shall be 50 per cent of the membership at all General Assembly and the Executive Committee meetings.

Article XVI: AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION

29. Amendments of the Constitution shall be considered only at a meeting of the General Assembly.

30. The Association may amend this Constitution by a two-third majority of the votes cast, provided that such majority is more than half of the countries from which the membership of the Association is drawn.

31. No proposal for the amendment of the Constitution shall be included in the agenda of any General Assembly unless notice thereof has been dispatched by the Executive Secretary to members at least 60 days before the opening of the meeting.

Article XVII: DISSOLUTION

32. The Association can only be dissolved by a resolution approved at a General Assembly. The procedure to be followed for the dissolution of the Association shall be the same as detailed in paragraphs 30 and 31 under Article XVI.

