



# Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)

## SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING (GAM)

28 May, 2024

Hybrid Mode

### DRAFT PROCEEDINGS

#### Agenda 1: Welcome

The Special General Assembly Meeting (GAM) of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) was held on 28 May 2024, in a hybrid format at the Berkeley Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was presided over by Professor Lindsay Falvey, Chair of the APAARI Executive Committee.

The meeting was attended by 26 participants (refer to *Annexure 2A* for the list of participants), comprising 19 Country Core Members, 5 Associate Members, and 1 ex-officio member from the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAiR). Out of the 19 Country Core Members, 15 attended in person from Australia, Fiji, Nepal, Bhutan, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, India, and Malaysia. The remaining 4 Country Core Members participated online from Bangladesh, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan. Additionally, 4 Associate Members—TNAU, FSSI, IAAS, and ICIMOD—joined online, while one Associate Member, CABI, attended in person.

Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Director (ED) of APAARI, extended a special welcome to all GAM Members and the Chair, Professor Lindsay Falvey.

#### Agenda 2: Opening Remarks and Purpose of the Meeting and Remarks from Chair and Vice-Chair, APAARI

The Chair welcomed both online and offline participants, expressing his honor in chairing this special General Assembly Meeting (GAM) of APAARI. He highlighted the importance of the meeting as a milestone event, marking a new chapter in APAARI's history.

The Chair extended his gratitude to the Executive Committee for their tireless efforts, with a special mention of Dr. Margaret C. Yoovatana from the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Thailand, whose

work was instrumental in reaching this pivotal moment. He emphasized the distinct nature of this special GAM, which focused on discussing and approving critical changes to the APAARI Constitution, transitioning from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition (refer to *Annexure 5* for the APAARI Constitution-10<sup>th</sup> Edition). The purpose of this GAM is to discuss and approve the proposed amendments to the APAARI Constitution, ensuring it reflects the current needs and future aspirations of the organization. The meeting would concentrate on key differences and the introduction of three new articles concerning establishment, vision and mission, and Associate Membership, along with four significant annexures. He warmly welcomed the voting members and acknowledged the presence of a legal consultant to assist with any legal queries during the discussions.

Reflecting on the positive outcomes of the previous Q&A session held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 for GAM Members the Chair expressed confidence that the current meeting would be equally fruitful. He noted the significant progress made by APAARI over the past year, including successful projects and increased member engagement. He appreciated the opportunity to see participants face-to-face after the initial online engagement.

The Chair emphasized why the constitutional amendments are crucial for APAARI, stating that the proposed amendments aim to enhance APAARI's governance structure, ensure greater inclusivity, and better align the organization's mission with its strategic goals. He acknowledged the contributions of specific individuals and groups, particularly the subcommittee members and the legal advisory team for their diligent work in drafting the proposed amendments.

Encouraging active participation and constructive discussions, the Chair urged all members to provide their valuable input to ensure the success of the meeting. He acknowledged the efforts of Thailand and the Executive Committee members, whose dedication had brought APAARI to this crucial stage.

In conclusion, the Chair handed over to Dr. Ravi Khetarpal (ED), for guiding the attendees through the detailed changes to the Constitution. He reiterated the importance of this meeting for shaping the future of APAARI and thanked everyone for their continued support and participation.

### **Agenda 3: Legal Status of APAARI – An Update**

#### **I. Background - Brief on the Process Undertaken for Seeking Legal Status:**

The ED began his presentation by outlining the two parts it would cover. The first part briefly addressed the historical aspects and the process followed, while the second part focused on the documents developed by the subcommittee under the guidance of Dr. Margaret C. Yoovatana. He acknowledged the diligent efforts that included establishing APAARI's legal status in Thailand. Active discussions on this matter began during the executive committee meetings in 2021-2022, around the COVID-19 pandemic period. Initially, there were four options for APAARI's legal status: seeking independent status as an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO), becoming a foreign private organization, becoming an international cooperation forum (ICF) in Thailand, or moving out of Thailand.

After two years of deliberation, extensive consultations, and discussions within the executive committee, it was decided last year to pursue a quasi-IGO status, reflecting APAARI's international and sub-regional membership. The ED then explained that achieving this required three key documents: an amended Constitution, an Agreement among members, and a Hosting agreement. The previous Chair, Ms. Eleanor Dean, appointed a subcommittee to work on these documents. The

subcommittee included representatives from the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, and two international organizations, CGIAR and AIRCA.

Over the past few months, the subcommittee held a series of meetings to consolidate their work. The first subcommittee meeting took place on December 13, followed by another on December 21, 2023, and a face-to-face meeting in Bangkok on January 10 and 11, 2024. The ED highlighted that after these meetings, the draft documents were discussed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in Thailand for initial feedback. MOFA provided valuable suggestions regarding membership fees, privileges and immunities. They recommended following certain procedures for these elements and emphasized that privileges and immunities should be negotiated separately as part of the hosting agreement. This feedback helped refine the documents, which were then endorsed by the executive committee.

In early March, the Executive Committee reviewed and endorsed the subcommittee's recommendations, and the finalized documents were circulated to all members on March 16, 2024. The ED emphasized that the Constitution requires such amendments to be agreed upon by more than 50% of the executive committee members before being presented to the General Assembly. He noted that 90% of the executive committee members supported the amendments, paving the way for today's meeting.

A Q&A session was held on April 17, 2024 to ensure transparency and member engagement. This session allowed members to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposed documents. The ED acknowledged the excellent questions and suggestions from Japan and the Philippines, which helped further refine the documents. He invited questions from the audience regarding the process followed from 2018 to the present. He emphasized the extensive work and collaboration that went into developing the documents and expressed confidence in the proposed amendments, aiming to strengthen APAARI's legal status and governance structure.

## **II. Presentation on Comparison of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments:**

The ED transitioned to discussing the actual documents, emphasizing the constitutional amendment as the major document. He highlighted that this amendment becomes a significant part of the Agreement among Members, with a few additional clauses. The ED provided an overview comparing the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Constitution with the proposed 10<sup>th</sup> edition. He pointed out that three new articles were added, bringing the total count from 17 to 20 articles in the 10th edition. Five articles from the 9th edition underwent revisions, modifications, or additions.

### **Key Points Covered in the Presentation:**

#### **1. Historical Context and Establishment:**

- The amended Constitution now includes a historical context, which was missing in the original 1990 Constitution made under FAO sponsorship.
- APAARI's establishment as an intergovernmental organization (IGO) with government members was highlighted.

#### **2. Articles and Amendments:**

- Article 3: The full form of APAARI now reflects it as an "organization" instead of an "association," aligning with its goal to become an IGO.

- Article 5: A new article outlining APAARI's vision and mission, derived from APAARI's first strategic plan.
3. Membership and Associate Membership:
    - The presentation discussed the complexities of membership classifications. APAARI now recognizes voting rights for associate and country members who have paid their fees.
    - The associate membership category in the 10<sup>th</sup> edition now includes previous affiliates and some reciprocal members that are regional or operate as an association reclassified based on their nature.
  4. Operational Changes:
    - The ED mentioned removing operational points related to membership and fee management from the Constitution document, which will now be addressed in a separate management standard document.
  5. New Articles and Classification:
    - The 10<sup>th</sup> edition introduces crucial changes in membership classification, representing countries by their respective organizations, e.g., ICAR for India, MARDI for Malaysia, etc.

The ED emphasized Annexure 4 (new) of the Constitution (10<sup>th</sup> Edition), highlighting its critical role in ongoing deliberations. The table in this annexure, distinct from considerations involving UN member states, focuses on the classification and evolution of existing Associate Members within APAARI. He elaborated on the dynamic nature of this classification process, illustrating APAARI's adaptive approach to local needs and evolving circumstances.

The ED detailed four significant intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) within APAARI: CABI and the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), previously Associate Members; and the Pacific Community (SPC) and Network for Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), operating as Reciprocal Members. These organizations, recognized collectively under the IGO classification by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), underscore APAARI's strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts in agricultural research and development.

Addressing CGIAR, The ED noted its unique operational model and ongoing efforts to establish a formal international legal framework, supported by the Alliance Bioversity-CIAT (ABC). He highlighted GFAiR's recent integration into CGIAR, maintaining its identity while enhancing collaborative synergies within the agricultural research community.

The ED provided updates on various member organizations within APAARI, noting recent changes in membership status that reflect the organization's dynamic landscape. He highlighted international partnerships with organizations like the International Association of Agricultural Sustainability (IAAS) from Singapore and CIRAD from France, illustrating APAARI's global engagement in agricultural initiatives.

The academic cluster within APAARI, initially comprising 14 universities, faced challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some universities reconsidered their membership, reflecting broader global pressures on academic institutions. Private sector involvement, exemplified by the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII), collaborating with CropLife Asia, underscores APAARI's commitment to sustainable agricultural practices and innovation. The ED highlighted the inclusion of



funding agencies within APAARI's Executive Committee, exemplified by Taiwan's COA (now MOA), ensuring diverse perspectives in governance and decision-making.

The ED detailed procedural aspects such as quorum requirements and decision-making protocols, emphasizing adherence to constitutional standards during General Assembly meetings. Constitutional amendments focused on enhancing voting rights and membership classifications within APAARI's General Assembly, aligning governance structures with international norms for transparency and effectiveness. Dr. Khetarpal concluded by introducing four new annexures, crucial for documenting UN member state participation and specifying Associate Members within APAARI. These annexures provide comprehensive historical and current membership insights, informing APAARI's strategic initiatives and collaborative partnerships.

The Chair expressed gratitude to Dr. Khetarpal for his comprehensive presentation outlining the amendments from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the proposed 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Constitution. Acknowledging the significant turnout of 81% of voting members, ensuring a quorum, the Chair opened the floor for discussion before proceeding to the voting phase.

### Comments and recommendations

- ❖ **Comment from Ms. Sophie H.C. Hung, Ministry of Agriculture, Taiwan:** Ms. Sophie H.C. Hung extended her gratitude to Chair Lindsay Falvey, Vice Chair Ebrahimi, Executive Director Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Dr. Margaret, Chair of the EC sub-committee, and all participants for their efforts in organizing the special General Assembly Meeting (GAM) of APAARI.

She acknowledged Taiwan's long-standing involvement as a country core member of APAARI since the early 2000s, highlighting their consistent participation in numerous meaningful activities. Over the past two decades, Taiwan has witnessed and contributed to the remarkable achievements of APAARI in advancing agricultural research in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ms. Hung reiterated Taiwan's full support for APAARI's pursuit of legal status in Thailand, emphasizing that the necessary procedures should not undermine the rights or status of any existing members. She stressed that these procedures must be beneficial for the further development of APAARI, ensuring the interests of all members are upheld.

