



AfricaRice

ENDORSEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 32ND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE SUB REGIONAL ASSOCIATION KNOWN AS THE AFRICA RICE CENTER (AfricaRice)

Thursday March 31, 2022

Cairo, Egypt

The Council of Ministers of AfricaRice (hereinafter referred to as the Council),

During its 32nd ordinary session that was held virtually on the 31st of March 2022,

After having reviewed the biennial report of the Director General of AfricaRice and the Chairperson of its Board Trustees, on the progress made and performance achieved by AfricaRice, between the period of September 2018 to March 2022, in its aim to contributing to the realization of its mission,

After having examined the recommendations of the National Experts Committee of AfricaRice, constituted by the Directors General of National Agricultural Institutions of member States of AfricaRice, the technical advisory body to the Council, formulated following deliberations on the steady progress being made by AfricaRice in rice research and development in Africa and on the following key documents tabled for its consideration: (i) a proposed amended version of the Constitution of AfricaRice; (ii) a new Rice Research and Innovation Strategy for Africa, and (iii) a proposed request for the establishment of a financing mechanism that will contribute to raising funds for the operations of AfricaRice,

Acknowledges the quality of the documents submitted to the Council by the Secretary of the Council, the Director General of AfricaRice, for examination, and

Endorses the following:

1. Proposed amendments made to the Constitution of AfricaRice to align its governance instruments and operations with the governance and operational framework of One CGIAR.
2. A new 2030 Rice Research and innovation strategy for Africa led by AfricaRice.
3. A request for the establishment of a financing mechanism that will contribute to raising funds for the sustainable operations of AfricaRice.
4. The choice of Madagascar as member State chairing the Council for the year 2022 to 2024.
5. The initiation of a search by the Board of Trustees of AfricaRice and the appointment by the Council of a new Director General of AfricaRice in December 2022.

Resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers of AfricaRice at its 32nd ordinary session, on 31st March 2022

RESOLUTION 1: Payment of AfricaRice annual contribution

The Council of Ministers

- Noting the huge amount in arrears of memberships annual contributions owed to AfricaRice by member states,
- Stressing the urgent need for each member state to honor its constitutional obligation,

The Council of Ministers resolved as follows:

Member States should endeavor to pay their annual contributions in a timely manner and pay all their arrears by the end of 2023.

RESOLUTION 2: Enhancing the visibility of the work done by AfricaRice at national level

The Council of Ministers

- Noting the excellent research outputs delivered by AfricaRice and its partners, which are gaining significant international recognition and laurels,
- Emphasizing the need for the inclusion of more categories of stakeholders in a higher number of member States, in the activities of AfricaRice,

The Council of Ministers resolved as follows:

National Agricultural Research Institutes (herein after referred to as NARIs) of member States of AfricaRice and AfricaRice Management should establish and execute plans for rendering more visible AfricaRice as well as its research products to governments of members States of AfricaRice.

RESOLUTION 3: Raising funds to support the operations of AfricaRice

The Council of Ministers

- Noting the huge backlog of arrears in membership contributions that stands at US\$ 5.8 million at 2021,
- Recalling that the implementation of rice value chain projects in member States are being supported by funds from Development Banks, which could be a potential source for defraying the huge backlog of arrears in membership contributions,
- Recalling the constitutional requirement for member States of AfricaRice to defray as and when due their annual contributions,

The Council of Ministers resolved as follows:

(a) Member States and the Management of AfricaRice should work with Development Banks such as the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) to exploit ways and means of sourcing a one-off payment of arrears of annual contributions from rice value chain projects, where possible.

The Council of Ministers

- Welcoming the idea of creating a rice seed capital needed to contribute to the transformation of rice sector development in Africa,
- Recognizing that enormous benefits could be derived by AfricaRice, its partners, especially the NARIs, and rice farmers, in member States, from the establishment of formidable partnerships with the private sector,

The Council of Ministers resolved as follows:

(b) AfricaRice Management should lead the development of an innovative financing mechanism involving partnerships with the private sector and market-led financing approaches, to raise additional funds for sustaining the operations of AfricaRice, with considerations given to the development of solid business models, benefit sharing especially between AfricaRice and its partner NARIs of member States, intellectual property rights issues as well as measures for the protection of farmers' rights.

