ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTIONS IN THE NEAR EAST
AND NORTH AFRICA
(AARINENA)

Report of the
Eight General Conference of
AARINENA

Amman, Jordan
26-28 May, 2002

Organized in Collaboration with:

National Center for Agricultural Research
And Technology Transfer (NCARTT)

International Center for Agricultural Research in
Dry Areas (ICARDA)

International Service for National Agricultural
Research (ISNAR)

Food And Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations (FAO)
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Summary of the Recommendations and Conclusions

The General Conference agreed on the followings:

**Work-plan:**

- The Date Palm Network, AARINENA shall merge its efforts within the initiative of the Global Network established by U.A.E University with the collaboration of FAO, thus avoiding duplication of activities in the region. The seat of the Date Palm Secretariat would be located in UAE.

- To establish a Network based on Commodity Chain Approach, it is recommended that, AARINENA would include it in its program of work and allocate a budget for the establishment of Olive (oil and crop) Network.

- AARINENA shall establish a network for Herbal and Medicinal Plant with the collaboration of IPGRI. AARINENA would be involved in the expert consultation meeting that is going to be held on this subject in Tehran 2003.

- Concerning RAIS- AARINENA need to renew contacts with the Cosponsors and International Organizations for technical & financial support.
  
  - Every country member should nominate a focal point and design its own web page. AARINENA would request the financial support of GFAR, FAO and ICARDA to help every member country to design its own web page. FAO would also be requested to help countries of WANA in the arabazation of their website (2 versions: Arabic and English).

  - In the second phase, a steering committee should be formed to ensure a close contact with all NARS and stakeholders in the region in order to get up to date information.
- A workshop would be organized by AARINENA, GFAR, FAO, ICARDA on subregional and national information system during the period of November/December 2002 in Tehran, Iran or Cairo, Egypt.

- Country Representatives should work on officially signing the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture prepared by FAO.

- The Conference endorsed and adopted all the recommendations taken during the CWANA Consultation Meeting for Agricultural Priority Settings held at ICARDA on May 8-10 2002.

- It was recommended that the workplan and budget revision would reflect the financial support of the cosponsors provided in accomplishing cooperative activities with the Association

**General Rules of Procedure:**

- Concerning AARINENA Constitution, all the amendments on General Rules of Procedures discussed during Malta Executive Committee Meeting were approved and adopted.

- The seat of AARINENA shall be moved to Jordan, the NCARTT would host the secretariat for four years. The Secretary shall be a full time officer working along with the President. The Executive secretary would handle the trust fund and manage the financial affairs. The conference suggested that the Executive Committee would take the final decision concerning this issue after requesting the support from ICARDA and FAO.

- Any new changes in the Constitution should be written and distributed to all country member representatives at least 60 days before the next General Conference in order to be adopted.

- The sub regional representatives would be elected among the country representatives of the concerned sub region and during the General Conference, the President and Vice President would be elected among the five elected sub regional representatives.

- The General Conference did not agree on increasing the subscription fees for member countries.

**Election Of New Executive Committee**

The Conference elected the following Executive Committee Members:
1. Dr. Abed Al-Nabi Fardous (Mashreq Sub-region), President,
2. Dr. Mohamed Roozitalab (West Asia Sub-region), Vice-President
3. Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al Bakri (Arabian Peninsula), Member
4. Dr. Fawzi Naim Mahrous (Nile Valley & Red Sea), Member.
5. Dr. Taher Azzabi (Maghreb subregion), Member.

The place and date of the 9th General Conference will be held in Oman during the first half of April 2004.

**Decisions Taken by the Executive Committee**

The newly elected executive committee met at the end of the conference and took the following decisions:

1. **Trust Fund**: It was decided that the trust fund accounts to stay at FAO/RNE office for the next six months. Then the president will request from FAO/RNE Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for the Near East to transfer the balance of the fund to FAO/Amman office.
2. **Executive Secretary**: The committee reviewed several applications for the post of the executive secretary and selected Mr. Ra'ed Badwan from Jordan as the secretary who was asked to work on full-time basis.
3. **Work-plan & Budget**: The committee reviewed the program of work and agreed to establish a network on olive oil and a network on herbal and medicinal plants in collaboration with IPGRI. It also planned to organize sub-regional workshop on the priorities of cooperation mechanism.
4. **Next Executive Committee meeting**: will be held in Oman in December, 2002.
**Conference Proceedings**

**Opening Session**

The 8th General Conference of AARINENA was held in Amman, Jordan during the period of 26 to 28th of May 2002, under the auspices of His Excellency Dr. Mahmud Duwayri, the Minister of Agriculture in Jordan. The Conference was cosponsored by FAO Regional office in the Near East, ICARDA and ISNAR in Collaboration with the National Center for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer in Jordan (NCARTT).

Institution representatives from sixteen member countries attended the conference: Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Representatives of Regional and International organizations also participated in the conference: ACSAD, AOAD, CIRAD, FAO, ICARDA and ISNAR, (Annex I).

The opening session of the Conference started with the statement by the president of AARINENA Dr. Moustafa Yaghi welcoming the attendance and thanking the Government of Jordan, the Minister of Agriculture and the director of NCARTT for hosting the 8th General Conference Of AARINENA. Then he highlighted the main activities and achievements of AARINENA during the last two years such as Regional and International meetings in Washington, Dresden, Rome, Durban and Kuwait, and the priority setting meeting’s organized by ICARDA. He stressed on the need to strengthen the secretariat of the association and the necessity of collaboration between the executive committee members by sharing the participation in the regional and international meetings.