However, Ms. Hung expressed concerns regarding the treatment and entitlements proposed for Associate Members in Annexure 4 of the 10<sup>th</sup> edition Constitution. She specifically pointed out that TECO's categorization as an Associate Member is unacceptable to Taiwan, as it represents a downgrade from their current status as a Country Core Member. She emphasized that the proposed amendments should not diminish the rights of any existing members and that changing the nomenclature and status of an incumbent member by force is unjustified and undermines the credibility of the 10th edition Constitution draft.

- ❖ **Suggestion from Dr. Rahman, BARC, Bangladesh:** Dr. Rahman from BARC, Bangladesh, made two suggestions during the discussion. Firstly, he proposed modifying

the vision statement in Article 5 of the Constitution to read "Strengthened agriculture research and innovations for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific" instead of "Strengthened research and innovations for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific."

**This suggestion was agreed upon by all GAM members.**

Secondly, Dr. Rahman raised a query about voting rights, suggesting that in the event of a tie, the Chair should have an additional vote to break the deadlock. This practice, he noted, is observed in Bangladesh and other organizations.

- ❖ **Comment on Voting Rights from Dr. Shalendra, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji:** Dr. Shalendra from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji, expressed concerns about potential unfairness in granting an extra vote to the Chair. He noted that this could lead to unjustified outcomes and proposed that additional voting authority in deadlock situations should instead be entrusted to the secretariat if feasible.
- ❖ **Response from Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Director, APAARI:** The ED Khetarpal acknowledged the comments regarding voting roles and emphasized the distinction between being a staff member of the secretariat and a voting member of APAARI. He agreed that these perspectives could influence potential changes in the organization's constitution.
- ❖ **Response from Professor Lindsay Falvey, Chair of the Executive Committee:** The Chair shared his perspective, explaining that in cases of equal votes, which are uncommon but not unheard of, the Chair's responsibility is to make decisions in the organization's best interests. He noted that this practice is standard in other constitutions and governed by established operational rules. The Chair stressed the importance of fairness, highlighting that the Chair does not wield two votes as an individual or representative of a country but acts on behalf of the organization for the second vote. He provided an example from a local university council to illustrate how Chairs make decisions to foster institutional cohesion, adhering to established protocols.
- ❖ **Comment from Dr. Hildegard, Executive Secretary, GFAiR:** Dr. Hildegard, Executive Secretary of GFAiR, supported the suggestion. Drawing from her extensive experience with various organizations, she noted that granting the Chair an additional vote in tie-breaker situations is common practice. She emphasized that this approach ensures prompt and effective decision-making, reflecting broader organizational consensus.

**Based on these responses, all GAM members agreed to grant the Chair an extra vote in cases of tied votes.**

## Voting Results on the 10<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment

### Newly Added Articles:

- Article II: Establishment
- Article V: Vision and Mission
- Article IX: Associate Membership

Out of the 26 General Assembly Members (GAM) who participated, 25 members voted in favor of the newly added Articles II, V, and IX from the 10<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment. Given this majority vote, the proposed amendments have been incorporated into the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the constitution. [Refer to *Annexure 2A* for the list of participating GAM members.]

### Modified or Reworded Articles:

- Article III: Name and Character
- Article IV: Office and Secretariat
- Article VIII: Membership
- Article X: Funds
- Article XI: General Assembly
- Article XVIII: Quorum

Out of the 26 participating General Assembly Members (GAM), 25 members voted in favor of the modified Articles III, IV, VIII, X, XI, and XVIII from the 10<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment. As a result, these amendments have also been incorporated into the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Constitution. [Refer to *Annexure 2A* for the list of participating GAM members.]

## Comments and recommendations

### Suggestion from Dr. Rahman, BARC, Bangladesh:

Dr. Rahman from BARC, Bangladesh, suggested that the constitution should include an explanation of the APAARI logo. He emphasized that understanding the symbolic meaning of the logo would be good for all members.

### Response from Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Director, APAARI:

The ED responded positively to Dr. Rahman's suggestion. He acknowledged the importance of explaining the logo's significance and proposed adding a dedicated section in the Constitution for this purpose. Dr. Khetarpal suggested that this explanation could be included either in the preamble or on a back cover page, ensuring that the meaning and symbolism of the logo are

clearly communicated to all members.

### **Voting Results on the Constitutional Amendments:**

The Chair requested affirmation from the participants to proceed with the proposed changes to the Constitution. He asked members to raise their hands in agreement and sign the provided consent forms for official confirmation of the vote (refer to *Annexure 6* for the consent forms from participating members). After confirming a majority in favor of adopting the 10<sup>th</sup> Constitution, he expressed gratitude and congratulated everyone on this significant achievement. He specifically thanked the ED for his efficient presentation that facilitated the decision-making process. The Chair then invited further comments, acknowledging Taiwan's disapproval of the amendment during the meeting.

### **III. Presentation on the Agreement among Members:**

The ED proceeded to outline the Agreement Among Members within APAARI. He highlighted that this agreement originated from the Agricultural Ministerial Conference of the Asia-Pacific region, sponsored by FAO from 1984 to 1990. Initially, it was adopted and signed by countries such as the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, and Pakistan, alongside observers like China, New Zealand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Japan. Over time, the agreement has evolved to reflect the changing dynamics of the organization.

The ED emphasized key points of the agreement, such as the obligations of contracting parties, the evolution from the original to the current form, and the importance of cooperation among governmental organizations and other IGOs like NACA. He explained that the Agreement Among Members complements the Constitution, detailing legal obligations and procedural matters like amendments and dispute resolution mechanisms. He concluded by handing over the discussion to the Chair for further deliberation.

The Chair extended heartfelt congratulations to all members for achieving a significant milestone with the agreement. He praised the document as comprehensive and inclusive, noting its crucial role in setting foundational support for APAARI's initiatives. He acknowledged the Ministry of Agriculture and specifically Dr. Margaret for their dedicated work in crafting the agreement, emphasizing its importance in advancing the goals of the scientific community. He concluded with gratitude and encouragement, underscoring the noble cause of supporting APAARI's mission.

### **IV. Recommendations of the EC Sub-Committee on Legal Matters – Recap**

Three Sub-Committee meetings were conducted within a month of the Sub-Committee's formation (refer to *Annexure 4* for the list of Sub-committee members). The highlights and key recommendations are as follows:

#### **a. Recommendations on Amendments to the Constitutional Zero Draft:**

##### **i. Addition of New Articles**

The sub-committee recommended the addition of three new articles:



- Article II: Establishment and Legal Status
- Article V: Vision and Mission
- Article IX: Partnership

**ii. Article 8 - Membership:**

It is acknowledged that Point 13 in Article 8 regarding membership would be resolved through arbitration.

**iii. Annex 4 - Redefinition:**

The classification of "Associate Members" in Annex 4 was to be redefined to align with MOFA legal requirements.

**iv. Management Standards and Operational Guidelines:**

Separate documents were to be developed for Management Standards for membership and the role of the General Assembly, serving as operational guidelines for the APAARI Constitution.

**v. Taiwan Concerns:**

The concerns raised by Taiwan were to be summarized and the responses recorded during the meetings.

**b. Recommendations on the Agreement Among Members:**

**i. Article 1 Changes:**

Modify Article 1 once the final version of the Constitutional amendments is ready, reflecting the agreed-upon changes.

**ii. New Member Consent:**

Discuss with new members to confirm their consent or disagreement through the General Assembly.

**iii. Article 2 Terminology Change:**

Change the terminology in Article 2 regarding the "UN Privileges and Immunity Act."

**iv. Article 4 Consultation:**

Consult APAARI legal advisors to clarify issues on ratification, signature, and accession after due consultation with MOFA, with a timeline of within a week.

**v. Article 5 Wording Clarity:**

Review the wording of Article 5 to avoid confusion between amendments to the agreement or the Constitution, especially in Paragraph 2.

**vi. Article 5 Ratification and Accession:**

Reevaluate Article 5, especially regarding ratification and accession, specifying

that an amendment shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the last instrument of ratification.

**vii. Article 8 Format Check:**

Address typo errors and conduct a format check in Article 8.

These recommendations reflect the sub-committee's efforts to ensure that the constitutional amendments and the Agreement Among Members align with international standards and legal requirements, while addressing the specific needs and concerns of APAARI's diverse membership.

**Agenda 4: Comments from GAM Members**

**Comments and recommendations**

**Comment from Dr. Babar Bajwa, AIRCA:**

Dr. Babar Bajwa suggested revising Article 3, Point 1 of the Agreement Among Members. He proposed changing the sentence, "The Contracting Parties agree that there should be co-operation between the Organization and Donor Governments whose contribution would further enhance the activities of the Organization. To this end, the Organization may enter into Agreements with such Donor Governments wherein provision may be made for their participation in certain activities of the Organization," to, "The Contracting Parties agree that there should be co-operation between the Organization and Donor Governments whose contribution would further enhance the activities of the Organization. To this end, the Organization may enter into Agreements with such Donor Governments wherein provision may be made for their participation in certain activities of the Organization through mutual consent."

**Query from Dr. Rahman, BARC, Bangladesh:**

Dr. Rahman raised a query seeking clarification: "In the preamble of the constitution, it is mentioned in some places that APAARI is an intergovernmental organization. However, in the Agreement Among Members, Article II, it is referred to as having 'International status as a Quasi-Governmental Organization as applicable under the Geneva of Asia Act in Thailand.' There seems to be some confusion here."

**Response from Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Director, APAARI:**

The ED responded by explaining that APAARI was and will continue to be an intergovernmental organization. However, it will take the form of a quasi-intergovernmental organization since it now includes international organizations and subregional fora. This adaptation aligns with the evolving structure and membership of APAARI.

**Response from Mr. Manish Rai, APAARI:**

Mr. Manish Rai further clarified the point by stating, "When APAARI was established, the term 'intergovernmental organization' was used because, at that time, the definitions provided by MOFA Thailand had not been introduced. The Geneva of Asia Act, which was introduced in 2018 by MOFA in Thailand, includes three definitions: ICF (International Cooperation Forum), IGO (Intergovernmental Organization), and QGO (Quasi-Governmental Organization). This is why the language has been updated to reflect the current legal framework. Initially, APAARI was established as an intergovernmental organization."

**Response from Professor Lindsay Falvey, Chair of the Executive Committee:**

The Chair acknowledged the evolution of terminology, as pointed out by Mr. Rai. He emphasized the importance of drafting a document that aligns with the new legislation in Thailand to ensure it conforms to current regulations. He suggested that the discussion should continue with this context in mind to ensure clarity and compliance with the legal framework.

