

出國報告（出國類別：開會）

密

出席「亞太農業研究機構聯盟」
(APAARI)
113年1月第三次修憲次級委員會議
報告

服務機關：農業部國際事務司

姓名職稱：洪曉君 副司長

陳郁卉 技正

派赴國家/地區：泰國曼谷

出國期間：中華民國 113 年 1 月 10 日至 1 月 12 日

報告日期：中華民國 113 年 3 月 29 日

摘要

「亞太農業研究機構聯盟」(Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions, APAARI) 於 2024 年 1 月 11-12 日在泰國曼谷召開第三次修憲次級委員會會議，由泰國農部 Dr. Margeret Yoovatana 擔任主席，會中就組織憲章草案、會員協定草案、地主國(泰國)協定草案進行最後討論與修訂程序，憲章草案及會員協議修正草案將依據會議現場意見修訂並以電郵送委員確認，後續將送執行委員會審閱並採投票方式表決通過後，再送全體會員大會審閱。

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壹、前言

「亞太農業研究機構聯盟」(Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions, APAARI)原本是由「聯合國糧農組織」亞太區域辦事處(FAO-RAP)於1990年協助成立，創始會員為中國、斐濟、印度、伊朗、馬來西亞、紐西蘭、巴基斯坦、巴布亞紐幾內亞、菲律賓、韓國、斯里蘭卡、泰國和西薩摩亞，總部設在泰國曼谷，旨在促進亞太地區農業技術研究之發展及合作，我國於1999年加入APAARI為其會員。

APAARI於2019年退出FAO後，失去FAO等資金援助且不具國際組織法律地位，爰開始尋求各項申請法律地位之方案，包含在泰國申請準國際組織地位，亦不排除依附在其他國際組織底下尋求法律地位。

貳、2023年底APAARI推動修憲召開會議情形

一、2023年11月21日特別執委會(線上)

APAARI執委會澳籍主席Eleanor Dean(D主席)於去(2023)年11月21日線上召開特別執委會，主要針對APAARI在泰國取得法律地位案進行討論，並推動法律地位方案網路投票，投票結果：針對「向泰國政府申請法律地位案同時研議搬遷至臺灣(亞蔬)可行性」或「聚焦在泰國申請法律地位」網路投票結果，共11個EC成員投票，僅1票贊成同時研議搬遷至臺灣可行性，10票贊成聚焦向泰國申請，D主席裁示，依投票結果，即專注推動在泰國申請法律地位。

D主席並指示組成修憲小組委員會(sub-committee)，渠直接指派泰國農業部國際司Dr. Margaret C. Yoovatana擔任主席，經我國積極爭取加入，最終決定參與成員包含我國、馬來西亞、韓國、國際農業研究磋商組織(CGIAR)、國際農業研究與發展中心協會(AIRCA)之代表，以及APAARI秘書處與法律顧問。

修憲工作期程規劃：預計在1個月內召開2-3次線上小組會議先完成修憲草案，再召開實體會議將草案定版後送D主席，經D主席以電郵通知或是召開特別執委會，並採投票方式取得多數同意後，草案將送會員大會通過。

二、2023年12月13日召開第一次修憲次級委員會(線上)

由泰國籍Dr. Margaret Yoovatana擔任主席，會中APAARI秘書處提出委員會程序規章(TOR)草案，TOR草案並未依程序提出，我國提出反對意見，惟M主席採投票方式表決，僅我方一票反對，現場強行通過TOR。

我國於會中多次提出泰國法規實無要求國際組織須由聯合國國家會員組成，國際上亦無相關規範，主席僅表示將請APAARI再次就相關法規進行瞭解。

該次會議時間有限，未對實質議題有太多討論。

三、2023年12月21日進行第二次修憲次級委員會(線上)

由泰國籍Dr. Margaret Yoovatana擔任主席，討論修憲程序問題、

準國際組織法律定位，並提出第零版會員協議草案，惟主席仍未採納我國對於程序問題之看法，並未決議變更修憲程序。

決議訂於 2024 年 1 月 11-12 日召開實體會議，就組織憲章草案、會員協定草案等進行最後討論與修訂。

參、2024 年 1 月 11-12 日 APAARI 召開第三次修憲次級委員會議情形

一、出席人員

本次會議我國由我國代表農業部國際事務司洪曉君副司長率陳郁卉技正及外交部謝政璋副參事前往曼谷參加，由泰國農業部 Dr. Margeret Yoovatana 擔任本次會議主席(M 主席)，出席人員包含我國、馬來西亞、韓國、農業及生物科學研究中心(CABI)、國際農業研究顧問組織(CGIAR)及 APAARI 現任執行秘書 Ravi Khetarpal(K 執秘)共 7 席委員參加，另執委會澳籍主席 Eleanor Dean(D 主席)、APAARI 顧問 Dr. Raghunath Ghodake(前執秘，G 顧問)與 APAARI 法律顧問 Dr. Saranyu Viriyavejakul(S 法顧)亦出席參加。

二、會議概況

會議開始首先由執委會 D 主席線上致詞，亦為本次會議目標定調，渠表示盼 2024 年內能底定 APAARI 法律地位議題，此為渠兩年主席任期內最重要之工作；目前憲草係由該組織法律顧問參照泰國外交部建議所擬，盼本次會議結束後能儘速召開會員大會投票通過憲草等語。2 日會議主要由 K 執秘簡報本次第 10 版憲草修改重點，討論憲章草案(憲草)及會員協議兩項草案文件，各方並就疑問處逐點提出討論，APAARI 秘書處人員負責回應，由 S 法顧就泰國法律等節補充參考資訊。

本次會議簡報、憲章草案(憲草)及會員協議草案文件如附錄 1-3。

三、本次會議進行與我國相關重點彙整

(一)泰籍 M 主席回應我方前次會議疑問

我方表示本會議應於進入報告前逐一檢視各方所提建議，泰籍主席照稿念誦對我方提出誤稱我為「觀察員」等疑問之回應稿，惟內容多顧左右而言他，未正面回答我方疑問，稱前兩次會議已對臺灣議題做充分討論，盼無須再度投票表決，並謬稱 APAARI 申請 QIGO 地位即係為將臺灣留在組織內等語。

(二)有關憲草中會員 partnership 類別定義

1. 我方表示，注及附錄四有關 development partner 被分成四類，我駐泰代表處(TECO)迄未被諮詢即遭列入名單，未諳各機關是否已被通知其分類歸屬？K 執秘回應略以，秘書處確實未事先諮詢各機關意見，將於本次會議紀錄中提請執委會，於送交憲草予大會投票前先諮詢各規劃列入 development partner 名單機關。
2. 國際農業研究諮商組織(CGIAR)代表發言表示，參照憲草第 8 條第 17 與 18 款及附錄四，憲草對 Associated Member 及 Development

Partner 定義實有若干混淆不明處，因會員分類涉及會費繳交標準，建議應將 Associated Member 及 Development Partner 分為不同類別；渠另支持我方說法，APAARI 在將 TECO 列入該附錄四前應諮詢其意見。K 執秘回應略以，附錄四之分類並非僅需考量會費標準，目的即在強調該組織與聯合國會員國之關聯，並凸顯「會員(member)」與「夥伴(partner)」不同，同時呈現會員多於非會員之狀況，此為爭取泰外交部認可之策略，惟 CGIAR 代表建議亦屬合理，會後將再思考如何以更清楚方式呈現。M 主席補充略以，會員之屬性始為憲草之重點，惟既有委員表示顧慮，請秘書處思考分別 Associated Member 及 Development Partner，並將建議執委會諮詢附錄四內各機關是否同意其被分配之類別。

