

**GHANA ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS (GAAE)**

**CONSTITUTION**

**JULY 2018**

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### **Article 1: Name and Legal Entity**

The name of the association is: **Ghana Association of Agricultural Economists (GAAE)**

### **Article 2: Objectives**

The key objectives of the Association are to:

- 2.1 Further the interests of Ghanaian agricultural economists and agribusiness personnel and professionals and persons in related fields in a not-for-profit and non-political manner;
- 2.2 Improve liaison between agricultural economists with an interest in agricultural issues across Ghana, the entire African continent and at international levels;
- 2.3 Promote training, research, policy dialogue and interest in agricultural economics and agribusiness in Ghana as envisaged in Article 3.
- 2.4 Contribute to broad based rural development, poverty reduction, food security and sustainable use of natural resources in Ghana.

### **Article 3: Activities**

- 3.1 GAAE shall organize a national conference regularly.
- 3.2 GAAE may arrange and/or assist ad hoc symposia, lectures or discussions at the regional or national level.
- 3.3 GAAE may publish Newsletters to make known its activities and those of its members as well as other matters of importance.
- 3.4 GAAE may publish a journal.
- 3.5 GAAE may support and/or publish meritorious papers on Agricultural Economics on an ad hoc basis.
- 3.6 GAAE may give recognition to persons who have rendered exceptional service over a long period of time, in the interests of education and research in Agricultural Economics as well as in its application in Ghana and Africa.
- 3.7 GAAE may affiliate with other organizations on condition that the rights of members are not prejudiced and may collaborate with organizations with which GAAE is affiliated when such affiliation and collaboration furthers the aims of GAAE.
- 3.8 GAAE may permit other organizations to affiliate and collaborate with it provided that such affiliation and collaboration will promote the objectives of GAAE, and subject to such regulations as may be prescribed by GAAE.
- 3.9 GAAE may support worthy activities of its members, or any affiliated member or association, financially or otherwise, provided that such activities promote the objectives of GAAE.

3.10 GAAE may make awards to its Members in acknowledgement of outstanding publications, conference papers and post-graduate dissertations in the field of Agricultural Economics.

#### **Article 4: Membership**

4.1 Membership consists of Ordinary members, Student Members, and Fellows

4.1.1 Ordinary Members are members who:

- a) Have obtained at least a three-year university degree specializing in Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Economics and/or other applications of Economics, or
- b) Have an interest in the application of Agricultural Economics on account of their experience, position and/or profession, provided that their membership will promote the objectives of GAAE.

4.1.2 Student Members are bona fide undergraduate and post-graduate students in Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Economics and/or other applications of Economics

4.1.3 Fellows are persons who have substantially contributed to the activities of GAAE

4.2 Members' Obligations:

4.2.1 Subscriptions for each conference period as decided by GAAE from time to time.

4.2.2 Fellows are exempted from paying membership fees.

4.2.3 Student Members must indicate in writing, when paying subscriptions, whether they are still bona fide undergraduate or postgraduate students.

4.2.4 All members must notify GAAE without delay of any change of address.

4.2.5 All members undertake to abide by the regulations of this Constitution.

4.3 Members' Rights:

4.3.1 All Ordinary Members, Student Members and Fellows are entitled to the following:

- a) Receipt of an GAAE membership list during conferences.
- b) Receipt of all circulars and notices from GAAE.
- c) Receipt of all newsletters from GAAE.
- d) Purchase of Journal/s of GAAE, at a reduced price, if such journal/s are published.
- e) Receipt of any other publication that GAAE may decide to publish from time to time for general distribution among members.

4.3.2 All Ordinary Members and Fellows of GAAE who are present at a General Meeting of GAAE at the time of voting on any GAAE business have an equal right to vote on such business.