**Agenda 5: Voting**

*Details as provided in the previous sections.*

**Agenda 6: Next steps**

The ED emphasized that the new phase for APAARI will require significant effort to achieve its goals. He outlined several key steps moving forward. Firstly, he mentioned that there is currently an agreement among members. The next step for the Secretariat is to finalize the Constitution amendment, which is scheduled to be printed soon after the special GAM.

Additionally, the ED highlighted the need to deliver the corresponding management standards, revise the rules and regulations for the General Assembly, and prepare all necessary documents. To ensure continuity and efficiency, he proposed that the current Executive Committee continue until APAARI's legal status is obtained, which may take 9 months to a year. This approach would save time and ensure that the committee members, who are already familiar with the challenges and opportunities, can continue their work without interruption.

Once the IGO status is achieved, the ED suggested that the next General Assembly and elections could be held. He proposed holding the General Assembly in the middle of next year and reviewing this plan with the Executive Committee. The Secretariat will seek opinions and keep everyone informed. There were no objections raised to this suggestion.

**Comments and recommendations**

**Comment from Dr. Margaret, DOA, Thailand:**

Dr. Margaret highlighted the rapid pace of global research and innovation trends, noting a perceived stagnation in APAARI's legal status. She suggested that insights from the General Assembly Meeting (GAM) could offer valuable guidance on how to effectively engage with these evolving trends, given the competitive nature of regional networking. Dr. Margaret

emphasized the need to strike a balance between advancing research and innovation while addressing APAARI's legal standing.

**Response from Professor Lindsay Falvey, Chair of the Executive Committee:**

The Chair acknowledged Dr. Margaret's points and responded that while APAARI has made significant strides, it would be beneficial to initiate additional regional cooperation activities concurrently. He expressed confidence that ongoing legal procedures would not hinder progress. The Chair agreed that Dr. Margaret's suggestion was valuable and requested suggestions for regional cooperation activities to be planned over the next 6 to 12 months, addressing the ED for input.

**Response from Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Director, APAARI:**

The ED expressed the need for Dr. Margaret's support in initiating networking efforts with the ASEAN group, alongside their existing collaborations with the SAARC group. He also highlighted the importance of maintaining active engagement with the SPC and suggested opening dialogues and discussions to strategize on advancing these regional initiatives.

**Additional Comments from Professor Lindsay Falvey:**

The Chair further noted that ACIAR, in collaboration with CGIAR, had decided to extend its presence towards the Pacific by establishing an office in Port Moresby. He highlighted this as another avenue for cooperation in the Pacific region, like sub-regional efforts in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and other parts of Asia. The Chair expressed his desire for these initiatives to progress alongside ongoing efforts with the Thai government and encouraged continued perseverance and dedication from everyone involved.

**Agenda 7: Concluding Remarks**

**Remarks from Dr. Ebrahimi, Vice Chair of the APAARI Executive Committee:**

Dr. Ebrahimi expressed his honor in serving as Vice Chair of the APAARI Executive Committee and extended his deepest gratitude to everyone for their unwavering support and commitment to APAARI. He highlighted the invaluable contributions and insights of all members, which have been instrumental in steering the organization towards a more impactful future. Dr. Ebrahimi gave thanks to the Chair for his active engagement and special thanks to the ED and his colleagues in APAARI, as well as the entire Sub-Committee, for refining the Constitution to align with both local and international requirements.

He emphasized the significance of the document signed today, noting that it is not just paperwork but a testament to their collective vision and dedication to making APAARI a more notable entity in the international arena. Dr. Ebrahimi concluded by congratulating everyone and expressing his heartfelt thanks for their dedication and support.

**Remarks from Professor Lindsay Falvey, Chair of the Executive Committee:**

The Chair expressed his gratitude to everyone for a very successful meeting. He extended special thanks to colleagues from Taiwan for their attendance both in person and online, despite the challenges. He emphasized the importance of APAARI operating as a broad family, acknowledging that families often have diverse ideas. Reflecting on APAARI's history, he noted that people have come and gone, yet the organization has continued to thrive. He expressed hope that APAARI would continue to function as a cohesive group across the Asia-Pacific region. He appreciated the secretariat for their dedicated work in this direction.

The Chair highlighted the critical importance of agriculture, food sustainability, and agricultural research, especially in the face of climate change. He underscored that without sufficient food, many more problems would arise, and it is the responsibility of those in the room to address these challenges through national agricultural research networks, regional bodies, and various international organizations. He concluded by affirming that they had met their responsibilities well during the meeting.

### **Remarks from Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Director, APAARI:**

The ED expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their full engagement and dedication. He acknowledged that while the revised documents might need final adjustments for legal status in Thailand, the collective effort has been invaluable. He extended special thanks to Professor Falvey, who took over recently and demonstrated remarkable engagement and understanding of APAARI's needs. The ED expressed his deep appreciation for Professor Falvey's dedication and hoped for his continued involvement.

Regarding the GAM meeting, the ED suggested postponing it until the legal status is finalized, ensuring all preparations are in place. He emphasized the importance of maintaining APAARI's momentum and keeping all members informed. The ED also thanked Dr. Ebrahimi, the Vice Chair, for his active involvement and support. He expressed gratitude to Taiwan, particularly Ms. Sophie, highlighting their significant contributions to APAARI, and stressed the desire to continue collaboration in a suitable membership capacity.

He acknowledged the exceptional communication and engagement from all country members, emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation. The ED mentioned the upcoming inter-regional cooperation initiatives with GFAR and other international organizations, highlighting the Global NARS Consortium as a key example. In conclusion, the ED noted the importance of continuing their collective efforts, despite limited resources, and reassured them that the points raised by Dr. Margaret were well noted. He thanked everyone again, especially Mr. Manish Rai for his efforts in seeking legal status, the secretariat staff and other APAARI colleagues, for their hard work in ensuring a successful GAM, and appreciated the participation of all attendees, both online and offline.



## Annexure 1

### Agenda for the Special General Assembly Meeting 2024 of APAARI

*Chair: Prof. Lindsay Falvey*

*Vice-Chair: Prof. Mohammad Ali Ebrahimi*

| Agenda No.         | Time     | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Facilitation                                                    |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>28 May 2024</b> |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                 |
|                    | 11:00 AM | Introductions and Informal Discussions with Country Core Members                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Director                        |
|                    | 11:10 AM | APAARI Strategic Plan 2024 – 2033                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, APAARI Executive Director                   |
|                    | 11:20 AM | Strengthening Partnerships                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Ms. Samitha Manohar, Membership and Partnership Manager, APAARI |
|                    | 11:30 AM | Update - Finance/ Audit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mr. Manish Rai, Head of Operations, APAARI                      |
| <b>Lunch</b>       |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                 |
| 1                  | 01:05 PM | Welcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Executive Director                                              |
| 2                  | 01:10 PM | Opening Remarks and Purpose of the Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Chair & Vice-Chair                                              |
| 3                  | 01:25 PM | Legal Status of APAARI – An Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief on the process undertaken for seeking legal status (10 mins)</li> <li>Presentation on comparison of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments (30 mins)</li> <li>Presentation on Agreement among Members (10 mins)</li> <li>Recommendations of EC sub-committee on legal matters on proposed amendments – Recap (10 mins)</li> </ul> | Executive Director                                              |
|                    | 02:25 PM | Comments from Chair, EC Subcommittee, legal matters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Dr. Margaret C. Yoovatana, DOA, Thailand                        |
| 4                  | 02:30 PM | Comments from GAM Members                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                 |



|   |          |                      |                    |
|---|----------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 5 | 02:45 PM | Voting (If required) | APAARI Secretariat |
| 6 | 03:05 PM | Next Steps           | Executive Director |
| 7 | 03:15 PM | Concluding Remarks   | Chair              |



## Annexure 2A

### List of participants attending the Special General Assembly Meeting 2024

| S No. | Country   | Participants Name                                                                              | Designation                                                  | Organization | Attended  |
|-------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1     | Australia | Prof. Lindsay Falvey                                                                           | Commissioner for International Agricultural Research         | ACIAR        | In Person |
| 2     | Fiji      | Dr Shalendra Prasad                                                                            | Director, Crop Research                                      | MOA          | In Person |
| 3     | Nepal     | Dr. Luma Nidhi Pandey Laudary                                                                  | Director, Planning and Coording                              | NARC         | In Person |
| 4     | Bhutan    | Dr. Deki Lhamo                                                                                 | Dy. Chief Agriculture Officer                                | MOA          | In Person |
| 5     | Iran      | Dr. Mohammad Ali Ebrahimi                                                                      | Director General, Academic Relations & International Affairs | AREEO        | In Person |
| 6     | Japan     | Dr. Kanamori Norihito                                                                          | Regional Coordinator                                         | JIRCAS       | In Person |
| 7     | S. Korea  | Dr. Kyung-tai Lee<br>(Accompanied by Dr. Eunjung Choi, International Project Coordinator, RDA) | Director of International Technology Cooperation Center      | RDA          | In Person |
| 8     | PNG       | Dr Nelson Simbiken                                                                             | Director General                                             | NARI         | In Person |

|    |             |                              |                                                       |              |           |
|----|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 9  | Pakistan    | Babar Bajwa                  | Senior Regional Director                              | CABI         | In Person |
| 10 | Thailand    | Dr Margaret C. Yoovatana     | Director, International Agricultural Affairs Group    | DOA          | In Person |
| 11 | Vietnam     | Pham Van Toan                | Vice President                                        | VAAS         | In Person |
| 12 | Philippines | Dr. Reynaldo Eborá           | Executive Director                                    | DOST-PCAARRD | In Person |
| 13 | Laos        | Phonevilay Sinavong          | Deputy Director                                       | NAFRI        | In Person |
| 14 | Cambodia    | Dr. Chanthy Pol              | Head of Training and Information Center               | CARDI        | In Person |
| 15 | India       | Dr. Bikash Mandal            | Assistant Director General-International Relations    | ICAR         | In Person |
| 16 | Malaysia    | Ms.Aniadila Binti Kamaruddin | Deputy Director of International Networking Programme | MARDI        | In Person |
| 17 | Taiwan      | Ms. Tzuying Yeh              | Secretary                                             | TECO         | In Person |
| 18 | Taiwan      | Mr.Jerry CHOU                | Director                                              | TECO         | In Person |
| 19 | Thailand    | Dr Ravi Khetarpal            | Executive Director                                    | APAARI       | In Person |
| 20 | Bangladesh  | Md. Mustafizur Rahman        | Director                                              | BARC         | Online    |
| 21 | Sri Lanka   | WI Prabath Wimal Kumar       | Secretary/Director                                    | SLCARP       | Online    |

|    |           |                             |                                                              |        |        |
|----|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 22 | Samoa     | Ms. Angelika Tugaga         | Principal Research Scientist                                 | SROS   | Online |
| 23 | Taiwan    | Ms. Sophie, Hsiao-Chun Hung | Deputy Director-General, Department of International Affairs | MOA    | Online |
| 24 | India     | Mr. Raghavan Sampathkumar   | Executive Director                                           | FSII   | Online |
| 25 | Singapore | Dr. Michael Fu              | Secretary General                                            | IAAS   | Online |
| 26 | India     | Prof Jeya Kumar             | Director                                                     | TNAU   | Online |
| 27 | Nepal     | Dr Surendra Raj Joshi       | Senior Resilient Livelihoods Specialist                      | ICIMOD | Online |