3. K 執秘嗣補充說明，渠擬在召開全體會員大會(General Assembly)相關條款中說明會員及夥伴均得就技術問題投票，惟僅有會員得以享有重大議題，例如修改憲章等議題之投票權。

(三)有關會籍(membership)標準疑義

1. 泰籍法律顧問 S 法顧於「法律顧問觀點說明」(Views of Legal Consultants)時段說明：APAARI 憲草之會員資格不僅須符合泰國(national)規定，亦須符合全球(global)標準，而最廣為接受之全球標準即為聯合國會員國；會員標準訂定參考 2018 年泰國日內瓦公約(Geneva Act in 2018)及 1946 年與 1984 年有關聯合國會員國之特權待遇規定，倘本次會議後憲草獲通過，渠將直接與泰外交部條法司就 QIGO 申請案展開諮商，無須等到會員大會召開通過憲草後再啟動申請案，以節省時效。又 M 主席補充略以，上年 9 月份泰國農業暨合作社部已正式致函外交部詢問有關為 APAARI 遞件申請 QIGO 地位之程序，一旦外交部回函即迅可展開作業，並再度強調會員定義是否清楚為泰外交部最主要考量點。
2. 我方提出泰國規範 QIGO 資格之法規並未載明會員須為國家，遑論須為聯合國會員國，請 S 法顧說明會員資格條款依據，獲告泰國並無法律定義「國家」，QIGO 規範亦確未要求會員為聯合國會員國，惟條法司人員態度非常僵化保守，對申請案有些許疑慮即會退件，前次 APAARI 提出申請 IGO 時即因未列明會員名單遭退件，本次倘 APAARI 申請 QIGO 案再遭條法司退件即無可能再度申請，爰為最大化本次機會，採最無疑義之會員資格定義。我方則表示，會議紀錄應詳實載明泰國法律及法令並無規範 QIGO 會員須為聯合國會員國，與前次會議及 S 法律顧問所述不同，以避免 EC 成員遭誤導，並再次要求所有相關文件之英文版資料均應提供給 EC 成員參考。
3. 我方續詢以泰外交部對本申請案是否訂有期限，為何須急於 EC 及會員大會投票通過憲草前即先與該部展開諮商？S 法律顧問改口說明此僅係半正式諮商，惟慮及 10 月份後泰外交部條法司或有人事異動，儘早展開申請作業可降低主事者換人需重新溝通之風險。
4. CGIAR 代表兩度提出建議考慮雙贏方案，例如將會員資格定為「states, territories and UN member states」，以保留臺灣會員資格。我方除呼應上議，並前後兩度強調 QIGO 規範並未提及國家及

聯合國會員國等，復以泰國政府公布之「免簽證及落地簽證國家及領土清單」(Summary of Countries and Territories Entitled for Visa Exemption and Visa on Arrival to Thailand)中包括臺灣，該清單使用 Countries and Territories 用字，給予各自解讀空間，建議委員會於憲草第 8 條第 13 款採用「member states of the UN and states and territories of the Asia-Pacific Region」並刪除憲草註腳 6。S 法顧復以，無論申請 IGO 或 QIGO 均須列明會員定義，經查所有獲泰外交部條法司同意通過之申請案均採聯合國會員國之標準，秘書處當可再指示渠研究各種可能性，惟將耗費時日，且定義有彈性即有風險等語。M 主席總結略以，目前憲草版本將台灣置於發展夥伴類別下係基於泰外交部建議，請委員考量臺灣建議提案之可行性與風險。

(四)重要場邊資訊

1. 我方於 11 日午餐時間及會後兩度與 G 顧問就我案交換意見，G 顧問目前已退休，前長年旅居澳洲及巴紐，曾擔任 APAARI 主席，並於 2014-16 年間擔任該組織秘書長，G 顧問表示中國於 2015-2016 年間數度向他表達不滿臺灣成為 APAARI 會員，渠建議中方可參考 APEC 或 WTO 模式參與，惟未獲回應；又 K 執秘持續與中國及 FAO(現任秘書長為中國籍)保持密切良好關係。
2. 針對 APAARI 嚴守限制聯合國會員定義，獲告 APAARI 與各會員簽訂之協定須經各國政府批准，倘定義有彈性空間，任何政府可能對臺灣在 APAARI 之地位有疑慮而不予批准，APAARI 無法承擔此風險。
3. 有關 APAARI 申辦法律地位案時程，秘書處職員表示係由 2024 年 10 月往前推算(按泰國外交部配合本案人員將異動的時間)，將規避規定以特別執委會及特別會員大會方式開會通過憲草等文件，以盡速向泰外交部遞件申請。

肆、本次會議結果

- 一、針對憲草規定會員資格，經我方呼應 CGIAR 提議，建議委員會於憲草第 8 條第 13 款應由現行「member states of the United Nations and territories」放寬為「member states of the United Nations and states and territories of the Asia-Pacific Region」，並刪除對應註腳 6，歷經多次討論，M 主席於會議第二天中午付諸投票多數決，共 7 席投票，除我國及 CGIAR 以外，其餘 5 席(泰、韓、馬來西亞、CABI、秘書處)表示配合泰國外交部，保留原文，不支持我國提案。
- 二、針對憲草附錄四，刪除 Development Partner，未來 APAARI 會員僅分成 UN Member States 及 Association Members 兩類。
- 三、憲章草案及會員協議修正草案內容，APAARI 秘書處將依據會議現場意見修訂並以電郵送委員確認，請委員將書面意見於 2024 年 1 月 19 日前提出，後續將再召開特別執行委員會審查。

伍、本次會議觀察與後續因應措施

- 一、此次 APAARI 在泰國申請法律地位案，除牽涉泰國外交一中政策，亦顯見 FAO 及中方幕後操作痕跡，又泰農業部指定 M 主席專事推案，趕在 2024 年 10 月前完成遞件申請及獲得通過，倘成功，臺灣將被排除在國家會員之外，中國將可依會員協議直接重返成國家成員。
- 二、我國將電郵週知執委會成員及秘書處，重申我國現為核心國家會員、現有會員地位不應因修憲受到影響，以及再次呼籲修憲應依循正當程序。
- 三、依近期情勢發展與觀察，後續我國國家會員地位恐因 APAARI 修憲而排除，爰既已知我國有被國際組織不當對待之虞，規劃暫緩繳交 2024 年國家會員會費 1 萬美金，惟基於參與 APAARI 之外交考量，後續應如何參與或退場機制等，農業部將與外交部保持密切聯繫討論，以維護我國國際參與權利及尊嚴。

陸、本次會議資料

- 附錄一、會議簡報
- 附錄二、憲章草案
- 附錄三、會員協議草案

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural
Research Institutions



APAARI Executive Committee Sub-committee Meeting

11-12 January, 2024

Bangkok

Housekeeping



1. The video and audio will be mostly used by speakers, with ALL members muted and with videos turned off most of the time.
2. Members may kindly use the video and audio during the Q&A session following the presentations.
3. There is a 'raise hand' feature next to your name in the list of participants in the right banner of Zoom. To ask a question or make a comment, please raise your hand and wait to be called on by the Chair. We will then unmute you and put your video on.