## **Article 5: Executive Committee**

5. 1. The Management of GAAE will be known as the Executive Committee and will consist of a President, a Vice President, the Immediate Past President, additional members to represent specific interests or geographical areas as determined by the Members of the Association from time to time, a Secretary/Treasurer and the Editor-in-Chief of the Ghana Journal of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness (GJAEAB), who will be appointed by the Executive Committee.
5. 2. Any Ordinary Member or Fellow of GAAE may be elected as a member of the Executive Committee.
5. 3. The term of the elected Executive Committee is as follows:
  - 5.3.1 The normal term for each member of the Executive Committee is taken to be from the close of the conference at which such a person is elected until after the close of the conference, which follows the meeting at which the member was elected.
  - 5.3.2 The President shall serve for one normal term followed by a consecutive term as Past President.
  - 5.3.3 The Editor-in-Chief and Secretary/Treasurer will serve a minimum of 2 terms.
  - 5.3.4 A person ceases to be a member of the Executive Committee as soon as one or more of the following occurs:
    - a) Expiration of the normal term of service of the person;
    - b) A written resignation by such a person as member of the Executive Committee;
    - c) Termination of a person's membership of GAAE.
- 5.4 Vacancies that may occur on the Executive Committee, with the exception of those of the Editor-in-Chief, the Secretary/Treasurer and the Past President, shall be filled by way of election at the next conference.
- 5.5 The duties of the President are as follows:
  - 5.5.1 The President is the chief executive officer of GAAE as well as the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the General Meetings of GAAE.
  - 5.5.2 Should the President not be available for any reason or not be able to attend to his or her duties, the Vice-President will officiate as President.
- 5.6 At meetings of the Executive Committee, two thirds of the elected positions on the Executive Committee will form a quorum.
- 5.7 The Executive Committee may co-opt any person to attend any meeting as an observer and/or adviser.
- 5.8 The resolution of a majority of members of the Executive Committee who are present at a Committee meeting becomes a decision of the Committee. When the votes are equal on any matter voted once, the President, or the person acting in his or her place as the circumstances may be, has a casting vote in addition to his or her Ordinary vote.

**Article 6: Procedures at the election of members for the Executive Committee**

- 6.1 Only ordinary members and Fellows may submit nominations and secondments for vacancies on the Executive Committee.
- 6.2 Written nominations for vacancies on the Executive Committee of GAAE must reach the Secretary/Treasurer before the commencement of or during the conference at which members are elected.
- 6.3 The signature of the nominator and his or her seconder or as well as the signature of the nominee to show his or her acceptance of the nomination must accompany a nomination for vacancies on the Executive Committee
- 6.4 Voting will be by secret ballot at the conference. Each eligible voter of GAAE will be entitled to one vote for each vacancy, which is to be voted for.
- 6.5 No candidate for the Executive Committee may be elected unless the candidate has gained an absolute majority of votes in the ballot concerned.
- 6.6 A nomination committee that adequately reflects the regions of Ghana shall be constituted by the President to receive nominations.

**Article 7: Duties and Powers of the Executive Committee**

- 7.1 It is the duty of the Executive Committee to execute the resolutions of the General Meetings of GAAE.
- 7.2 The Executive Committee has power to give effect to the objectives and undertakings of GAAE, including the following:
  - 7.2.1 To convene the conference and other General Meetings as set out in Article 9.
  - 7.2.2 To rule on the admission of members to GAAE under Article 4.
  - 7.2.3 To appoint special committees from the ranks of GAAE and to co-opt members on an ad hoc basis.
  - 7.2.4 To agree upon an Editorial Policy for the GAAE Journal, and to appoint an Editor for the Journal in accordance with this policy.
  - 7.2.5 To appoint the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association.
  - 7.2.6 To circulate notices among members of GAAE and to authorize publications in the name of GAAE.
  - 7.2.7 To make known any decisions of GAAE in the name of GAAE.
  - 7.2.8 To receive nominations for, and to confirm Fellows of the Association in accordance with guidelines approved by Members.
  - 7.2.9 To exercise responsible control over the financial affairs of GAAE and to give a proper account of the financial position of GAAE.
  - 7.2.10 To determine the venue of the conference at least two years in advance.
  - 7.2.11 To make rules regarding the awards of the Association, as well as the Editorial policy of the Journal.

7.3 To decide on co-operation with other organizations and bodies as envisaged under Articles 3.7 and 3.8.

**Article 8: Duties and powers of the executive officers of GAAE**

8.1 The President of GAAE will be responsible to the Executive Committee as chief executive officer under Article 5.5.1. As chief executive officer he or she is responsible for the effective management of the administrative and financial business of GAAE.

8.2 The duties of the Secretary/Treasurer are to:

- 8.2.1 Act as Secretary at the conference, General Meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee of GAAE.
- 8.2.2 Inform members of GAAE, by way of announcements, about important decisions taken at all the conferences and meetings of the Executive Committee or by making announcements in GAAE publications.
- 8.2.3 Receive all GAAE funds, to endorse and deposit these to the credit of GAAE.
- 8.2.4 Make payments in the name of GAAE subject to the regulations of the Executive Committee under Article 7.2.8 and subject to co-signature of the President of GAAE or a representative of the Executive Committee appointed ad hoc by the President.
- 8.2.5 Keep archives of GAAE consisting of:
  - a) Lists of Members
  - b) Constitution
  - c) Minutes of conferences, Special General Meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee
  - d) Lists of GAAE executives
  - e) Professional journals of GAAE and Newsletters
  - f) Rules for the Awards of the Association
  - g) The Editorial Policy of the Journal
- 8.2.6 Manage any other GAAE business as authorized by the President on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
- 8.2.7 Manage the secretariat.