## Annexure 2B






### List of APAARI attending the Special General Assembly Meeting 2024

| S No. | Staff Name            | Designation/Email                                               |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.    | Mr. Manish Rai        | Head of Operations<br>Manish.raai@apaari.org                    |
| 2.    | Ms. Sokharath Samnang | Executive Assistant<br>s.samnang@apaari.org                     |
| 3.    | Ms. Samitha S Haldar  | Membership and Partnership Manager<br>samitha.haldar@apaari.org |



### Annexure 3

#### List of APAARI Executive Committee Members for the Biennium 2023-2024

| S No. | Executive Committee Member                    | Designation                                                                                                                                    | Picture                                                                               |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Prof. Lindsay Falvey, (Chairman)              | Commissioner, Commission for International Agricultural Research, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Australia |    |
| 2     | Dr. Md. Ali Ebrahimi (Vice-Chairman)          | Director General, Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO), Iran                                                    |    |
| 3     | Dr. Himanshu Pathak (Member)                  | Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), India                                                                        |    |
| 4     | Dr. Andrew Tukana (Member)                    | Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, Fiji                                                                               |   |
| 5     | Mr. Rapibhat Chantharasriwong (Member)        | Director General, Department of Agriculture (DOA), Thailand                                                                                    |  |
| 6     | Dato' Dr. Mohamad Zabawi Abdul Ghani (Member) | Director General, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), Malaysia                                                  |  |
| 7     | Dr. HwangYong Kim (Member)                    | Director General, International Technical Cooperation Center (ITCC), Rural Development Administration (RDA) , S.Korea                          |  |
| 8     | Ms. Temina Lalani-Shariff (Member)            | Regional Director- South Asia, CGIAR                                                                                                           |  |

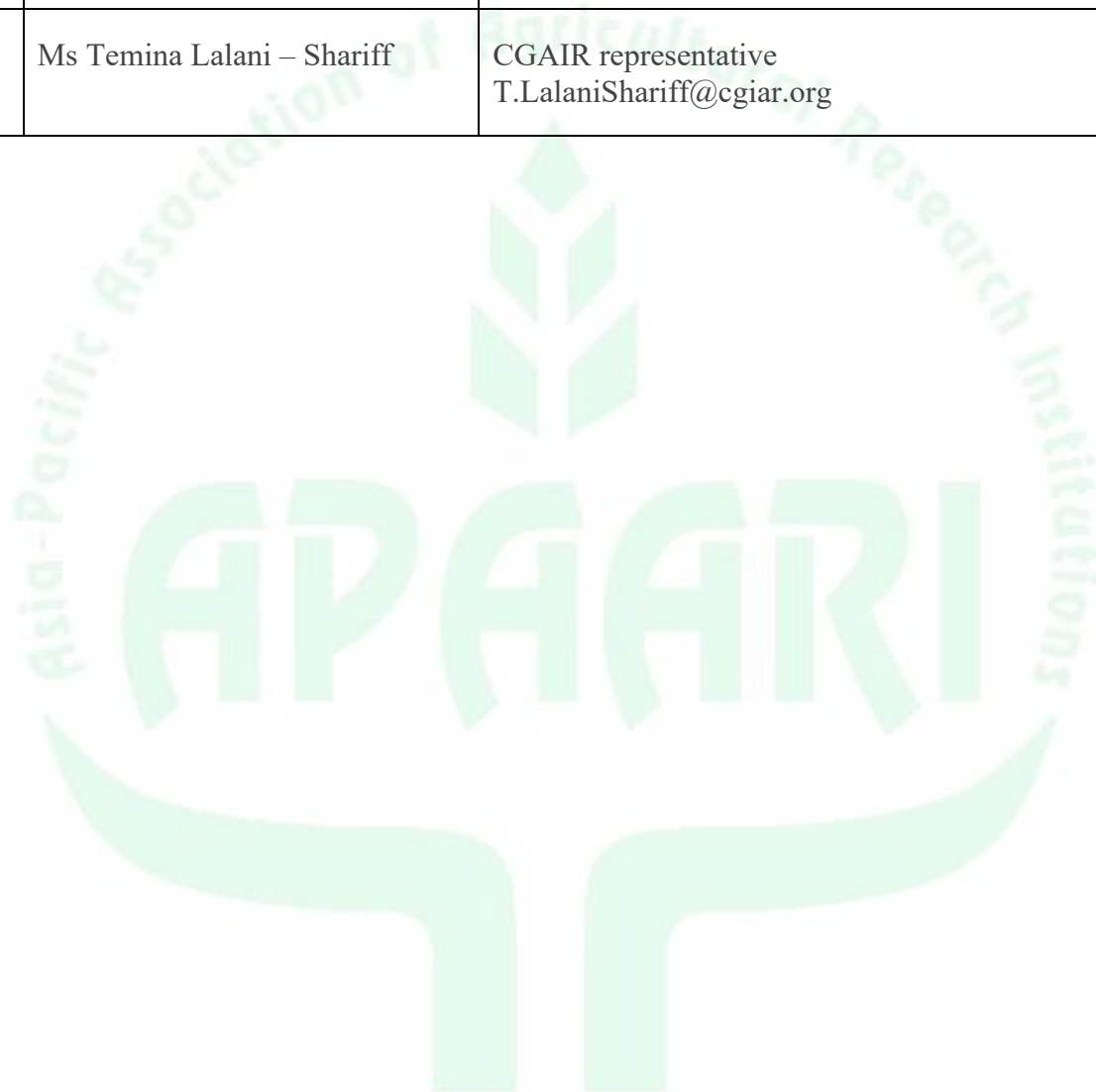
|    |                                                |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|----|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9  | Dr. Babar Bajwa<br>(Member)                    | Senior Regional Director- Asia, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), Pakistan                |  |
| 10 | Dr. Prof. Hildegard Lingnau (Member)           | Executive Secretary, Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR), Italy                             |  |
| 11 | Dr. Geethalakshmi Vellingiri<br>(Member)       | Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India                                                          |  |
| 12 | Ms. Sophie, Hsiao-Chun Hung<br>(Donor/Funding) | Deputy Director-General, Department of International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Executive Yuan (MOA), Taiwan |  |
| 13 | Dr. Ravi Khetarpal<br>(Member Secretary)       | Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)                         |  |

## Annexure 4

### List of Legal Sub-Committee Members

| S. No. | Participant                                                                                                                                                                                  | Designation/Email                                                                                                                                           |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.     | Mr. Rapibhat Chantharasriwong<br>(Represented by Dr. Margaret C. Yoovatana, Director, International Agricultural Affairs Group)                                                              | Director General<br>Department of Agriculture (DOA), Thailand<br>rapibhat@gmail.com<br>luckymegy@yahoo.com                                                  |
| 2.     | Dato' Dr. Mohamad Zabawi Abdul Ghani<br>(Represented by Ms. Aniadila Binti Kamaruddin, Deputy Director of International Networking Program)                                                  | Director General<br>Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), Malaysia<br>bawi@mardi.gov.my                                        |
| 3.     | Dr. Babar Bajwa<br>(Representative from AIRCA)                                                                                                                                               | Senior Regional Director- Asia<br>Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), Pakistan<br>b.bajwa@cabi.org                                  |
| 4.     | Ms. Sophie, Hsiao-Chun Hung<br>(Representative from Donor Agencies)                                                                                                                          | Deputy Director-General, Department of International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Executive Yuan (MOA), Taiwan<br>hchung@moa.gov.tw                    |
| 5.     | Dr. Ravi Khetarpal<br>(Accompanied by Mr Manish Rai, Head of Operations, APAARI)                                                                                                             | Member Secretary and Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)<br>ravi.khetarpal@apaari.org               |
| 6.     | Dr. HwangYong Kim<br>(Represented by Dr. Kyung-Tai Lee, Director of International Technology Cooperation Center, RDA and Accompanied by Dr. Eunjung Choi, International Project Coordinator) | Director General of Technology Cooperation Bureau, Rural Development Administration (RDA), S. Korea<br>hykim@korea.kr<br>leekt@korea.kr<br>choiej1@korea.kr |

|    |                            |                                                                                                                    |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7. | Dr. Raghunath Ghodake      | Advisor, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)<br>raghunath.ghodake760@gmail.com |
| 8. | Dr. Saranyu Viriyavejakul  | Legal Consultant, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)<br>saranyuv@yahoo.com    |
| 9. | Ms Temina Lalani – Shariff | CGAIR representative<br>T.LalaniShariff@cgiar.org                                                                  |



## Annexure 5

The APAARI Constitution (10<sup>th</sup> Edition)*Final Draft 11 June 2024 – Resulted from the Special GAM*

## The Constitution

Tenth Edition ..... 2024

This revised version (Tenth Edition) of the APAARI Constitution was endorsed in ..... 2024 by the APAARI Executive Committee and was approved by the special General Assembly Meeting held virtually in ..... 2024.

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) was established in 1990 at the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UN FAO-RAP) and several UN Member States from the Asia-Pacific Region.

This Constitution is published by **the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions.**

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<http://www.apaari.org>



***Hands/or cooperation, Ear head/or agriculture, and Shape of bud for future growth***

***This explanation can be provided either on the back front cover page or any other appropriate place.***



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## **PREAMBLE**

We, a group of Member States of the United Nations<sup>1</sup> in the Asia-Pacific Region (APR), at the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UN FAO-RAP), founded the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and adopted its Constitution (First Edition) in the first General Assembly Meeting of APAARI held in December 1990.

As a membership-based, apolitical, inter-governmental organization in the Asia-Pacific region, we are committed to cultivating a network of like-minded countries to further sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific. As an important intermediary in the region, we bridge national, regional and global stakeholders to bring about collective change in agri-food research and innovation systems of the Asia-Pacific region.

With the objectives of ensuring the co-ordination of our regional and international activities, the development and implementation of capable and motivated organization, capacity building and of having a presence and recognition as a global partner in agri-food systems, we have agreed to unite ourselves and to establish an international body named the “the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)” as an Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) headquartered in Thailand.