Housekeeping



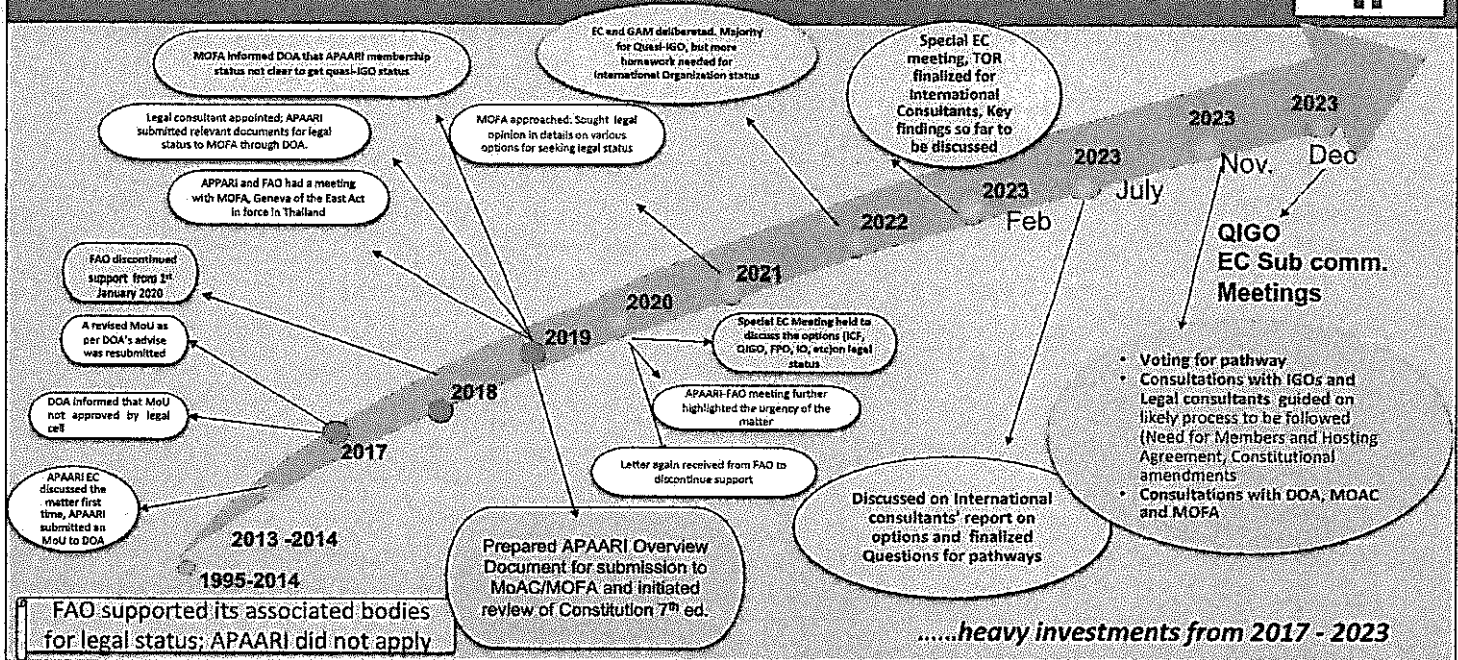
4. In this meeting we also have a privilege to share WRITTEN comments and questions, which we would like you to use as much as possible at ANY time during the meeting. So there will be two options – either raise you hand and wait to speak, or provide written comments.
5. The meeting will be recorded ONLY for the reporting purpose (with due permission from EC).

Agenda 1



Welcome
&
Background

A Glimpse on seeking Legal Status



Documents Needed for Way Forward



Agreement among Members:

- Member States are consent to be bound by the agreement.
- To present /showcase to authorize that members established a legal entity.
- Will specify the modalities and other necessary arrangements to support the establishment and operationalization of the Secretariat in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations of the Host Country.

Constitutional Amendment:

- Members of APAARI are UN recognized States etc.
- Establishment through ministerial level meeting
- Required to showcase the that APAARI is compliances with UN/IGO/IO norm Like

Host Country Agreement :

- Shall specify the modalities and other necessary arrangements to support the establishment and operationalization of the Secretariat in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations of the Host Country.

List of Agenda Items



Agenda Item	Facilitation	Time
11 January, 2024		
Informal Discussions of Sub-Committee members	Executive Director (ED), APAARI	11:00AM
Lunch with all Sub-Committee members		12:00 noon
Agenda 1 – Welcome and Background	ED, APAARI	1:00 PM
Agenda 2 – Opening Remarks and Purpose of the Meeting	Chair, EC Sub-committee (EC- SC)	1:10 PM
Message from the Chair, APAARI EC	Ms Eleanor Dean (Online)	1:20 PM
Agenda 3 – Presentation on Constitutional Amendments	ED, APAARI	1:30 PM
Discussions and Comments by Sub-committee Members	Chair, EC-SC	2:30 PM
Tea (3:30 PM)		
Views of Legal Consultants	APAARI	4:00 PM
Agenda 4 - Finalization of Constitutional Amendments and Recommendation	Chair, EC-SC	4:20 PM
Closing Remarks	Chair, EC-SC	4:50 PM
Dinner (7:00 PM)		

List of Agenda Items



Agenda Item	Facilitation	Time
12 January 2024		
Agenda 5 – Recap of Day 1 and its importance in Agreement among Members	Chair, EC-SC	9:00 AM
Agenda 6 – Presentation on Agreement among Members	ED, APAARI	9:10 AM
Tea (10:00 AM)		
Discussions and Comments by the EC members	Chair, EC-SC	10:10 AM
Views of Legal Consultants	Chair, EC-SC	10:50 AM
Agenda 7 - Finalization of Agreement among Members and Recommendation	Chair, EC-SC	11:45 AM
Observations and Comments of Chair, APAARI, EC	Ms Eleanor Dean Online	12:15 PM
Lunch 12:30 PM		
Agenda 8 – Any other matter	Members	2:00 PM
Agenda 9 – Next steps and Concluding Remarks	Chair, EC-SC	3:00 PM
Vote of Thanks	APAARI	3:30 PM
Tea (3:40 PM)		
Document Finalization	<i>Internal – APAARI Staff (4:30 PM onwards)</i>	

Agenda 2



Opening Remarks and Purpose of the Meeting
by the
Chair - APAARI EC Sub-committee

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Agenda 2 (contd.)



Message from the Chair, APAARI EC

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Agenda 3



Presentation on Constitutional Amendments

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Agenda 3

A Glimpse on Amendments of APAARI Constitution



o Background

o Rationale

o Key Features of Renewed APAARI Constitution (Tenth Edition)

- Discussions only on changes to be made for Tenth Edition as below:
 - Establishment of APAARI (Basis and Rationale)
 - Vision and Mission (Towards Realization of UN SDGs in APR)
 - Partnership (Re-Specifications and Restructuring)
 - Additional Annexes (Providing Add-on Information/Details)
 - Restructured Array of a Variety of Development Partners

• Key Deletions

• New Additions

• Discussions for Moving Ahead

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Rationale



- Immediate Focus is for APAARI to get Legal Status as QIGO (Quasi Inter Governmental Organization) in Thailand.
- In these efforts the Basic Requirement is to have Systematically Renewed and Modified APAARI Constitution and to redesign a Memorandum of Agreement among the UN Member States in the APR as Members of APAARI.
- APAARI's Development Progressed through Various Reforms through Nine Editions (over the Past 33 years) of APAARI Constitution (the First Edition was of 1990 and the Planned Renewed being the Tenth Edition to be implanted soon.

