

CGIAR Information Service

CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE SEMI-ARID TROPICS (ICRISAT)

WHEREAS, certain governments and organizations (whose names are listed in Appendix I hereto)* have organized a group entitled the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research for the purpose of sponsoring research programs designed to raise the quantity and quality of agricultural production in developing countries.

WHEREAS, with the view to promoting the improvement and productivity of agriculture in the rainfed areas of the seasonally dry, semi-arid tropical regions of the world and thereby raising the standards of living, levels of nutrition, general welfare and economic development of the people living in such regions, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research has proposed the establishment of an International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), hereinafter referred to as the "Institute", and has requested The Ford Foundation to act as agent to perform, inter alia, all such activities as shall be necessary to establish the Institute.

WHEREAS, under an Agreement (set forth in Appendix II hereto and made a part hereof) executed on the twenty-eighth day of March 1972, between the Government of India on the one part and The Ford Foundation acting on behalf of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research on the other, the parties thereto agreed to work together toward the establishment of the Institute with its principal headquarters at Hyderabad, India, with suitable governance, legal charter, with the appropriate statutes, authorities,

privileges and other conditions necessary to enable the Institute to operate effectively toward the attainment of its objectives.

WHEREAS, The Ford Foundation has requested the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to assist in the establishment of the Institute as an autonomous, international, philanthropic, non-profit, research, educational, development and training organization; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development have agreed to assist in the establishment of the Institute.

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

Article I

Legal Status

1. The Institute is hereby established as an autonomous, international, philanthropic, non-profit, research, educational, development and training institute.
2. The Institute shall possess full juridical personality. The signatories to this Constitution and the members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research shall not be responsible or liable, individually or collectively, for any debts, liabilities or other obligations of the Institute.

Article IIPurposes and Activities of the Institute

1. The Institute will serve as (a) a world center for the improvement of sorghum, millet, pigeonpeas, and chickpeas; (b) a center to promote the development and demonstration of improved cropping patterns and systems of farming which optimize the use of human and natural resources in the low rainfall, unirrigated, seasonally dry and semi-arid tropics; and (c) a center which may undertake such other programs or extensions of these programs as its Governing Board shall determine.

2. The Institute will engage in any and/or all of the following types of activities:
 - (a) Research on practical and theoretical problems including plant breeding related to the production of sorghums, millets, chickpeas, and pigeonpeas, and on the cropping and farming systems in which these crops are major components.
 - (b) Collection, evaluation, maintenance, manipulation and distribution of basic germplasm and of improved plant materials for use in breeding, improvement, and production programs of national and regional programs.
 - (c) Publication and dissemination of research results.
 - (d) Organization of periodic conferences, forums and seminars on problems related to the Institute's objectives.
 - (e) Training of scientists who will be involved in research, educational, and action programs in the various countries in which the Institute's program will be applicable.

- (f) Assistance in the development of appropriate educational, research and extension institutional arrangements in the cooperating countries to facilitate use and application of the work of the Institute.
- (g) Establishment and operation of an information center and library which will provide a collection of the world's literature on the major and related subjects of concern to the Institute.
- (h) Such other activities as the Institute may find necessary in furtherance of the purposes of the Institute.

Article III

Powers

In furtherance of the aforesaid purposes and activities, the Institute shall have the following powers:

1. To receive, acquire or otherwise obtain from any governmental authority, national or local, foreign or domestic, or from any corporation, company, association, person, firm, foundation, or other entity, such charters, franchises, licences, rights, privileges, concessions and assistance, financial or otherwise as are conducive to and necessary for the attainment of the purposes of the Institute.
2. To receive, acquire or otherwise obtain from any governmental authority, national or local, foreign or domestic, or from any corporation, company, association, person, firm, foundation or other entity by donation, grant, exchange, devise, bequest, purchase or lease, either absolutely or in trust, contributions consisting of such properties, real, personal, or mixed including funds and valuable effects or things, as may be useful or necessary to

carry out the purposes and activities of the Institute, and to hold, own, operate, administer, use, sell, convey, and dispose of the said properties or valuable things.

3. To enter into contracts.
4. To employ persons.
5. To institute legal proceedings.
6. To do and perform all acts and things as are in the opinion of the Institute necessary, expedient, suitable or proper for the furtherance, accomplishment or attainment of any and/or all of the purposes and activities herein stated, or which shall appear, at any time, as conducive to and useful for the purposes and the activities of the Institute.

Article IV

Principal Headquarters Location

1. The Principal Headquarters of the Institute shall be at Hyderabad, India.
2. The Institute may establish such subsidiary offices or experimental stations as may be determined by its Governing Board as being necessary for the effective conduct of its program.

Article VGoverning Board

1. The Institute shall operate under the authority of a Governing Board, consisting of not more than fifteen members selected as follows:

3 members nominated by the Government of India (the host country).

3 members nominated by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research,

1 Director of the Institute, ex-officio.

6 to 8 members-at-large with relevant interests and qualifications from countries or areas being served, or from countries or agencies which have concern for and provide substantial support for work in the fields of the Institute's major responsibilities. These 6 to 8 members of the first Governing Board shall be selected and appointed by the Sub-Committee on ICRISAT constituted by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. If the said Sub-Committee shall have selected less than eight members-at-large by the time of the first meeting of the Governing Board, the vacancies may be filled by the Governing Board.