With these objectives in mind, we hereby set out the constitutional provisions of this international body and the related rights and duties by which we agree to abide.

To accommodate and reflect the changing circumstances and needs of agricultural research, innovation and development in the Asia-Pacific region, we, from time to time, had reviewed the Constitution. To this end, the Constitution has progressed through nine editions<sup>2</sup> and this being the Tenth Edition.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to Annexure 1 for Member States of the UN as Founding Members of APAARI.

<sup>2</sup> Second Edition of 1994, Third Edition of 2003, Fourth Edition of 2009, Fifth Edition of 2015, Sixth Edition of 2017, Seventh Edition of 2019, Eighth Edition of 2021 and Ninth Edition of 2022.

**Article I: INTERPRETATION**

1. In this Constitution (Tenth Edition), unless the context otherwise specifies, various abbreviations, acronyms, and terms, as expressed in Annexure 5, are used.

**Article II: ESTABLISHMENT**

2. Pursuant to the recommendations made by the FAO Regional Conferences<sup>3</sup>, that were participated by the high-level ministerial delegations from the UN Member States (held in 1984, 1986, 1988 and 1990)<sup>4</sup> and based on the sponsorship of FAO-RAP (FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific), the UN Member States<sup>5</sup> from the Asia-Pacific Region, in its inaugural meeting in 1990, established APAARI as an inter-governmental organization (IGO).
3. The Seat of the Organization shall be in Bangkok, Thailand as proposed by the FAO Regional Conferences and subsequently approved by the First General Assembly Meeting of APAARI.
4. APAARI acts under its own Constitution with all the rights, responsibilities and obligations of an international body with legal personality.

**Article III: NAME AND CHARACTER**

5. The name of this Organization shall be “Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions”, hereinafter referred to as “APAARI” or “the Organization”.
6. APAARI shall have a logo designed and approved by the General Assembly, which may change the logo through amendment/resolution as provided under Article XIX.
7. APAARI is an international organization for strengthening agri-food research and innovation systems in the Asia-Pacific Region.

**Article IV: OFFICE AND SECRETARIAT**

8. Unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly of APAARI (hereinafter the “General Assembly”), the head office of APAARI shall be in Bangkok, Thailand (host country of APAARI).

---

<sup>3</sup> The FAO Regional Conferences for Asia and the Pacific are regular biennial feature, facilitated by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (UN FAO-RAP) and are participated by the high level ministerial delegations of the UN Member States from the Asia-Pacific region.

<sup>4</sup> List of 28 Participating UN Member States from the APR in these conferences is in Annexure 1.

<sup>5</sup> Fourteen UN member states from the Asia-Pacific region participated in the inaugural meeting and the first General Assembly Meeting of APAARI, with three members attending the meeting as observers (list in Annexure 2).

9. The Organization shall have a Secretariat to perform its technical, managerial and administrative functions. The Secretariat shall be located at APAARI's head office.
10. The Asia-Pacific Region shall have representations from three sub-regions for effective operations and governance of APAARI. These sub-regions shall be: i) South Asia and West Asia, ii) Southeast Asia and East Asia, and iii) the Pacific.

#### **Article V: VISION AND MISSION**

11. The following are the key elements of APAARI Vision 2030:
  - i. **Vision:** Strengthened research and innovations for sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific; and
  - ii. **Mission:** Promoting, coordinating and strengthening agriculture and agri-food research and innovation systems through partnerships and collaboration, capacity development and advocacy for sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific;

#### **Article VI: OBJECTIVES**

12. The specific objectives of APAARI shall be to:
  - i. Strengthen agri-food research and innovation systems for more effective knowledge management and information exchange in order to make agriculture and agri-food systems more knowledge-intensive in the APR;
  - ii. Develop and strengthen strategic partnerships, cross-linkages and networking for technical and scientific cooperation among a) agri-food research and innovation systems in the region, and b) national, sub-regional, regional and global multi-sector research and development organizations/agencies;
  - iii. Assist in the assessment and prioritization of agricultural research and development needs in the APR.
  - iv. Contribute to the development of institutional arrangements, organizational capacities; including but not limited to technical, scientific and managerial competencies of AFRIS for effective planning, management and delivery of research and innovations;
  - v. Contribute to the improved understanding and awareness of the role and importance of, and investment in AFRIS for improving AFS and socio-economic development in the APR;
  - vi. Assist in facilitating appropriate and fair representation of women, youth, and other marginalized groups in AFRIS, and promote their involvement and participation in policy development and decision-making in agri-food systems; and



- vii. Manage, develop, and govern APAARI with a high level of transparency and accountability in order to achieve sustained strengthening of AFRIS in the APR.

**Article VII: FUNCTIONS**

13. The functions of APAARI shall be to:

- i. Convene General Assembly of APAARI and establish and operate Executive Committee to deliberate and decide on APAARI management, governance, work programme, progress, finances, policies, strategies, reforms, amendment of the constitution, dissolution of the organization and other related matters;
- ii. Develop, implement, monitor and report on vision, strategy, policies, operational plans and collective actions of APAARI;
- iii. Initiate, collaborate and/or coordinate technical and scientific projects/programmes, and necessary research and innovation activities among APAARI members, AFRIS and their partner organizations, at state, sub-regional, regional and global levels;
- iv. Organize, co-host and/or sponsor scientific, technical, policy-related conferences, workshops, dialogues, meetings, seminars, webinars, online discussions and such other events in pursuit of the Organization's objectives;
- v. Organize, participate and support institutional, organizational and human resource capacity development activities, including training programmes, staff exchange, mentoring, attachments, secondment and any other as necessary;
- vi. Develop, manage and implement knowledge management/ exchange and necessary tools, processes and information and communication technologies (ICTs), including websites, databases, social media tools, technical and scientific publications, standards and any other as necessary;
- vii. Mobilize, generate, and manage necessary financial, human and partnership resources for effective management and governance of APAARI; and
- viii. Provide priority support in small-island and mountainous nations of the APR for developing competencies, capacities and resources to agri-food research and innovation systems.



**Article VIII: MEMBERSHIP**

14. APAARI membership shall be comprised of member states of the United Nations and territories<sup>6</sup> in the Asia-Pacific Region.
15. Membership of APAARI may be sought by submitting an application to the Executive Secretary. Once approved, such UN member state shall be termed as APAARI member and such member is deemed to have acceded to the Agreement among the APAARI members. The members of APAARI, respective ministries and representing nodal organizations (as in 2023) are listed in Annexure 3.
16. The APAARI members shall be represented by their respective representing organizations (termed as member organizations) for their participation, functions, roles and responsibilities in the performance and development of APAARI.

**Article IX: ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

17. Besides APAARI Members from UN Members States, there is a provision of having Associate Members which may include entities/organizations, engaged in supporting and promoting agricultural research, innovation and development in the Asia-Pacific region, as development partners, and are categorized as: i) Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO) and, ii) International Organizations (IO), including national, regional and global development organizations and economies. Annexure 4 provides specifications and a list of APAARI Associate Members (as in 2023).
18. Associate membership of APAARI may be sought by submitting an application to the Executive Secretary. Once approved, such entity shall be termed as Associate Member of APAARI.
19. Details of members and membership subscriptions, methods and processes of their management, their roles and responsibilities, withdrawal, dispute resolution, are provided in APAARI Membership Management Standard.

**Article X: FUNDS**

20. APAARI shall seek and receive funds from various sources to carry out its functions. Such sources may comprise of:
- i. Membership subscriptions received from APAARI members and associate members;
  - ii. Donations/ contributions received from APAARI members and associate members;
  - iii. Grants and donations from governments, national, regional or international organizations, development banks, donor/aid organizations/agencies, philanthropic bodies, etc.;

---

<sup>6</sup> [The term “territories” denotes administrative divisions or areas of member states of the United Nations in the APR]



- iv. Contributions from partners/collaborators and sponsors mainly through projects/programs developed and secured by APAARI and through APAARI organized meetings, events, networks, etc.; and
- v. Other suitable sources as approved from time to time by the Executive Committee.

#### **Article XI: GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- 21. There shall be a General Assembly of APAARI, wherein each APAARI member and each APAARI Associate Members shall be represented by one delegate. The General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years.
- 22. The meeting of the General Assembly shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, as assisted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee.
- 23. Both -Members and Associate Members- shall have one vote each at the General Assembly meetings for all technical and operational matters. However, for constitutional amendment, reform of the organization and policy/governance matters only members will have the voting right. Any others invited and participating as observers/guests/experts shall not have voting rights at the General Assembly meetings.
- 24. The Chairperson shall allow adequate time for mutual consultation among members prior to voting on any issue/matter. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
- 25. All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote (more than half of votes in favor), except for those relating to amendment of the Constitution, reform of the Organization, and dissolution of the Organization, wherein the decision shall take place as under Article XIX and Article XX.

#### **Article XII: DUTIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- 26. To fulfill the objectives of APAARI, the General Assembly shall perform the following roles and responsibilities:
  - i. Consider and endorse biennial work plan, income expenditure plan, strategic plan, audited financial statements, progress and performance reports, human resource development report as presented by the Executive Committee;
  - ii. Consider and approve policies, directives, rules of procedures, and regulations made in accordance with this Constitution;
  - iii. Nominate/elect the Executive Committee, appoint any specific purpose committee(s), appoint any member of the Assembly to serve on such specific purpose committee, delegate any required authority to the Executive Committee, and exercise other powers/duties as conferred upon the General Assembly under this Constitution;

- iv. Consider and approve recommendations of the Executive Committee for effective functioning and governance of APAARI; and
- v. As and when needed, consider and approve amendments to the Constitution and reforms of the Organization for enhancing the performance and effectiveness of APAARI.

### Article XIII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

27. The Organization shall have an Executive Committee, composed of the following fourteen (14) members as classified into Categories and Subcategories of the membership and partnership:
- i. Six (6) members representing APAARI Members, of which two (2) shall be from the South Asia and West Asia sub-region, two (2) from the South-East Asia and East Asia sub-region, and two (2) from the Pacific sub-region.
  - ii. One (1) member representing the host country of APAARI;
  - iii. One (1) member who is the incumbent Executive Secretary of the GFAiR as an *ex-officio* member;
  - iv. One (1) member representing CGIAR;
  - v. One (1) member representing the AIRCA institutions/any other international research/development organizations;
  - vi. One (1) member representing the Academia Cluster (agricultural universities and institutions);
  - vii. One (1) member representing the private sector organizations/entities;
  - viii. One (1) member representing donor/funding agencies/organizations; and
  - ix. The (1) incumbent Executive Secretary of APAARI as an *ex-officio* member.
28. The members of the Executive Committee shall be nominated/elected at the General Assembly in its biennial meeting from the respective groups of members (member organizations). A member organization shall not have more than one representative on the Executive Committee.
29. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall be nominated/elected from the seven Executive Committee members [as under Paragraph 27 (i) and (ii)], by the Members (Member Organizations) present at the General Assembly Meeting.
30. The Executive Secretary of APAARI shall be appointed in accordance with Article XV of this Constitution.
31. In case any of the member seat(s) on the Executive Committee remains vacant during the General Assembly meeting, such member seat(s) shall be nominated/filled-in by the Executive Committee.