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Key Features of Renewed APAARI Constitution (Tenth Edition)



Five Major Additional Provisions/Modifications (from Ninth Edition)

- i. Establishment of APAARI (Basis and Rationale)
- ii. Vision and Mission (Towards Realization of UN SDGs in APR)
- iii. Partnership (Re-Specifications and Restructuring)
- iv. Additional Annexes (Providing Add-on Information/Details)
- v. Restructured Array of a Variety of Development Partners

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Constitutional Amendments



Modifications / Rewording	New Additions
EDITION NUMBER AND YEAR	ARTICLE II – ESTABLISHMENT AND LEGAL STATUS
PREAMBLE	ARTICLE V- VISION AND MISSION
ARTICLE III- NAME AND CHARACTER	ARTICLE IX- PARTNERSHIP
ARTICLE IV- OFFICE AND SECRETARIAT	
ARTICLE VIII- MEMBERSHIP	
ARTICLE X- FUNDS	
ARTICLE XI- GENERAL ASSEMBLY	
ARTICLE XVIII- QUORUM	

ARTICLE II – ESTABLISHMENT AND LEGAL STATUS



1. Pursuant to the recommendations made by the FAO Regional Conferences, that were participated by the high-level ministerial delegations from the UN Member States (held in 1984, 1986, 1988 and 1990) and based on the sponsorship of FAO-RAP (FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific), the key UN Member States from the Asia-Pacific Region, in its inaugural meeting in 1990, established APAARI as an inter-governmental organization (IGO).
2. 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.
3. APAARI acts under its own Constitution with all the rights, responsibilities and obligations of an international body with legal personality.

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.

List of 28 Participating UN Member States from the APR in these conferences is in Annexure 1.

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 (Annexure 2).



ARTICLE III- NAME AND CHARACTER

Ninth Edition	Tenth Edition
<p>1. The name of this Association shall be "Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions", hereinafter referred to as "APAARI" or "the Association".</p>	<p>4. The name of this Organization shall be "Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions", hereinafter referred to as "<u>APAARI</u>" or "<u>the Organization</u>".</p>
<p>2. APAARI is an Asia-Pacific regional membership-based, non-profit, apolitical, multi-stakeholder organization. It shall function with an overall objective to promote and strengthen agriculture and agri-food research and innovation systems (AFRIS) through collaborations, partnerships and networking, capacity development and advocacy for sustainable agricultural development in the Asia-Pacific Region.</p>	<p>5. 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</p>
<p>3. APAARI shall have a logo designed and approved by the General Assembly. The General Assembly may change the logo through amendment/resolution as provided under Article XVI</p>	<p>6. <u>APAARI is an international organization</u> for strengthening agri-food research and innovation systems in the Asia-Pacific Region</p>
<p>4. APAARI shall be appropriately recognized as a regional organization for strengthening agri-food research and innovation systems in the Asia-Pacific Region.</p>	



ARTICLE IV- OFFICE AND SECRETARIAT

Ninth Edition	Tenth Edition
<p>APAARI shall have its Head Office in Bangkok, Thailand (Host Country of APAARI).</p>	<p>7. 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).</p>
<p>6. The Association shall have a Secretariat to perform its technical, managerial and administrative functions. The Secretariat shall be located at APAARI's Head Office</p>	<p>8. The Organization shall have a Secretariat to perform its technical, managerial and administrative functions. The Secretariat shall be located at APAARI's head office</p>
<p>7. The Asia-Pacific Region shall have 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</p>	<p>9. The Asia-Pacific Region shall have 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.</p>
<p>8. The General Assembly may establish sub-regional offices in any of its member countries on an as-needed basis to carry out any of the functions of APAARI, for a period determined by the General Assembly.</p>	

ARTICLE V: VISION AND MISSION



10. The following are the key elements of APAARI Vision 2030:

i. Vision: Strengthened research and innovations for sustainable 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;

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ARTICLE VIII- MEMBERSHIP



Ninth Edition

11. Membership of APAARI shall be open to organizations/institutions engaged in, responsible for, and promoting agricultural research and innovation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

12. Membership of APAARI may be sought by submitting an application to the Executive Secretary and as approved by the Executive Committee. Once approved such organization shall be termed as Member Organization.

13. The Member Organizations shall be classified in the following four main categories; i) Country Core Member Organizations, ii) Associate Member Organizations, iii) Affiliate Member Organizations, and iv) Reciprocal Member Organizations. Details of these categories/sub-categories and annual membership subscriptions shall be as specified in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of Annexure 1 - APAARI Membership Categories and Subscriptions

Tenth Edition

13. APAARI membership shall be comprised of member states of the United Nations and territories from the Asia-Pacific Region.

14. Membership of APAARI may be sought by submitting an application to the Executive Secretary and as approved by the Executive Committee. 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 as ratified by the members. The current members of APAARI, respective ministries and representing nodal organizations are given in Annexure 3.

15. 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 VIII- MEMBERSHIP



Ninth Edition	Tenth Edition
14 The contents of Annexure 1 are evolving, progressive and adaptable in nature. These contents may be modified and/or updated and approved, from time to time, by the Executive Committee. Such an updated version of Annexure 1 shall be provided along with this Constitution.	-
15. Annual membership subscription shall fall due in January every year.	-
16. On failure of a member organization to pay its membership subscription consecutively for three years, the APAARI Executive Committee may decide to discontinue such membership.	-
17. Any member organization, desiring to withdraw its membership from the Association, shall notify the Executive Secretary in writing. Such withdrawal shall take effect three months from the date of receipt of the notice by the Executive Secretary.	-

ARTICLE IX- PARTNERSHIP



16. Besides the APAARI Members, other entities, engaged in supporting and promoting agricultural research, innovation and development in the Asia-Pacific region, are involved as development partners of APAARI. Such entities include: i) Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO), ii) International Organizations (IO), and iii) other national, regional and global development organizations.

Annexure 4 provides specifications and current list of APAARI development partners/entities.

17. APAARI development partners from the first three categories of the entities: i), ii) and iii) have been termed as Associate Members of APAARI.

ARTICLE IX- PARTNERSHIP



18. Partnership of APAARI may be sought by submitting an application to the Executive Secretary and as approved by the Executive Committee. Once approved, such entity shall be termed as development partner of APAARI.

19. The APAARI development partners shall be represented by their respective entities (termed as partner organizations) for their participation, functions, roles and responsibilities in the performance and development of APAARI.

20. Details of membership/partnership, subscriptions, methods and processes of their management, withdrawal and mobilization of membership/partnership, their addresses, as well as their roles and responsibilities shall be provided in a separately designed standard.

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Annexure IV Specifications and List of APAARI Associate Members and Development Partners on 31 December 2024¹



No	Category of Development Partners	List of Current Development Partners ²
Associate Members as Development Partners		
1.	Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO): composed of sovereign states, referred to as the UN member states.	CABI [1] ³ ; SAC [2]; SPC [3]; NACA [4]
2.	International Organizations (IO)	One-CGIAR [5]; AIRCA (ICIMOD, WorldVeg) [1]; IAAS [1]; CIRAD [1]; GFAR [6].
3.	Cluster of National, Regional, Global R&D Organizations/ Institutions/ Economies	TECO [7]; Academia Cluster [8]; Donor Agencies, [9]; AAI-FSII [10]
Other Development Partners (Project-based)		
4.	Project Partners (Being evolved)	UN FAO, World Bank, EU, AFD, ASEAN, TECO, USDA, WTO, GFAR, ACIAR
	No. of Development Partners	10

1. All those members listed as Associate, Affiliate, and Reciprocal in the Ninth Edition of the APAARI Constitution have been broadly categorized as Development Partners in the present edition.