**Article 9: Meetings of GAAE**

9. Meetings called by GAAE will be an Annual General Meeting, Special General Meetings which can be called ad hoc, as well as special gatherings such as Conferences, Symposia, lectures and discussions which can be arranged under Articles 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.

9.1 The regulations for the Annual General Meeting are as follows:

- 9.1.1 The Annual General Meeting of the members of GAAE is to be held at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee. Written notice shall be given at least one calendar month before the meeting. Accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to a member or the non-receipt of a notice of a meeting does not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.
- 9.1.2 A quorum for the Annual General Meeting is one third of the members of the Association entitled to vote at the time of the meeting concerned.
- 9.1.3 The President of GAAE takes the chair at the Annual General Meeting under Article 5.5.1 and in his absence the Vice-President presides under Article 5.5.2. If both the President and Vice-President are absent or if both are absent fifteen minutes after the time of the commencement of the Annual General Meeting, the Members who are present at the meeting must appoint a Chairman from their ranks to act as Chairman of the meeting.
- 9.2 A Special General Meeting of GAAE shall be called by the Executive Committee at the written request of at least 10 members, or on its own initiative. The meeting must be held within two calendar months from the time of receipt of such a request. Procedures at the Annual General Meeting as set out under article 9.2 are also operative at special General Meetings.
- 9.3 Meetings under Article 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 may be arranged by the Executive Committee subject to notification of at least fourteen days in advance, not including the day of notification and the day of the meeting.

**Article 10: GAAE Finances**

- 10.1 The Financial year of GAAE shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December of the same year or at such other times as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine.
- 10.2 Immediately after the close of the conference an Income and Expenditure account, which will reflect the financial position of the Association, must be drawn up. The Auditor, appointed by the Management must audit this account.
- 10.3 In order to improve the financial position, GAAE may according to rules determined by the Executive Committee, do any of the following: Solicit funds through appreciation clubs, proposals to funding agencies, recognition awards, defined contributions, and gifts; establish trust funds; and make dedicated fixed deposits.
- 10.4 The funds and assets of GAAE shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of GAAE as set forth in this constitution; and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly, or indirectly by way of dividend, gift, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to a member of GAAE provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment, in good faith, of reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or servant of GAAE or any member of GAAE, in return for any services actually



rendered to GAAE, or prevent the payment of interest at a rate not exceeding current bank rate on money lent or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any member to GAAE.

- 10.5 If upon the dissolution of GAAE there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of GAAE, but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of GAAE, and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property amongst its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on GAAE. Provided also that such institution or institutions is or are to be determined by the members of GAAE at or before the time of dissolution, and in default thereof, by a judge or the High Court of Ghana, and if so far as effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provisions, then to some other charitable object.

#### **Article 11: The office of GAAE**

The location of the central office of GAAE shall be at a place determined by the Executive Committee.

#### **Article 12: Amendments to the Constitution**

- 12.1 This Constitution may be amended only during a conference or a special General Meeting of GAAE. Notification of the proposed amendments shall be given to members at least six months prior to the date of the bi-annual conference or Special General Meeting. Any proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer at least three weeks before the relevant conference or special meeting and these shall be duly seconded by at least two members. During such a General Meeting these proposed a two-thirds' majority of the recorded votes should pass amendments.
- 12.2 Amendments to these proposed amendments may be handed in during the conference or special general meeting concerned. Amendments shall be accepted on condition that these are approved by a simple majority of votes. If accepted, an amendment shall supersede the original proposal, if this amendment should embrace the proposal in its entirety.

#### **Article 13: Dissolution**

The Association shall not dissolve itself without prior consent in writing from the Registrar General's Department of the Republic of Ghana obtained upon a written application addressed to the Registrar General and signed by three of the officials of GAAE.

***Certification***

**Name: Prof. Felix Asante**

**Signature:**

**Position: President GAAE**

**Name: Dr. Amos Mensah**

**Signature:**

**Position: Secretary GAAE**