32. The Executive Committee may co-opt/ invite, as a special person/an observer on the Executive Committee, any such individual with specific expertise, skills, interest and experience.
33. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and members of the Executive Committee (other than the member representing the host country, the Executive Secretary of GFAiR and the Executive Secretary of APAARI), shall hold office for two years, which can be renewed up to twice through approval of the General Assembly Meeting.
34. If any member seat, including that of the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, of the Executive Committee, falls vacant, such seat shall be filled-in for remaining tenure by the Executive Committee in consultation with the member state/ member organization to which the original member belonged.
35. A separate Management Standard on the Executive Committee, providing details of guidelines, agreed procedures, rules, regulations and processes for performing the role, functions, dispute resolution, and the overall conduct of the Executive Committee, is provided.

#### **Article XIV: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

36. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice every year and such meetings shall be convened by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairperson.
37. The Executive Committee shall oversee the affairs of APAARI in accordance with this Constitution, and policies and directives adopted/given by the General Assembly. The specific duties of the Executive Committee shall be to:
- i. Review and approve biennial work plan, income and expenditure plan, audited financial statements, projects and collective actions of APAARI;
  - ii. Plan and develop policies, strategies, directives, rules of procedures, and regulations for approval by the General Assembly;
  - iii. Suggest and approve the necessary standards of management to enhance functioning, performance and governance of APAARI;
  - iv. Ensure that the Committee will guide and focus on strategic core governance issues, while the management of programmes and projects will be the responsibility of the Secretariat;
  - v. Propose to the General Assembly the composition of the Executive Committee, delegation of required authority to the Executive Committee, and suggest any other powers/duties of the General Assembly as conferred upon under this Constitution;
  - vi. Form and appoint sub-committee(s) of the Executive Committee to deal with specific purpose(s);

- vii. Appoint APAARI Executive Secretary and periodically assess and review his/her performance; and
  - viii. Design, endorse and propose amendments to the Constitution and reforms of the Organization for approval by the General Assembly, as and when needed.
38. The Executive Committee members shall participate in any specific purpose committee(s), as formed from time to time, by the Executive Committee and/or by the General Assembly
39. The Executive Committee members, as and when required, shall represent APAARI at internal and external meetings, forums and events in fulfilling the objectives of APAARI.

#### **Article XV: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

40. APAARI shall have an Executive Secretary as Chief Executive Officer of APAARI. The APAARI Secretariat shall be headed by the Executive Secretary.
41. The Executive Committee shall appoint the Executive Secretary for a tenure of three (3) years. The person appointed should have suitable qualifications, experience and acknowledged leadership in agricultural research, innovation and development. He/she will be supported by an optimal number of technical and administrative staff in the Secretariat.
42. The performance of the Executive Secretary shall be periodically assessed and reviewed by the Executive Committee and if found satisfactory and acceptable; the appointment of the Executive Secretary may be renewed twice for a further term of three (3) years.

#### **Article XVI: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

43. The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee; and represent, as and when required, the Organization at internal and external meetings, fora, and events in fulfilling the objectives of APAARI.
44. The Vice-Chairperson shall perform all duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson, and such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Chairperson.
45. The Executive Secretary shall be the chief of the Secretariat of APAARI and shall be responsible for the affairs of the Organization. Under the general guidance of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly, the Executive Secretary shall perform the following duties:
- i. Plan and organize the General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings, prepare the proceedings, arrange their publication and distribution, follow up on decisions taken and matters arising, and maintain records of the reports and proceedings of all meetings of the Organization;
  - ii. Prepare the Organization's work plan and budget, monitor the progress of activities, propose new projects/programmes in collaboration with national, regional and international organizations, and ensure coordination of activities among the member organizations of APAARI;

- iii. Mobilize and manage the financial resources of APAARI, in particular (but not limited to), collect annual membership subscriptions and receive any other financial contributions, make payments/utilize funds in accordance with approved income expenditure plan/budget, maintain full accounts, and submit audited financial statements for endorsement to the Executive Committee/ General Assembly during their respective meetings;
- iv. Oversee overall delivery on a) APAARI programmes / projects, b) design of policies, strategies and biennial operational plans, c) partnership meetings/ conferences/ dialogues/ training events/activities, d) human resource development and management, and e) public relationship;
- v. Document and/or publish the APAARI Newsletter, event proceedings and technical and policy articles/ reports;
- vi. Line manage all the staff of APAARI, conduct their annual performance appraisal, and ensure new recruitments or replacements of core staff as and when desired/approved by the Executive Committee;
- vii. Sign and/or authorize legal, financial, contractual, employment, and procurement documents/agreement and to take due responsibility for any mismanagement, miscarriage, and neglect of due-diligence, etc., as and if involved in exercising such power, and as provided under appropriate rules and regulations; and
- viii. Undertake any additional duties as entrusted by the Executive Committee in pursuit of the APAARI's objectives.

#### **Article XVII: RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- 46. General rules of procedure, financial management procedures, and regulations shall be prepared, modified and proposed by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly.
- 47. A separate supplementary document on General Assembly: Rules and Regulations, providing details of guidelines, agreed procedures, and processes for performing the role, functions, dispute resolution and the overall conduct of the General Assembly, is provided.
- 48. Modifications to the rules, procedures, and regulations shall be adopted by a simple majority more than half) of the votes at any meeting of the General Assembly.

#### **Article XVIII: QUORUM**

- 49. The quorum shall be more than half of the total (Member and Associate member) organizations/entities with voting rights at any General Assembly meeting and more than half of the total EC members with voting rights at any Executive Committee meeting.





**Article XIX: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

50. Amendment of the Constitution and/or reform of the Organization shall be considered only by Members (as per Article XI, Paragraph 23) at a meeting of the General Assembly.

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

52. Amendment of the Constitution and/or reform of the Organization shall only be considered by the General Assembly if such agenda and the content of the amendment are supported by and have a prior endorsement of the Executive Committee by a simple majority of more than half of the votes cast, particularly by the APAARI members.

53. The Members may amend this Constitution and/or reform the Organization by a two-third majority of the total votes cast.

**Article XX: DISSOLUTION**

54. The Organization can only be dissolved by a resolution approved at a General Assembly meeting. The procedure to be followed for the dissolution of the Organization shall be the same as detailed in paragraphs 50 to 53 of Article XIX.

| <b>Annexure 1: Participation of UN Member States from the Asia-Pacific Region in FAO Ministerial Conferences in Resolving the Establishment of APAARI</b> |                                       |                                 |             |             |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>No.</b>                                                                                                                                                | <b>Member States</b>                  | <b>Years of FAO Conferences</b> |             |             |             |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                                       | <b>1984</b>                     | <b>1986</b> | <b>1988</b> | <b>1990</b> |
| 1                                                                                                                                                         | Australia                             | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 2                                                                                                                                                         | Bangladesh                            | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 3                                                                                                                                                         | Bhutan                                | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 4                                                                                                                                                         | Burma (Myanmar)                       | √                               | √           | √           |             |
| 5                                                                                                                                                         | Cambodia                              |                                 |             |             | √           |
| 6                                                                                                                                                         | China                                 | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 7                                                                                                                                                         | Cook Islands                          |                                 | √           | √           |             |
| 8                                                                                                                                                         | Democratic People's Republic of Korea | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 9                                                                                                                                                         | India                                 | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 10                                                                                                                                                        | Indonesia                             | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 11                                                                                                                                                        | Iran (Islamic Republic of)            |                                 | √           | √           | √           |
| 12                                                                                                                                                        | Japan                                 | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 13                                                                                                                                                        | Korea (Republic of)                   | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 14                                                                                                                                                        | Laos                                  | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 15                                                                                                                                                        | Malaysia                              | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 16                                                                                                                                                        | Maldives                              |                                 |             | √           | √           |
| 17                                                                                                                                                        | Mongolia                              |                                 | √           | √           | √           |
| 18                                                                                                                                                        | Nepal                                 | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 19                                                                                                                                                        | New Zealand                           | √                               | √           |             | √           |
| 20                                                                                                                                                        | Pakistan                              | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 21                                                                                                                                                        | Papua New Guinea                      |                                 |             |             | √           |
| 22                                                                                                                                                        | Philippines                           | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 23                                                                                                                                                        | Samoa                                 |                                 | √           | √           | √           |
| 24                                                                                                                                                        | Solomon Islands                       |                                 |             | √           |             |
| 25                                                                                                                                                        | Sri Lanka                             | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 26                                                                                                                                                        | Thailand                              | √                               | √           | √           | √           |
| 27                                                                                                                                                        | Vanuatu                               | √                               |             | √           | √           |
| 28                                                                                                                                                        | Vietnam                               |                                 | √           | √           | √           |

| <b>Annexure 2: UN Member States as Founding Members of APAARI and Respective Ministries and Representing Organizations (1991-92)*</b>                                    |                                                  |                                                 |                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>No.</b>                                                                                                                                                               | <b>APAARI Member / UN Member State/Territory</b> | <b>Respective Ministry</b>                      | <b>Representing Organization / APAARI Member Organization</b>                                         |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                        | People's Republic of Bangladesh – Bangladesh     | Ministry of Agriculture                         | Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)                                                       |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                        | People's Republic of China                       | Ministry of Agriculture                         | Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)                                                       |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                        | Republic of Fiji                                 | Ministry of Primary Industries                  | Ministry of Primary Industries (MOPM)                                                                 |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                        | Republic of India                                | Ministry of Agriculture                         | Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)                                                        |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                        | Islamic Republic of Iran                         | Ministry of Agriculture                         | (Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)                                  |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                        | Malaysia                                         | Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry | Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI)                                     |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                        | New Zealand                                      | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry            | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MOAF)                                                           |
| 8                                                                                                                                                                        | Islamic Republic of Pakistan                     | Ministry of National Food Security              | Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)                                                         |
| 9                                                                                                                                                                        | Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG)      | Ministry of Agriculture                         | Department of Agriculture (DOA)                                                                       |
| 10                                                                                                                                                                       | Republic of the Philippines                      | Department of Science and Technology            | Philippines Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) |
| 11                                                                                                                                                                       | Republic of Korea – South Korea                  | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs | Rural Development Administration (RDA)                                                                |
| 12                                                                                                                                                                       | Independent Republic of Sri Lanka                | Ministry of Agriculture                         | Council for Agriculture Research Policy (CARP)                                                        |
| 13                                                                                                                                                                       | Thailand                                         | Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation         | Department of Agriculture (DOA)                                                                       |
| 14                                                                                                                                                                       | Independent State of Samoa                       | Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries           | Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Metrology (MOAFFM)                                   |
| <i>* Three Member States - Indonesia, Japan and Vietnam - were present as observers.</i>                                                                                 |                                                  |                                                 |                                                                                                       |
| <i>The FAO-RAP sponsored and supported through services of then the Regional Plant Production and Protection Officer as the Inaugural Executive Secretary of APAARI.</i> |                                                  |                                                 |                                                                                                       |