2. This list of partners is subjected to change as new partners join APAARI.

3. Cluster of entities, representing as development partner.

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ARTICLE X- FUNDS



Ninth Edition	Tenth Edition
<p>APAARI shall seek and receive funds from various sources to carry out its functions. Such sources may comprise of</p>	
<p>i. Membership subscriptions received from APAARI member organizations;</p>	<p>i. Membership subscriptions received from APAARI members;</p>
<p>ii. Grants and donations from governments, national, regional or international organizations, donor/aid organizations/agencies, philanthropic bodies, development banks, and the private sector;</p>	<p>ii. <u>Partnership subscriptions/contributions</u> received from APAARI development partners;</p>
<p>iii. Contributions from partners/collaborators and sponsors in APAARI organized meetings, events, networks, and projects;</p>	<p>iii. Grants and donations from governments, national, regional or international organizations, development banks, donor/aid organizations/agencies, philanthropic bodies, etc.;</p>

ARTICLE X- FUNDS



Ninth Edition	Tenth Edition
<p>iv. Proceeds from the sale of publications issued, goods tendered, consultancy services provided by APAARI;</p>	<p>iv. Contributions from partners/collaborators and sponsors mainly through projects developed and secured by APAARI and also through APAARI organized meetings, events, networks, etc.; and</p>
<p>v. Fees collected from participants of technical meetings, training programmes, etc. organized and/or managed by APAARI;</p>	<p>v. Other suitable sources as approved from time to time by the Executive Committee such as APAARI Membership/Partnership Strategy/Standards.</p>
<p>vi. Interest incomes and returns from reserve funds/deposits and royalties from intellectual properties; and</p>	
<p>vii. Other suitable sources as approved from time to time by the Executive Committee</p>	



ARTICLE XI: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19. There shall be a General Assembly of APAARI, wherein each member organization shall be represented by one delegate.

22. There shall be a General Assembly of APAARI, wherein each APAARI member and each APAARI development partner shall be represented by one delegate. The General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years.

20. The General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years. 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. 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.

21. Each member organization under Membership Category I (Country Core Member Organizations) and Category II (Associate Member Organizations) shall have one vote at the General Assembly meetings. Member organizations under Category III (Affiliate Member Organizations) and Category IV (Reciprocal Member Organizations) shall not have voting rights at the General Assembly meetings

24. Both (members and development partners) shall have one vote each at the General Assembly meetings for all technical matters but for constitutional amendments only member state will have voting right. Any others invited and participating as observers/guests/experts shall not have voting right at the General Assembly meetings.



ARTICLE XI: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22. 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. 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.

23. All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote (more than 50% of votes in favour), except for those relating to amendment of the Constitution, and dissolution of the Association, wherein the decision shall take place as under Article XVI and Article XVII.

26. 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 XVIII: QUORUM



Ninth Edition	Tenth Edition
45. The quorum shall be fifty per cent (50%) of the member organizations with voting rights at any General Assembly meeting and fifty per cent (50%) of the members at any Executive Committee meeting.	50. The quorum shall be more than half of the total (member and development partner) 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.

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KEY DELETIONS



- Provision for APPAARI Offices in the Sub-Regions of APR (Avoiding unnecessary confusion) (Refer to Para 8, under Article III in Ninth Edition).
- Annexure 1, containing Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 as given in the Ninth Edition, is removed, as such details could be included in a strategy document on the APAARI Membership.

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NEW ANNEXURES



- Now Annexure 1 is on “Participation of UN Member States from the APR in the FAO Ministerial conferences during 1980s which resolved and recommended the Establishment of APAAI.
- Annexure 2 is on “UN Member States Participated in the First Meeting of APAARI General Assembly that formally established APAARI as initiated and facilitated by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific [FAO-RAP) located in Thailand.

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NEW ANNEXURES



- Now Annexure 1 is on “Participation of UN Member States from the APR in the FAO Ministerial conferences during 1980s which resolved and recommended the Establishment of APAAI.
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NEW ANNEXURES



- Annexure 3 is on “UN Member States as Current Members of APPARI-respective Ministries and representing Organizations (as in 2023), the number being 21.
- Annexure 4 is on Specifications and Categorization (with examples) of APAARI Development Partners (that are inclusive of APAARI Members (in categories of Associate, Affiliate, and Reciprocal) under the Ninth Edition.
 - The Broad Categories being Inter-Governmental Organizations, International Organizations and Others - National, Regional, Global Development Organizations.

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Agenda 3



Constitutional Amendments

Discussions and Comments by Sub-committee Members
Views of Legal Consultants

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Agenda 4



Finalization of Constitutional Amendments

Recommendations

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Agenda 4



Closing Remarks

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Agenda 5



DAY-2
12 January, 2024

Recap of Day 1

Importance of Agreement among Members

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Agenda 6



Presentation of Agreement among Members

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Agreement among Members



This agreement is coming from the Agricultural Ministerial Conference for countries in Asia Pacific held in 1984 in Pakistan 1986, 1988 and 1990, established the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) upon its resolution.

This was sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Conference recommended that Member Governments endorse the Constitution of the APAARI.

Examples of few State members agreeing are given below:

<p><u>KOREA, REPUBLIC OF - COREE, REPUBLIQUE DE</u></p> <p><u>Delegate</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Jong-Tack YOO Assistant Minister Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries</p>	<p><u>BANGLADESH</u></p> <p><u>Delegate</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. A.Z.M. Obaidullah KHAN Minister of Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries, Livestock and Water Resources</p>	<p><u>INDIA - INDE</u></p> <p><u>Delegate</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Rao Birendra SINGH Union Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development</p>	<p><u>BHUTAN</u></p> <p><u>Delegate</u></p> <p>Mr. Pema WANGCHHUK Director of Agriculture</p>	<p><u>JAPAN - JAPON</u></p> <p><u>Delegate</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Yoshinobu SHIMAMURA Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</p>
<p><u>NEPAL</u></p> <p><u>Delegate</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Hem Bahadur HALLA Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform</p>	<p><u>THAILAND - THAILANDE</u></p> <p><u>Delegate</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Borom TANTHIEH Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives</p>	<p><u>MALAYSIA - MALAISIE</u></p> <p><u>Délegate</u></p> <p>H.E. Datuk Abdul H.E. OTHMAN Minister of Agriculture</p>	<p><u>PAKISTAN</u></p> <p><u>Delegate</u></p> <p>H.E. Vice-Adm. M.F. JANJUA Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries</p>	

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Agreement among Members



<p><u>PHILIPPINES</u></p> <p><u>Delegate</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Pedro Angara-ARAGON Ambassador Embassy of the Philippines</p>	<p><u>SRI LANKA</u></p> <p><u>Delegate</u></p> <p>Mr. Dixon NILAWEERA Additional Secretary Ministry of Agriculture</p>	<p><u>SAMOA</u></p> <p><u>Delegata:</u></p> <p>Fuimaono MIHIO Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries Apia</p>	<p><u>(ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')</u></p> <p><u>ate:</u></p> <p>as Ali ZALI Minister of Agriculture Iran</p>
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CHINA - CHINE

Delegate

H.E. Mr. Xiang ZHONGYANG
Vice Minister
Ministry of Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and
Fishery

NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE ZELANDE

Delegate

Mr. E.J. STONYER
Director of Economics
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fisheries

Wellington

AT PRESENT NOT A MEMBER OF
APAARI

THREE COUNTRIES WERE HAVING OBSERVERS STATUS

JAPAN - JAPON

Delegate

H.E. Mr. Yoshinobu SHIMAMURA
Parliamentary Vice-Minister
of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries

INDONESIA - INDONESIE

Delegate

H.E. Mr. Ir. WARDOYO
Minister for Development of
Food Crops

VIET NAM

Delegate;

Huynh Cong TAM
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent auprès de la FAO
Rome



Agreement among Members

- Changes in Zero draft to be made as per the Constitutional Amendment approved by the Sub-committee
- Legal language as needed for the Agreement
- Agreement in principle on adopting and adapting the original Agreement/Constitution among members developed by members with FAO sponsorship
- Discussions on new members joining APAARI after the Agreement/Constitution was adopted

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Agreement among Members

AGREEMENT ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (APAARI)

The Contracting Parties (Members of APAARI)

Conscious of the paramount importance of agri-food system and innovation as an essential sector of development in the Asia-Pacific region;

Recognizing that APAARI is committed to cultivating an association of like-minded countries to further sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific. As an important intermediary in the region, APAARI bridge national, regional, and global stakeholders to bring about collective change in agri-food system and innovations of the Asia-Pacific region.