2. Three members of the Governing Board shall be appointed on nomination by the Government of India and shall serve for such terms as the Government of India may specify.

3. The Director of the Institute shall be a member of the Governing Board, ex-officio, for as long as he continues to serve as Director.
4. All other members of the Governing Board shall be appointed for three year terms, with the exception of the members of the first Board, one-third of whom shall be appointed for one, one-third for two, and one-third for three year terms respectively. Vacancies among the members-at-large by reason of their retirement, death, incapacity, or any other cause may be filled by the Governing Board. Any such vacancies among the members nominated by the Consultative Group shall be filled by the Consultative Group. New appointees shall be appointed for the remainder of the term of the member who is being replaced or for three years in case of those appointed to fill vacancies occurring as a result of expiration of the term of a member.
5. The Governing Board shall:
 - (a) frame rules of procedure for its own working;
 - (b) elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman annually;
 - (c) determine the policy of the Institute;
 - (d) select and appoint the Director of the Institute for such period or periods as deemed necessary and appropriate;
 - (e) develop and/or approve the Institute's programs;
 - (f) consider for approval the appointment of senior staff members of the Institute on the recommendation of the Director;

- (g) scrutinize and approve the budget estimates for the Institute; and
- (h) do and perform all other acts that may be considered necessary, suitable and proper for the attainment of any or all of the purposes, activities, and objectives of the Institute as enumerated in Article II above.

Article VI

Committees

1. The Board may designate an executive committee of its members who shall have the power to act for the Board in the interim between Board meetings on all matters which the Board delegates to it.
2. All interim actions of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the full Board at its next subsequent meeting.
3. The Board may create such other standing committees or ad hoc committees as may be deemed necessary for carrying out its responsibilities.

Article VII

Director

1. The Institute shall be administered by a Director, who shall be selected and appointed by the Governing Board.
2. The Director shall be a member of the Governing Board, ex-officio.

3. The Director shall implement the policies determined by the Governing Board, follow the guidelines laid down by the Governing Board for the functioning of the Institute, carry out the directions of the Governing Board and abide by its decisions.
4. The Director shall be responsible for the operation and management of the Institute and for assuring that the programs and objectives of the Institute are properly developed and carried out.
5. The Director shall be responsible to the Governing Board.

Article VIII

Relationships with Host Country and with other Countries being served

1. The Institute will establish cooperative relationships with relevant programs of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and with other organizations, including agricultural universities, as it deems appropriate toward the attainment of its objectives.
2. The Institute will develop cooperative relationships with relevant regional and national research and action programs in India and other parts of the world as may be deemed appropriate and useful in achieving its objectives.

Article IXFinancial Support

1. Without prejudice or detriment to the generality of its powers as elaborated and set forth in Article III of this Constitution, the major basic financial support for the Institute will be derived from contributions provided by various members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, based on annual estimates of budget requirements presented to and considered by this Group.

Article XMeetings

1. The Governing Board shall meet at least once annually. The annual meeting of the Board shall be held at the principal headquarters of the Institute, unless decided otherwise by the Governing Board.
2. The annual meeting of the Governing Board shall be held at such time as the Board shall determine.

Article XIAmendments

1. The Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Governing Board by three-fourths majority vote of all members of the Board, provided notice of such proposed amendment together with its full text shall have been mailed to all members of the Board, at least eight weeks in advance of such meeting, or such notice is waived by all members of the Board.

Article XII**Dissolution

1. The Institute may be dissolved by a three-fourths majority vote of all members of the Governing Board if it is determined that the purposes of the Institute have been achieved to a satisfactory degree or if it is determined that the Institute will no longer be able to function effectively.
2. In case of dissolution, the disposition of assets other than land and fixed capital improvements thereon shall be determined by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, after receiving recommendations thereon from the Governing Board. Any land within India and permanent fixed capital improvements thereon shall, upon dissolution, revert to the Government of India.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned by their duly authorized representatives have executed this Constitution on the fifth day of July, 1972.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

By _____ Sd/-
D.L. UMALI

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT

By _____ Sd/-
RICHARD H. DEMUTH

**Please see amendment to Article XII 2, on page 12

Article XII 2, was amended at the Fourth Governing Board meeting held in Hyderabad, India, from May 29 to June 1, 1974, as follows:

"2. In the event of dissolution of the Institute any land within India and fixed capital improvements thereon shall revert to the Government of India. On dissolution the disposition of all other assets shall be determined by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research after receiving recommendations from the Governing Board, such disposition to be to organizations which are formed and operated exclusively for scientific or educational purposes."

Sd/-

RALPH W. CUMMINGS
DIRECTOR

Sd/-

C.F. BENTLEY
CHAIRMAN, GOVERNING BOARD

Members of Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

African Development Bank
Asian Development Bank
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Ford Foundation
France
Germany
Inter-American Development Bank
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
International Development Research Centre
Japan
Kellogg Foundation
Netherlands
Norway
Rockefeller Foundation
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United Nations Development Program
United States

Representing Africa:**

Morocco
Nigeria

Representing Asia and the Far East:

Philippines
Thailand

Representing Latin America:

Argentina
Brazil

Representing the Middle East:

Lebanon
Pakistan

Representing Southern and Eastern Europe:

Israel
Roumania

**The five major developing regions of the world participate in the Consultative Group through representatives designated for a two-year term by the membership of FAO. Each region has designated two countries which serve as member or alternate at their discretion.