| <b>Annexure 3: UN Member States as Members of APAARI – Respective Ministries and Representing Organizations (as in 2023)</b> |                                        |                                                   |                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>No.</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>APAARI Member / UN Member State</b> | <b>Respective Ministry</b>                        | <b>Representing Entity / APAARI Member Organization</b>                |
| 1                                                                                                                            | Islamic Republic of Afghanistan        | Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock  | Agriculture Research Institute of Afghanistan (ARIA)                   |
| 2                                                                                                                            | Commonwealth of Australia              | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade             | Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)      |
| 3                                                                                                                            | People's Republic of Bangladesh        | Ministry of Agriculture                           | Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)                        |
| 4                                                                                                                            | Bhutan                                 | Ministry and Agriculture and Livestock            | Department of Agriculture (DOA)                                        |
| 5                                                                                                                            | Kingdom of Cambodia                    | Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries   | Cambodia Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)       |
| 6                                                                                                                            | Republic of Fiji                       | Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways             | Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)                                          |
| 7                                                                                                                            | Republic of India                      | Ministry of Agriculture                           | Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)                         |
| 8                                                                                                                            | Islamic Republic of Iran               | Ministry of Agriculture                           | Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)    |
| 9                                                                                                                            | Japan                                  | Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries   | Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) |
| 10                                                                                                                           | Republic of Korea                      | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs   | Rural Development Administration (RDA)                                 |
| 11                                                                                                                           | Lao People's Democratic Republic       | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry              | National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI)           |
| 12                                                                                                                           | Malaysia                               | Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry   | Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI)      |
| 13                                                                                                                           | Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal   | Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development | Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)                             |
| 14                                                                                                                           | New Caledonia (Territory)              | Ministry of Agriculture                           | Institut Agronomique Neo-Caledonien (IAC)                              |
| 15                                                                                                                           | Republic of Pakistan                   | Ministry of National Food Security and Research   | Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)                          |
| 16                                                                                                                           | Independent State of Papua New Guinea  | Ministry of Agriculture                           | National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)                        |
| 17                                                                                                                           | Republic of the Philippines            | Department of Science and Technology              | Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources      |

|    |                                   |                                                         |                                                      |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
|    |                                   |                                                         | Research Lao and Development (PCAARRD)               |
| 18 | Independent State of Samoa        | Market Development Facility and Ministry of Agriculture | Scientific Research Organization of Samoa (SROS)     |
| 19 | Independent Republic of Sri Lanka | Ministry of Agriculture                                 | Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP)    |
| 20 | Thailand                          | Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation                 | Department of Agriculture (DOA)                      |
| 21 | Socialist Republic of Vietnam     | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development           | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) |
|    | <b>Total Members</b>              |                                                         | <b>21</b>                                            |



| Annexure 4: Specifications and List of APAARI Associate Members (as in 2023) |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No                                                                           | Category of Associate Members                                                                                                                         | List of Associate Members*                                                 |
| 1                                                                            | Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO): composed of sovereign states, referred to as the UN member states                                             | CABI, SAC, SPC, NACA                                                       |
| 2                                                                            | International Organizations (IO): National, regional and global development organizations / economies, donor/funding entities, and the private sector | CGIAR (10 Centers), GFAiR, ICIMOD, IAAS, CIRAD, PJTSAU, TNAU, and AAI-FSII |
|                                                                              | <b>Total Associate Members</b>                                                                                                                        | <b>21</b>                                                                  |



| <b>Annexure 5: Interpretations of Abbreviations, Acronyms and Terms</b> |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Abbreviations, Acronyms and Terms</b>                                | <b>Interpretation</b>                                                                                                                                            |
| AFRIS                                                                   | Agri-food Research and Innovation Systems                                                                                                                        |
| AFS                                                                     | Agri-food Systems                                                                                                                                                |
| APAARI                                                                  | Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions as named under Paragraph 5 (Article III)                                                          |
| APAARI Member                                                           | An UN Member State that is an approved Member of APAARI as per Paragraphs 14 and 15 (Article VIII)                                                               |
| APAARI Member Organization                                              | An entity/agency that represents APAARI member state as given in Annexure 3                                                                                      |
| APAARI Member State                                                     | Sovereign nation that is a member of the United Nations and also a member of APAARI as per Paragraph 15 (Article IX)                                             |
| APR                                                                     | Asia-Pacific Region                                                                                                                                              |
| Associate Member                                                        | An entity/organization as development partner, and as specified/ approved in Paragraph 17 and 18 (Article IX) and shown in Annexure 4                            |
| Chairperson                                                             | Chairperson of the Executive Committee as nominated/elected under Paragraph 29 (Article XIII)                                                                    |
| EC Member                                                               | A person, identified by name/ designation, representing a member organization of APAARI on its Executive Committee as composed under Paragraph 27 (Article XIII) |
| Executive Committee (EC)                                                | Means the Executive Committee of APAARI established under Paragraph 28 (Article XIII)                                                                            |
| Executive Secretary (ES)                                                | Means the Executive Secretary of APAARI as established under Paragraph, 40 (Article XV)                                                                          |
| FAO-RAP                                                                 | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – the Regional office for Asia and the Pacific                                                           |
| General Assembly (GA)                                                   | General Assembly of APAARI established under Paragraph 21 (Article XI)                                                                                           |

|                  |                                                                                                                         |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Head Office      | Means the Head Office of APAARI as mentioned in Paragraph 7 (Article IV)                                                |
| Host Country     | Means the Host Country of APAARI as named under Paragraph 7 (Article IV)                                                |
| IGO              | Inter-Governmental Organization, comprised primarily of sovereign states (as member states of UN) as termed in Thailand |
| NARO             | National Agricultural Research Organization                                                                             |
| Organization     | Means the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions as recognized under Paragraph 5 (Article III)  |
| Region           | Asia -Pacific region unless otherwise specified                                                                         |
| SAARC            | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation                                                                        |
| Seat             | The term “Seat” was used in 1990 to mean Head Office as stated in Article IV, Para 8                                    |
| Secretariat      | Means the Secretariat of APAARI established and located as under Paragraph 9 of Article IV                              |
| UN-FAO           | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations                                                                 |
| Vice-Chairperson | Means the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee nominated/ elected under Paragraph 29, (Article XIII)             |

## Annexure 6

**Consent of UN State Members (General Assembly Members) on the Proposed Tenth Edition of APAARI Constitution and on Agreement Among Members****Consent of UN State Members (General Assembly Members) on the Proposed Tenth Edition of APAARI Constitution and on Agreement Among Members**

Date: 28 May 2024

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with its inclusion, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 1:**

Consent on the newly added Article(s) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article II: Establishment:

Article V: Vision and Mission:

Article IX: Associate Membership:

Approved

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with the modifications or rewording, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 2:**

Consent on Article(s) (modified or reworded) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article III: Name and Character:

Article IV: Office and Secretariat:

Article VIII: Membership:

Article X: Funds:

Article XI: General Assembly:

Article XVIII: Quorum:

Approved

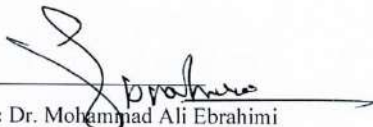
**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

Approved

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_



Name of Participant: Dr. Mohammad Ali Ebrahimi

Name of Organization: AREEO

Country: Iran

Designation: Director General, Academic Relations &amp; International Affairs

Email: [ma.ebrahimi@areeo.ac.ir](mailto:ma.ebrahimi@areeo.ac.ir); [z.zamani@areeo.ac.ir](mailto:z.zamani@areeo.ac.ir)



**Consent of UN State Members (General Assembly Members) on the Proposed Tenth Edition of APAARI Constitution and on Agreement Among Members**

Date: 28 May 2024

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with its inclusion, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 1:**

Consent on the newly added Article(s) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article II: Establishment: ✓ *Approve*  
Article V: Vision and Mission: ✓ *Approve*  
Article IX: Associate Membership: ✓ *Approve*

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with the modifications or rewording, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 2:**

Consent on Article(s) (modified or reworded) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article III: Name and Character: ✓ *Approve*  
Article IV: Office and Secretariat: *Approve*  
Article VIII: Membership: *Approve*  
Article X: Funds: *Approve*  
Article XI: General Assembly: *Approve*  
Article XVIII: Quorum: *Approve*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign:   
Name of Participant: Dr. Chanthy Pol  
Name of Organization: CARDI  
Country: Cambodia  
Designation: Head of Training and Information Center  
Email: chanthypol@gmail.com



**Consent of UN State Members (General Assembly Members) on the Proposed Tenth Edition of  
APAARI Constitution and on Agreement Among Members**

Date: 28 May 2024

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ | <b>INSTRUCTION:</b> For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with its inclusion, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.                                                                                                                                                              |
| ✓ | <b>SECTION 1:</b><br>Consent on the newly added Article(s) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:<br><br>Article II: Establishment:<br>Article V: Vision and Mission:<br>Article IX: Associate Membership:                                                                                           |
| ✓ | <b>INSTRUCTION:</b> For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with the modifications or rewording, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.                                                                                                                                             |
| ✓ | <b>SECTION 2:</b><br>Consent on Article(s) (modified or reworded) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:<br><br>Article III: Name and Character:<br>Article IV: Office and Secretariat:<br>Article VIII: Membership:<br>Article X: Funds:<br>Article XI: General Assembly:<br>Article XVIII: Quorum: |
| ✓ | <b>SECTION 3:</b><br>Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: 金井 紀仁

**Name of Participant:** Dr. KANAMORI Norihito

**Name of Organization:** JIRCAS

**Country:** Japan

**Designation:** Regional Coordinator

**Email:** norihito@affrc.go.jp; koyama@affrc.go.jp; miyama@affrc.go.jp;





**Consent of UN State Members (General Assembly Members) on the Proposed Tenth Edition of  
APAARI Constitution and on Agreement Among Members**

Date: 28 May 2024

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with its inclusion, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 1:**