Recognizing that the establishment and maintenance of a regional association in the region can make a significant contribution to the development of agri-food system and innovation transformation;

Considering that the success of such an association will depend largely on close regional co-operation;

Considering that cooperation in this field can best be achieved through the establishment of an intergovernmental organization carrying out its activities in collaboration with other governments as well as organizations and institutions that may be able to provide financial and technical support;

Have agreed as follows:

1. Pursuant to the recommendations made by the FAO Regional Conferences, that were participated by the high-level ministerial delegations from the UN Member States (held in 1984, 1986, 1988 and 1990), and based on the sponsorship of FAO-RAP (FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific), the key UN Member States from the Asia-Pacific Region, in its inaugural meeting in 1990, established APAARI as an inter-governmental organization (IGO). APAARI continued to be hosted by FAO-RAP up to 2020 and it is now seeking its independent legal status in Thailand.
2. APAARI will operate in accordance with its Constitution, possessing all the rights, responsibilities, and obligations befitting an international entity endowed with legal personality.

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Article 1 APAARI CONSTITUTION



The Constitution (Tenth edition) highlights the details on establishment of APAARI, its vision and mission, objectives, function, and the norms governing membership (UN Member States) and partnerships, functions of governing bodies and mechanisms, as well as rules and regulations including provisions to address amendments to the Constitution and the potential dissolution of the organization.

The inaugural Constitution was ratified during the FAO Regional Ministerial Conformance held in Beijing, China, from 23rd to 27th April 1990. Subsequently, the Constitution has undergone nine amendments since its adoption.

The latest Constitution (10th Edition) is proposed. The provisions of the Constitution compliment and supplement the other components given in the Agreement.

The various Articles of the Constitution are as below:.....20 Articles

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Article II LEGAL STATUS, PRIVILEGES, AND IMMUNITIES



International status as contemplated in UN Privileges and Immunity Act as applicable in Thailand

1. The Organization shall have judicial personality and such legal capacity as may be necessary for the fulfillment of the Organization's objectives and for the exercise of its functions.
2. The Organization would seek the privileges and immunities necessary to perform its functions provided for in this Agreement. In addition, the representatives of Members and the Executive Secretary and staff of the Organization shall be accorded the privileges and immunities necessary for the independent exercise of their functions with the Organization as generally accorded to inter-governmental organizations in each country.
3. The Organization shall conclude a headquarters at Bangkok, Thailand (The Secretariat of the Cabinet No. Nor Ror 0201/7781) and Agreement with the Host Government and if needed and recommended by the General Assembly it may conclude Agreements with other States in which offices of the Organization may be located, specifying the privileges and immunities and facilities to be enjoyed by the Organization to enable it to fulfill its objectives and to perform its functions.

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Article III
CO-OPERATION WITH DONOR GOVERNMENTS AND WITH OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS



1. 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.
2. The Contracting Parties agree that there should be co-operation between the Organization and other inter-governmental organizations, IO and Other development partners, especially those active in the agriculture sector, which might contribute to the work and further the objectives of the Organization. The Organization may enter into Agreements with such organizations and institutions. Such Agreements may include, if appropriate, provision for participation by such organizations and institutions in activities of the Organization.

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Article IV
SIGNATURE, RATIFICATION, ACCESSION, ENTRY INTO FORCE AND ADMISSION



1. This Agreement was approved and adopted by the Governments in Asia and the Pacific listed in the Annex hereto, in Beijing, China, 23-27 April, 1990 FAO Regional Conference and, thereafter, at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome Governments which have approved the Agreement have become a party thereto by depositing an instrument of ratification. Governments which joined APAARI later have become a part to the Agreement by default.
2. This Agreement shall enter into force, with respect to all Governments which have ratified it or acceded thereto, on the date when instruments of ratification or accession have been deposited by at least five Governments listed in the Annex III.

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Article V

AMENDMENT



1. Amendments to this Agreement may be made at any time by two-third majority of the total votes cast by the Members and shall be ratified by them in accordance with the General Assembly Rules.
2. An amendment shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the last instrument of ratification
 - i. No proposal for the amendment of the agreement shall be included in the agenda of any General Assembly meeting unless notice thereof has been dispatched by the Executive Secretary to members and partners at least 60 days before the opening of the meeting.
 - ii. Amendment of the Constitution 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.
 - iii. The Association may amend this Constitution by a two-third majority of the total votes cast (by members and partners), provided that such majority is two-third of the total members of APAARI

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Article VI

WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION



1. At any time after the expiration of three years from the date when it became a party to this Agreement, any Member may give notice of its withdrawal from the Organization. Such withdrawal shall take effect twelve months after the notice thereof was received by the organization at any later date specified in the notice, provided, however, that any obligation incurred by the Member vis-a-vis the Organization shall remain valid and enforceable.
2. The Organization shall cease to exist at any time decided by the General Assembly by a three-quarters majority of the Members. The disposal of any real property belonging to the Organization shall be subject to the prior approval of the Governing Council. Any assets remaining after the land, buildings and fixtures have been disposed of, after the balance of any donated funds that have not been used has been returned to the respective donors, and after all obligations have been met, shall be distributed among the Governments which were Members of the Organization at the time of the dissolution, in proportion to the contributions that they made for the year preceding the year of the dissolution.

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Disputes arising out of the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by two-third majority of the total votes cast at General Assembly Meeting.



The Executive Secretary shall be the Depositary of this Agreement. The Depositary shall:

- (a) send certified copies of this Agreement to the Governments invited as participants to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, and to any other Government which so requests;
- (b) arrange for the registration of this Agreement, upon its entry into force, with the Secretariat of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations;
- (c) inform the Governments invited as participants to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and any Government that has been admitted to membership in the Organization of:
 - (i) the signature of this Agreement and the deposit of instruments of ratification or accession in accordance with Article IV of the Agreement;
 - (ii) the date of entry into force of this Agreement in accordance with Article IV of Agreement;
 - (iii) notification of the desire of a Government to be admitted to membership in the Organization; and admissions, in accordance with Article IV of the Agreement
 - (iv) proposals for the amendment of this Agreement and of the adoption of amendments, in accordance with Article V of Agreement and

Done at Bangkok....., 2024 during the General Assembly Meeting of APAARI.

The initial Agreement was done one at Beijing, China, 23-27 April, 1990 in a single copy in the English language. The original text was deposited in the archives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome.

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Our Members and Development Partners



Final Draft 21 Jan 2024 – Resulted from the Sub-Committee Face to Face Meeting

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**.

ISBN: 978-616- 7101-18-7

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PREAMBLE

We, a group of Member States of the United Nations¹ 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 a Quasi-Governmental Organization (QGO) 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 editions² and this being the Tenth Edition.

¹ Refer to Annexure 1 for Member States of the UN as Founding Members of APAARI.

² 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

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

1. Pursuant to the recommendations made by the FAO Regional Conferences³, that were participated by the high-level ministerial delegations from the UN Member States (held in 1984, 1986, 1988 and 1990)⁴ and based on the sponsorship of FAO-RAP (FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific), the key UN Member States⁵ from the Asia-Pacific Region, in its inaugural meeting in 1990, established APAARI as an inter-governmental organization (IGO).
2. 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.
3. 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

4. The name of this Organization shall be “Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions”, hereinafter referred to as “APAARI” or “the Organization”.
5. 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.
6. APAARI is an international organization for strengthening agri-food research and innovation systems in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Article IV: OFFICE AND SECRETARIAT

7. 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).

