

**CONSTITUTION**

**OF**

**THE**

**CARIBBEAN AGRO-ECONOMIC SOCIETY**

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRO ECONOMICS SOCIETY**

(Approved in Jamaica at the conclusion of the Ninth West Indies Agricultural Economic Society Business Meeting of April 8, 1974).

Amended in Puerto Rico at the conclusion of the Twenty Sixth West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference in July 2006.

## **SECTION 1 TITLE**

The title shall be the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society.

## **SECTION 2 INTERPRETATION**

“Society” means the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society.

“Regional” means within the Caribbean area.

## **SECTION 3 OBJECTIVES**

- (a) To provide a forum for the examination of all agricultural institutions, policies, systems and practices in the Caribbean.
- (b) To focus attention on the economic problems of agricultural production and marketing with a view to improving economic efficiency.
- (c) To facilitate exchange and flow of ideas among local, regional and international universities; regional and government institutions; and the private sector, with respect to matters related to the economics of agricultural production and related industries.
- (d) To disseminate agricultural information throughout the Caribbean.
- (e) To adopt a regional approach to the collection, collation and analysis of agricultural data.
- (f) To establish a closer working relationship between the public and private sectors in agricultural production and marketing.
- (g) To publish available material for the benefit of the whole Caribbean.

## **SECTION 4 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

1. **The Governing Body.** The Governing Body of the Society shall be the General Meeting (GM), with the Executive functions entrusted to an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for planning, administration and execution of the policies of the Society.
2. The **Executive Committee** shall not exceed twelve members and shall consist of the following officers:

### **President:**

Responsible for chairing meetings and coordinating the activities of the Executive Committee.

### **Vice President:**

Responsible for acting in the absence of the President, liaising with country representatives and such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

### **Secretary:**

Responsible for convening meetings, keeping records and minutes, coordination of the Society's communications and other duties assigned by the Executive Committee.

### **Director of Publications**

Responsible for publication of conference proceedings, newsletters and other publications as may be authorised by the Executive Committee from time to time.

### **Deputy Secretary**

Responsible for:

1. Acting in the absence of the Secretary;
2. Coordinating conference series with the respective host Governments; and

3. Coordinating the Society's activities with regional institutions.

**Treasurer:**

Responsible for:

1. Safe keeping of Society's funds and property, collection of all dues, contributions and disbursements of funds;
2. Control of fund-raising efforts;
3. The preparation of audited accounts and all other related matters.

**Ordinary Members – not exceeding six:**

May be assigned special responsibilities from time to time by the Executive Committee or by the President.

**SECTION 5  
EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

The Executive Committee of the Society shall be elected from the general membership of the Society and shall comprise persons who are in good financial standing.

The Executive shall be elected at the General Meetings of the Society.

**SECTION 6  
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Country Representatives shall:
  - a) be elected at the General Meetings of the Society and shall be from the General Membership of the Society; and
  - b) be in good financial standing in the Society.
2. In cases where an elected country representative is unable to carry out his/her roles and functions as outlined hereunder, the Executive Committee will identify

an appropriate alternate to serve as Country Representative until the next General Meeting of the Society.

3. The roles and functions of Country Representatives of the Caribbean Agro-Economics Society shall be as follows:
  - a) To represent the countries of the Caribbean and associated regions in matters pertaining to the business of the Society.
  - b) To inform country institutions (public and private) involved in agriculture and related business of the work and activities of the Society.
  - c) To facilitate stakeholders in accessing information on the regional agricultural sector, both private and public, via the Society's Secretariat, in particular the proceedings of the Society's Conferences.
  - d) To make such efforts as to increase the overall membership of the Society, drawing from interested persons and institutions in the various fields of agriculture and related business in the country.
  - e) To promote the attendance and participation at conferences of the Society, which are held to bring together experts in various fields of agriculture.
  - f) To provide an avenue for seeking and obtaining information on respective country agricultural sector performance, experiences, and issues for the furtherance of the work of the Society, such as contributions to the Society's journal and newsletters.
  - g) To assist the local Organizing Committee and the Society where possible, to facilitate the convening of the Conferences of the Society.
  - h) To provide a networking arrangement whereby the Executive Committee of the Society and the Country Representatives can organize tours and other activities for the benefit of the members of the Society.

## **SECTION 7 MEMBERSHIP**

### **General Membership**

General membership shall be drawn from countries of the region and associated regions, in keeping with the objectives as stated in Section 3 of the Constitution.

Membership in the case of other interested persons shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

### **Institutional Membership**

Institutional membership shall be drawn from countries of the region and associated regions, in keeping with the objectives as stated in Section 3 of the Constitution.

Membership in the case of other interested institutions shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

Institutional membership does not bestow benefits upon individuals.

### **Membership Fees**

Annual general membership fees and institutional membership fees shall be set by the General Meeting of the Society and shall be payable to the Treasurer of the Society at the beginning of each calendar year.

## **SECTION 8 ORGANISATION OF THE CONFERENCE SERIES**

1. The Conference Series shall be organised by a Conference Committee and a Local Organising Committee.
2. The Conference Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall consist of not more than nine persons with the President as Chairman.
3. The Conference Committee shall be responsible for the overall running of the Conference, but shall be concerned principally with policy and technical aspects of the Conference.
4. The Local Organising Committee shall be directly responsible to the Conference Committee. The Local Organising Committee shall normally consist of the following offices and members: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and such other members the Chairman and Secretary may deem desirable. At least one officer of the Local Organising Committee shall be a member of the Conference Committee.
5. The Local Organising Committee shall be responsible for making such local arrangements in the host country to facilitate the smooth conduct of the Conference.

## **SECTION 9 HEADQUARTERS**

1. The Headquarters of the Society shall be: The Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago or such Department of the University of the West Indies that is responsible for Agricultural Economics.
2. The Executive Committee shall register the Society and open an account with a reputable bank in Trinidad and Tobago for financial transactions.

## **SECTION 10 MEETINGS**

### **A. General Meeting**

1. A General Meeting shall be held at every meeting of the West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference and shall be chaired by the President.
2. The membership of the General Meeting shall include the Executive Committee, the Conference Committee, the Local Organising Committee and financial general members of the Society.
3. Only financial members shall vote at any General Meeting and the Chairman shall have an original as well as a casting vote.
4. Decisions at the General Meeting shall be approved by a simple majority of those voting.
5. Voting shall be by secret ballot.
6. A quorum shall be fifteen (15) financial Members of the Society

### **B. Executive Committee Meetings**

1. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the President.
2. Decisions of the Executive Committee Meetings shall be approved by a simple majority of those members present.
3. A quorum shall be half of the Members of the Executive Committee

**SECTION 11  
AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution shall be amended by a favourable vote of two-thirds or more at a General Meeting, with two weeks notice to be given by the Secretary to members of the Society of the proposed amendment and six weeks notice to be given to the Secretary, by the proposer and seconder of the resolution in advance of the opening date of the West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference.

**SECTION 12  
OTHER MATTERS**

In the period between General Meetings:

1. Matters which are not dealt with by the Constitution or the General Meeting shall be decided upon by the Executive Committee.
  2. The Executive Committee shall interpret the provisions of the Constitution.
  3. On those matters in Section 12 Subsections 1 and 2, the decisions of the Executive Committee shall be final and binding.
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