RESOLUTION 4: Contribution to the sustainable increase in investments in rice sector development of member States

The Council of Minister

- Recognizing the need for increased and sustainable investments in priority segments of rice value chains in Africa,
- In view of the need to organically ensure the growth and transformation of the entire rice sector in Africa,

The Council of Ministers resolved as follows:

AfricaRice Management should support member States in using strategic information derived from the Continental Investment Plan for Accelerating Rice Self Sufficiency in Africa (CIPRISSA), established for 11 countries with support from AfricaRice, to advocate for investments that would lead to increased performance of rice value chains and the attainment of rice self-sufficiency in member States.

RESOLUTION 5: Strengthening strategic partnerships with national, regional agricultural research institutions, and regional economic communities, on the continent.

The Council of Ministers,

- Recalling that AfricaRice is an Association of African member States and noting its growing membership,

- Recognizing that the needs of member States could be adequately responded to through enlarged partnership with relevant regional research organizations and regional economic communities,
- Recognizing that consolidating partnerships with regional economic communities could facilitate resource mobilization and the establishment of appropriate policies that will enable the creation of greater impacts on the ground,

The Council of Ministers resolved as follows:

AfricaRice Management should consolidate its links with NARIs, sub-regional research and innovation institutions, and regional economic communities, especially in the Central and Southern African regions of the continent, in a bid to strengthen their capacity in rice research and development as well as the policy environment, to enable the creation of impact on the livelihood of the African populace.

RESOLUTION 6: Ensuring mutual benefits from joining One CGIAR

The Council of Ministers,

- Recalling its resolution authorizing AfricaRice to join One CGIAR,
- Recognizing the benefits that could be accrued from joining One CGIAR, including mobilizing global knowledge and financial resources in support of the operations of AfricaRice and its partners,
- Recalling the mandate specific mission of AfricaRice as an Association of member States,

The Council of Ministers resolved as follows:

- (a) The Board of Trustees and Management of AfricaRice and One CGIAR should pursue their work in aligning their governance and operational frameworks without compromising the tenets of the AfricaRice Constitution and disrupting the privileges AfricaRice benefits from its host countries.***
- (b) One CGIAR, in its partnership with AfricaRice, should provide all the necessary support to AfricaRice that will result in strengthening the capacity of AfricaRice as well as that of its partner NARIs in member States, to deliver on the mission of AfricaRice accorded to it by its 28 member States of strengthening the rice sector and attaining rice self-sufficiency in Africa.***

Motion of Congratulations to the Director General of AfricaRice Center by the COM Chair

The Council of Ministers

- Recognizing the remarkable work being done by the Director General in effectively managing the Center and the Secretariat of the Association,

- Noting the various accolades and international laurels awarded to AfricaRice in recognition of the significant research outputs delivered,
- Noting with satisfaction the enviable reputation of the Center internationally, marked by citations in international peer-reviewed academic journals and periodicals,

Congratulates the Director General of AfricaRice, Dr Harold Roy-Macauley, and the entire staff of AfricaRice for these laudable achievements and the international visibility of the Center.

Vote of thanks to government and people of Egypt delivered by the Representative of Ugandan Minister of Agriculture

The Council of Ministers,

- Recognizing the exemplary leadership demonstrated by the Arab Republic of Egypt as host to the Council of Ministers of AfricaRice during the period September 2018 to March 2022; and,
- Noting that such exemplary leadership was achievable during the COVID-19 pandemic period complicated by a climate crisis,

Expresses its sincere thanks to the Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for its perseverance and achievements as Chair of the Council during the period.

Done in Cairo, Egypt March 31, 2022.

The Council of Ministers

Signed 

His Excellency, Al-Sayed el-Quseir,

Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Arab Republic of Egypt