³ *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.*

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

⁵ *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).*

8. The Organization shall have a Secretariat to perform its technical, managerial and administrative functions. The Secretariat shall be located at APAARI's head office.

9. 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

10. The following are the key elements of APAARI Vision 2030:

- i. **Vision:** Strengthened research and innovations for sustainable 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

11. 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 and youth in AFRIS and their participation in policy 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

12. 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

13. APAARI membership shall be comprised of member states of the United Nations and territories⁶ in the Asia-Pacific Region.

⁶ [The term "territories" denotes administrative divisions or areas of member states of the United Nations in the APR]

14. Membership of APAARI may be sought by submitting an application to the Executive Secretary and as approved by the Executive Committee. 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.

15. 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

16. 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).

17. Associate membership of APAARI may be sought by submitting an application to the Executive Secretary and as approved by the Executive Committee. Once approved, such entity shall be termed as Associate Member of APAARI.

18. Details of membership subscriptions, methods and processes of their management, withdrawal and mobilization of membership/Associate membership, their roles and responsibilities, etc. shall be provided under a separately designed APAARI management standards.

Article X: FUNDS

19. 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;
- ii. Partnership subscriptions/contributions received from APAARI development partners;
- iii. Grants and donations from governments, national, regional or international organizations, development banks, donor/aid organizations/agencies, philanthropic bodies, etc.;
- iv. Contributions from partners/collaborators and sponsors mainly through projects developed and secured by APAARI and also through APAARI organized meetings, events, networks, etc.; and
- v. Other suitable sources as approved from time to time by the Executive Committee such as subscriptions by APAARI Membership/ Associate Membership and any others.

Article XI: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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

25. 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

26. 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. One of these six members shall be the out-going Chairperson, who will continue as a member for the new term; to ensure continuity and needed guidance to the new Executive Committee;
 - ii. One (1) member representing the host country of APAARI;
 - iii. One (1) member who is the incumbent Executive Secretary of the GFAR 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.
27. 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.
28. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall be nominated/elected from the seven Executive Committee members [as under Paragraph 28 (i) and (ii)], by the Members (Member Organizations) present at the General Assembly Meeting.
29. The Executive Secretary of APAARI shall be appointed in accordance with Article XV of this Constitution.
30. 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.
31. 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.

32. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and members of the Executive Committee (other than the member representing the host country, the Executive Secretary of GFAR and the ~~APAARI~~ Executive Secretary of APAARI), shall hold office for two years, which can be renewed up to twice through approval of the General Assembly Meeting.

33. 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.

34. A separate Management Standard on the Executive Committee, providing details of guidelines, covering agreed procedures, rules, regulations and processes for performing the overall role, functions and conduct of the Executive Committee, shall be provided.

Article XIV: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. 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

38. 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

39. APAARI shall have an Executive Secretary as Chief Executive Officer of APAARI. The APAARI Secretariat shall be headed by the Executive Secretary.

40. 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.

41. 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

42. 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.

43. 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.

44. 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

45. 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.

46. A separate Management Standard on General Assembly, providing details of guidelines, agreed procedures, rules, regulations and processes for performing the overall role, functions and conduct of the General Assembly, shall be provided.

47. 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

48. 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

49. Amendment of the Constitution and/or reform of the Organization shall be considered only at a meeting of the General Assembly.

50. 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 and partners at least 60 days before the opening of the meeting.

51. 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.

52. The Organization may amend this Constitution and/or reform the Organization by a two-third majority of the total votes cast, provided that such majority is two-third of the members of APAARI.

Article XX: DISSOLUTION

53. 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 49 to 52 of Article XIX.

Annexure 1: Participation of UN Member States from the Asia-Pacific Region in FAO Ministerial Conferences in Resolving the Establishment of APAARI					
No.	Member States	Years of FAO Conferences			
		1984	1986	1988	1990
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		√	√	√

Annexure 2: UN Member States as Founding Members of APAARI and Respective Ministries and Representing Organizations (1991-92)*			
No.	APAARI Member / UN Member State/Territory	Respective Ministry	Representing Organization / APAARI Member Organization
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>		

Annexure 3: UN Member States as Members of APAARI – Respective Ministries and Representing Organizations (as in 2023)			
No.	APAARI Member / UN Member State	Respective Ministry	Representing Entity / APAARI Member Organization
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 Forests	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	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	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)
16	Independent State of Papua New Guinea	Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology	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	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)
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)
	Total Members		21

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, Global R&D Organizations/Institutions/Economies	CGIAR, GFAR, TECO, WorldVeg, ICIMOD, IAAS, Academia Cluster (PJ TSAU, TNAU), AAI-FSII (Private Sector)
	Total Associate Members	13

* *This list of Associate Members is subject to change as new members may join the membership and current members may withdraw from their membership.*

Annexure 5: Interpretations of Abbreviations, Acronyms, Expressions and Terms	
Abbreviations, Acronyms, Expressions and Terms	Interpretation
AAI – FSII	Alliance for Agri. Innovation and Federation of Seed Industry of India
AAU	Anand Agricultural University
ABC	Alliance Bioversity International – CIAT
AFRIS	Agri-food Research and Innovation Systems
AFS	Agri-food Systems
AIRCA	Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture
APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions as named under Paragraph 4 (Article III)
APAARI Member	An UN Member State that is an approved Member of APAARI as per Paragraphs 13 and 14 (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
APR	Asia-Pacific Region
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nation
Associate Member	An entity/agency as development partner, and as specified/ approved in Paragraph 16 (Article IX) and shown in Annexure 4
CAB- International	Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (comprised a number of international research entities.
Chairperson	Chairperson of the Executive Committee as nominated/elected under Paragraph 28 (Article XIII)
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture

CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CIP	International Potato Center
CIRAD	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement
CSK HPKV	CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya
CSO	Civil Society Organization
Organization	Means the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions as recognized under Paragraph 4 (Article III)
EC Member	A person, identified by name/ designation, representing a member organization of APAARI on its Executive Committee as composed under Paragraph 26 (Article XIII)
Executive Committee (EC)	Means the Executive Committee of APAARI established under Paragraph 27 (Article XIII)
Executive Secretary (ES)	Means the Executive Secretary of APAARI as appointed 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 20 (Article XI)
GCHERA	Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IAAS	International Association for Agricultural Sustainability
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute

ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
FAO-RAP	Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
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
NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institution
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization
NCHU	National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan (R.O.C.)
NTU	National Taiwan University
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
QGO	Quasi-Governmental Organization, as termed in Thailand
PAU	Punjab Agricultural University
PJTSAU	Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University
Region	Asia -Pacific region unless otherwise specified
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAC	SAARC Agriculture Centre
Secretariat	Means the Secretariat of APAARI established and located as under Paragraph 8 of Article IV
SPC	Secretariat of Pacific Community

System Office	Refers to CGIAR System Management Office in Montpellier, France
TECO	Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Thailand
TNAU	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
UN-FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
UPT	University Putra Malaysia;
Vice-Chairperson	Means the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee nominated/ elected under Paragraph 28, (Article XIII)
WorldFish	World Fish Center
WorldVeg	World Vegetable Center

Draft For EC Sub-committee

Agreement among Members

AGREEMENT ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (APAARI)

The Contracting Parties (Members of APAARI)

Conscious of the paramount importance of agri-food system and innovation as an essential sector of development in the Asia-Pacific region;

Recognizing that APAARI is committed to cultivating an association of like-minded countries to further sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific. As an important intermediary in the region, APAARI bridge national, regional, and global stakeholders to bring about collective change in agri-food system and innovations of the Asia-Pacific region;

Recognizing that the establishment and maintenance of a regional association in the region can make a significant contribution to the development of agri-food system and innovation transformation;

Considering that the success of such an association will depend largely on close regional co-operation;

Considering that cooperation in this field can best be achieved through the establishment of an intergovernmental organization carrying out its activities in collaboration with other governments as well as organizations and institutions that may be able to provide financial and technical support;

Have agreed as follows:

1. Pursuant to the recommendations made by the FAO Regional Conferences, that were participated by the high-level ministerial delegations from the UN Member States (held in 1984, 1986, 1988 and 1990), and based on the sponsorship of FAO-RAP (FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific), the key UN Member States from the Asia-Pacific Region, in its inaugural meeting in 1990, established APAARI as an inter-governmental organization (IGO). APAARI continued to be hosted by FAO-RAP up to 2020 it is now seeking its independent legal status in Thailand.
2. APAARI will operate in accordance with its Constitution, possessing all the rights, responsibilities, and obligations befitting an international entity endowed with legal personality.