Consent on the newly added Article(s) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article II: Establishment: ✓  
Article V: Vision and Mission: ✓✓  
Article IX: Associate Membership: ✓

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with the modifications or rewording, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 2:**

Consent on Article(s) (modified or reworded) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article III: Name and Character: ✓  
Article IV: Office and Secretariat: ✓✓  
Article VIII: Membership: ✓✓  
Article X: Funds: ✓  
Article XI: General Assembly: ✓  
Article XVIII: Quorum: ✓

AGD3B

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Participant:** Dr. Babar Bajwa

**Name of Organization:** CABI

**Country:** Pakistan

**Designation:** Senior Regional Director

**Email:** B.Bajwa@cabi.org; s.ullah@cabi.org;





**Consent of UN State Members (General Assembly Members) on the Proposed Tenth Edition of  
APAARI Constitution and on Agreement Among Members**

Date: 28 May 2024

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with its inclusion, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 1:**

Consent on the newly added Article(s) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article II: Establishment: *Approved*

Article V: Vision and Mission: *Approved*

Article IX: Associate Membership: *Approved*

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with the modifications or rewording, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 2:**

Consent on Article(s) (modified or reworded) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article III: Name and Character: *Approve*

Article IV: Office and Secretariat: *Approve*

Article VIII: Membership: *Approve*

Article X: Funds: *Approve*

Article XI: General Assembly: *Approve*

Article XVIII: Quorum: *Approve*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members: *Approve*

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: 

**Name of Participant:** Dr Nelson Simbiken

**Name of Organization:** NARC

**Country:** Papua New Guinea

**Designation:** Director General

**Email:** nelson.simbiken@nari.gov.pg; sainian.tobel@nari.gov.pg;



**Consent of UN State Members (General Assembly Members) on the Proposed Tenth Edition of  
APAARI Constitution and on Agreement Among Members**

Date: 28 May 2024

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with its inclusion, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 1:**

Consent on the newly added Article(s) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article II: Establishment: *approved*  
Article V: Vision and Mission: *approved*  
Article IX: Associate Membership: *approved*

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with the modifications or rewording, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 2:**

Consent on Article(s) (modified or reworded) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article III: Name and Character: *approved*  
Article IV: Office and Secretariat: *approved*  
Article VIII: Membership: *approved*  
Article X: Funds: *approved*  
Article XI: General Assembly: *approved*  
Article XVIII: Quorum: *approved*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: *Margaret C. Yoovata*

**Name of Participant:** Dr Margaret C. Yoovata

**Name of Organization:** Department of Agriculture (DOA)

**Country:** Thailand

**Designation:** Director, International Agricultural Affairs Group

**Email:** Luckymegy@yahoo.com



**Consent of UN State Members (General Assembly Members) on the Proposed Tenth Edition of APAARI Constitution and on Agreement Among Members**

Date: 28 May 2024

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with its inclusion, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 1:** *Approved*

Consent on the newly added Article(s) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article II: Establishment: *Approved*

Article V: Vision and Mission: *Approved*

Article IX: Associate Membership: *Approved*

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with the modifications or rewording, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 2:**

Consent on Article(s) (modified or reworded) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article III: Name and Character: - *Approved*

Article IV: Office and Secretariat: - *Approved*

Article VIII: Membership: - *Approved*

Article X: Funds: - *Approved*

Article XI: General Assembly: - *Approved*

Article XVIII: Quorum: - *Approved*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members: *Approved.*

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: *Reynaldo Ebor*

Name of Participant: Dr. Reynaldo Ebor

Name of Organization: DOST-PCAARRD

Country: Philippines

Designation: Executive Director

Email: r.ebor@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph; a.tamis@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph



**Consent of UN State Members (General Assembly Members) on the Proposed Tenth Edition of APAARI Constitution and on Agreement Among Members**

Date: 28 May 2024

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with its inclusion, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 1:**

Consent on the newly added Article(s) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article II: Establishment:

*Approved*

Article V: Vision and Mission:

*Approved*

Article IX: Associate Membership:

*Approved*

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with the modifications or rewording, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 2:**

Consent on Article(s) (modified or reworded) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article III: Name and Character:

*Approved*

Article IV: Office and Secretariat:

*Approved*

Article VIII: Membership:

*Approved*

Article X: Funds:

*Approved*

Article XI: General Assembly:

*Approved*

Article XVIII: Quorum:

*Approved*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Participant: Dr. Bikash Mandal

Name of Organization: ICAR

Country: India

Designation: Assistant Director General-International Relations

Email: bikash.mandal@icar.gov.in; dg.icar@nic.in;





**Consent of UN State Members (General Assembly Members) on the Proposed Tenth Edition of  
APAARI Constitution and on Agreement Among Members**

Date: 28 May 2024

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with its inclusion, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 1:**

Consent on the newly added Article(s) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article II: Establishment:

Article V: Vision and Mission:

Article IX: Associate Membership:

**INSTRUCTION:** For each article listed write either "Approve" if you agree with the modifications or rewording, or "Disapprove" if you do not agree.

**SECTION 2:**

Consent on Article(s) (modified or reworded) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article III: Name and Character:

Article IV: Office and Secretariat:

Article VIII: Membership:

Article X: Funds:

Article XI: General Assembly:

Article XVIII: Quorum:

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Participant:** Dr. Angelika Tugaga

**Name of Organization:** SROS, Samoa

**Country:** Samoa

**Designation:** Research Scientist

**Email:** angelika.tugaga@sros.org.ws





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Article II: Establishment: *Approve*

Article V: Vision and Mission: *Approve*

Article IX: Associate Membership: *Approve*

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Article III: Name and Character: *Approve*

Article IV: Office and Secretariat: *Approve*

Article VIII: Membership: *Approve*

Article X: Funds: *Approve*

Article XI: General Assembly: *Approve*

Article XVIII: Quorum: *Approve*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members: *Approve*

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

*[Signature]*  
28.5.2024  
Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Participant:** Dr. Jeyakumar Prabhakaran

**Name of Organization:** Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India

**Country:** India

**Designation:** Director of Planning & Monitoring

**Email:** [directorplanning@tnau.ac.in](mailto:directorplanning@tnau.ac.in)



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Article IV: Office and Secretariat:

Article VIII: Membership:

Article X: Funds:

Article XI: General Assembly:

Article XVIII: Quorum:

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Participant:** Dr. Prabath Wimal Kumara

**Name of Organization:** Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy

**Country:** Sri Lanka

**Designation:** Secretary/Director

Email: prabathwk@gmail.com



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**SECTION 1:**

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Article II: Establishment: *approved*

Article V: Vision and Mission: *approved*

Article IX: Associate Membership: *approved*

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Consent on Article(s) (modified or reworded) from the 10th Constitutional Amendment:

Article III: Name and Character: *approved*

Article IV: Office and Secretariat: *approved*

Article VIII: Membership: *approved*

Article X: Funds: *approved*

Article XI: General Assembly: *approved*

Article XVIII: Quorum: *approved*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members: *approved*

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: *M. Tringnan*

Name of Participant: *M. Tringnan*

Name of Organization: *GFAR*

Country: *France*

Designation: *Executive Secretary*

Email: *m.tringnan@gfair.network*



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Article VIII: Membership: *Approve*

Article X: Funds: *Approve*

Article XI: General Assembly: *Approve*

Article XVIII: Quorum: *Approve*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members: *Approve*

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_



**Name of Participant:** Dr. Kyung-tai Lee

**Name of Organization:** RDA

**Country:** South Korea

**Designation:** Director of International Technology Cooperation Center

**Email:** hykim@korea.kr; leekt@korea.kr





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**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Participant:

Name of Organization:

Country:

Designation:

Email:

JOHN LINDSEY FALVEY

ACIAR

Australia

Chair, Commissioner

lindsay.falvey@gmail.com





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Article VIII: Membership: - Approve  
Article X: Funds: - Approve  
Article XI: General Assembly: - Approve  
Article XVIII: Quorum: - Approve

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members: - Approve .

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: 

**Name of Participant:** Ms. ANIADILA BINTI KAMARUDDIN

**Name of Organization:** MARDI

**Country:** Malaysia

**Designation:** Deputy Director of International Networking Programme

**Email:** aniadila@mardi.gov.my



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Article VIII: Membership: *Approve*  
Article X: Funds: *Approve*  
Article XI: General Assembly: *Approve*  
Article XVIII: Quorum: *Approve*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: 

**Name of Participant:** Dr. Shalendra Prasad

**Name of Organization:** Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji

**Country:** Republic of Fiji

**Designation:** Director Crop Research

**Email:** shalendra7573@gmail.com; shalendra.prasad@moa.gov.fj;



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Approve

Article XI: General Assembly:

Approve

Article XVIII: Quorum:

Approve

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

Approve

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign:



**Name of Participant:** Dr. Luma Nidhi Pandey Laudary

**Name of Organization:** Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)

**Country:** Nepal

**Designation:** Director, Planning and Coording

**Email:** lumanidhi@gmail.com



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Article XVIII: Quorum:

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members: *Approve*

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: *RA*

Name of Participant: *PHAM VAN TOAN*

Name of Organization: *Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences*

Country: *Vietnam*

Designation:

Email: *toan.vas@gmail.com*





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Article XVIII: Quorum: *Approve*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: 

Name of Participant: Phonevilay Sinavong

Name of Organization: NAFRI

Country: Laos

Designation: Deputy Director

Email: lanoyvinavong@gmail.com; chanthakhone67@gmail.com





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**SECTION 2:**

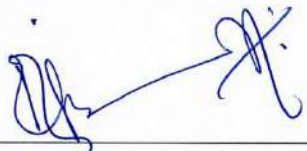
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Article XVIII: Quorum: *Approved*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: 

Name of Participant: *Dr.* Deki Lhamo

Name of Organization: Department of Agricultural, Bhutan (MoA)

Country: Bhutan

Designation: Dy. Chief Agriculture Officer

Email: rinzinwangchuk@moal.gov.bt



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*Approved*

Article XI: General Assembly:

*Approved*

Article XVIII: Quorum:

*Approved*

**SECTION 3:**

Consent on the Document - Agreement among Members:

*Approved*

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign:  28.05.2024

Name of Participant: Md. Mustafizur Rahman

Name of Organization: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)

Country: Bangladesh

Designation: Director (Manpower and Training)

Email: m.rahman@barc.gov.bd ; m.rahman6820@yahoo.com



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**SECTION 3:**

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Approve

(To be signed below by members who participated in the Special General Assembly Meeting)

Sign: 

**Name of Participant:** Dr. Raghavan Sampathkumar

**Name of Organization:** FSII

**Country:** India

**Designation:** Executive Director

**Email:** ed@fsii.in