Article I

APAARI CONSTITUTION

1. The Constitution (Tenth edition) highlights the details on establishment of APAARI, its vision and mission, objectives, function, and the norms governing membership (UN Member States) and partnerships, functions of governing bodies and mechanisms, as well as rules and regulations including provisions to address amendments to the Constitution and the potential dissolution of the organization.
2. The inaugural Constitution (Annexure I) was ratified during the FAO Regional Ministerial Conformance held in Beijing, China, from 23rd to 27th April 1990. Subsequently, the Constitution has undergone nine amendments since its adoption.
3. The latest Constitution (10th Edition) is given in the Annexure II. The provisions of the Constitution compliment and supplement the other components given in the Agreement.
4. The various Articles of the Constitution are as below:
 - a. Article 1: INTERPRETATION
 - b. Article 2: ESTABLISHMENT
 - c. Article 3: NAME AND CHARACTER
 - d. Article 4: OFFICE AND SECRETARIAT
 - e. Article 5: VISION AND MISSION
 - f. Article 6: OBJECTIVES
 - g. Article 7: FUNCTIONS
 - h. Article 8: MEMBERSHIP
 - i. Article 9: PARTNERSHIP
 - j. Article 10: FUNDS
 - k. Article 11: GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 - l. Article 12: DUTIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 - m. Article 13: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 - n. Article 14: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 - o. Article 15: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
 - p. Article 16: DUTIES OF OFFICERS
 - q. Article 17: RULES AND REGULATIONS
 - r. Article 18: QUORUM
 - s. Article 19: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION
 - t. Article 20 DISSOLUTION

Article II

LEGAL STATUS, PRIVILEGES, AND IMMUNITIES

International status as contemplated in UN Privileges and Immunity Act as applicable in Thailand

1. The Organization shall have judicial personality and such legal capacity as may be necessary for the fulfillment of the Organization's objectives and for the exercise of its functions.
2. The Organization would seek the privileges and immunities necessary to perform its functions provided for in this Agreement. In addition, the representatives of Members and the Executive Secretary and staff of the Organization shall be accorded the privileges and immunities necessary for the independent exercise of their functions with the Organization as generally accorded to inter-governmental organizations in each country.
3. The Organization shall conclude a headquarters at Bangkok, Thailand (The Secretariat of the Cabinet No. Nor Ror 0201/7781) and Agreement with the Host Government and if needed and recommended by the General Assembly it may conclude Agreements with other States in which offices of the Organization may be located, specifying the privileges and immunities and facilities to be enjoyed by the Organization to enable it to fulfill its objectives and to perform its functions.

Article III

CO-OPERATION WITH DONOR GOVERNMENTS AND WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

1. 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.
2. The Contracting Parties agree that there should be co-operation between the Organization and other inter-governmental organizations, IO and Other development partners, especially those active in the agriculture sector, which might contribute to the work and further the objectives of the Organization. The Organization may enter into Agreements with such organizations and institutions. Such Agreements may include, if appropriate, provision for participation by such organizations and institutions in activities of the Organization.

Article IV

ADOPTION, RATIFICATION, ACCESSION, ENTRY INTO FORCE AND

ADMISSION

1. This Agreement was approved and adopted by the Governments in Asia and the Pacific in second General Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand, in December, 1990 at FAO Regional Office.

thereafter, at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome Governments which have approved the Agreement have become a party thereto by depositing an instrument of ratification. Governments which joined APAARI later have become a part to the Agreement by default.

2. This Agreement shall enter into force, with respect to all Governments which have ratified it or acceded thereto, on the date when instruments of ratification or accession have been deposited by at least five Governments listed in the Annex III.

Article V

AMENDMENT

1. Amendments to this Agreement may be made at any time by two-third majority of the total votes cast majority of the Members and shall be ratified by them in accordance with The General Assembly Rules.
2. An amendment shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the last instrument of ratification
 - i. No proposal for the amendment of the agreement shall be included in the agenda of any General Assembly meeting unless notice thereof has been dispatched by the Executive Secretary to members and partners at least 60 days before the opening of the meeting.
 - ii. Amendment of the Constitution 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.
 - iii. The Association may amend this Constitution by a two-third majority of the total votes cast (by members and partners), provided that such majority is two-third of the total members of APAARI

Article VI

WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION

1. At any time after the expiration of three years from the date when it became a party to this Agreement, any Member may give notice of its withdrawal from the Organization. Such withdrawal shall take effect twelve months after the notice thereof was received by the organization at any later date specified in the notice, provided, however, that any obligation incurred by the Member vis-a-vis the Organization shall remain valid and enforceable.
2. The Organization shall cease to exist at any time decided by the General Assembly by a three-quarters majority of the Members. The disposal of any real property belonging to the Organization shall be subject to the prior approval of the Governing Council. Any assets remaining after the land, buildings and fixtures have been disposed of, after the balance of any donated funds that have not been used has been returned to the respective donors, and after all obligations have been met, shall be distributed among the Governments which were Members

of the Organization at the time of the dissolution, in proportion to the contributions that they made for the year preceding the year of the dissolution.

Article VII

INTERPRETATION AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Disputes arising out of the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by two-third majority of the total votes cast at General Assembly Meeting.

Article VIII

DEPOSITARY

The Executive Secretary shall be the Depositary of this Agreement. The Depositary shall:

- (a) send certified copies of this Agreement to the Governments invited as participants to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, and to any other Government which so requests;
- (b) arrange for the registration of this Agreement, upon its entry into force, with the Secretariat of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations;
- (c) inform the Governments invited as participants to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and any Government that has been admitted to membership in the Organization of: (i) the signature of this Agreement and the deposit of instruments of ratification or accession in accordance with Article IV of the Agreement.
 - (ii) the date of entry into force of this Agreement in accordance with Article IV of Agreement;
 - (iii) notification of the desire of a Government to be admitted to membership in the Organization; and admissions, in accordance with Article IV of the Agreement
 - (iv) proposals for the amendment of this Agreement and of the adoption of amendments, in accordance with Article V of Agreement and

Done at Bangkok....., 2024 during the Genral Assembly Meeting of APAARI.

The initial Agreement was done one at Beijing, China, 23-27 April ,1990 in a single copy in the English language. The original text was deposited in the archives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome.

LIST OF GOVERNMENTS INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES

Bangladesh
*China
Fiji
India
Iran
Malaysia
*New Zealand
Pakistan
PNG
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Samoa

ANNEX I

(Copy of 1st edition of APAARI Constitution)

ANNEX II

(Copy of 10th Edition of APAARI Constitution)

ANNEX III

LIST OF GOVERNMENTS ADOPTED APAARI CONSTITUTION IN BEIJING,
CHINA, 23-27 APRIL ,1990:

China
Bangladesh,
Fiji
India,
Philippines