Dr. Sami Sunna representing ISNAR being a member of its board of trustees stated that ISNAR has continuous interaction and collaboration with AARINENA and other Agricultural Regional Fora for research and development. He indicated that it is in the framework of ISNAR to support AARINENA by implementing project on biosafety and by providing publications and information notes.

Dr. Habib Halila represented the Director General of ICARDA confirmed ICARDA commitment to support AARINENA as a cosponsor and as a partner in promoting collaboration in agricultural research among the countries of West Asia and North Africa. The main accomplishment of collaboration between ICARDA and AARINENA were the review study on the status of NARS in WANA, in collaboration with FAO and CIHEAM, in addition to the priority settings for agriculture in the region, which resulted from holding five consecutive sub regional meetings.

Dr. Ahmad El Miniawy presented the statement of the Regional Representative of FAO Regional office in the Near East, he stated that FAO took the initiative in the establishment of
AARINENA and supported the Association by hosting its secretariat and its trust fund since its inception 1985. He pledged that FAO would continue providing technical assistance and support to AARINENA activities. He stressed that the association need a full time executive secretary and urged member countries to commit funding for its daily operation on a regular a basis to ensure its sustainability.

Dr. M. Duwayri, the Minister of Agriculture welcomed the participants and expressed his happiness of holding the 8th General Conference of AARINENA in Jordan. He highlighted the problem of food security in the World in general and the Near East Region in particular. He stressed the need to increase productivity of the agricultural sector in this region that has limited water and land resources and emphasized the importance of agricultural research in facing these constraints.

**Election of the Chairman, Rapporteur & Nomination Officer**

**of the meeting & Adoption of the Agenda**

The Conference elected Dr. Abed Al Naby Fardous as Chairman of the meeting, Dr. Christo Hilan as a Rapporteur and Dr. Cristakis Papochristoforou as a Nomination officer.

The agenda of the meeting was amended then adopted by the conference as shown in Annex II.

**AARINENA Activities Report**

AARINENA activity report was presented by Dr. C. Hilan the executive secretary. An organigram of the Association was displayed showing the best and most efficient way for collaboration between NARS leaders in a country, country representative, sub regional representative, the president and the secretary.

A detailed list of activities was presented namely: AARINENA secretariat, constitutional amendments, date palm network proposal, Post harvest workshop, regional priority settings for Agriculture and the main international, regional and sub regional meeting of the President and Executive Committee members.

The date palm network was discussed. Noting that UAE University established a global network with the collaboration with FAO. It suggested that AARINENA should merge its effort in this initiative thus avoiding duplication of activities in the region.

Dr. Roozitalab recommended the establishment of Herbal and medicinal plants network as these plants are considered under-utilized crops. It was suggested that AARINENA should collaborate with IPGRI to establish this network. An expert consultation meeting on the subject is going to be held on 2003 in Tehran.

**General Rules of Procedure**

The FAO legal officer Mr. Jean Pierre Charadia Bousquet presented the rules of Procedure for AARINENA. All the amendments concerning the rules of procedure that was discussed during the Executive Committee meeting in Malta were approved and adopted by the conference (Annex III).
It was also agreed to change the seat of the Association and move it to Jordan who would host the secretariat for 4 years. The legal officer reminded the participants that any changes in the constitution should be written and distributed at least 60 days before the next General Conference as per Article XV (Amendments to the constitution). According to the new rules of procedure that was adopted, the legal officer indicated that each sub-region shall elect one representative from each sub region among the country representatives. Then, the General Conference would elect the president and vice-president among these elected sub-regional representatives.

Sub-Regional Activities
The Executive Committee sub-regional representatives presented the Sub Regional activities.

- Dr. Youssef El Shayji, representing the Arabian Peninsula Sub-Region, presented the outputs and recommendation of the International Conference on Biotechnology Application for Arid Regions (ICBAAR), and the priority settings for research in the region, which was approved during the sub regional brainstorming meeting, organized by ICARDA and AARINENA.

- Professor Anthony Scicluna-Spiteri, representing the Maghreb Sub-Region, listed the main activities conducted during his involvement as Executive Committee member. He stated his views and comments on how the association should fulfill its expectations as a regional body in the world. There should be an adequate membership and leadership, a fulltime secretary and a better planning and programs.

- Dr. Ismail Muharram, representing the Nile Valley and Red Sea Sub-Region, made a presentation on his active participation in AARINENA Executive Committee meetings and other related AARINENA issues.

- Dr. M. Roozitalab, representing the West and Central Asian Sub-Region, made two presentations.
  - The first was about the sub regional collaboration in West Asia, between Iran and Pakistan and Turkey, mainly on Yellow Rust Conference and Network with the support of international organizations, the exchange of research scientists, training workshops on Sugar Beets and Mango, animal diseases, rapeseed production, exchange of technology and experiences in cotton, olive, fisheries, dry land agriculture and traveling workshop on sustainable wheat production with the CAC countries and the support of ICARDA.
  - The second presentation was on the main decisions and recommendations taken during the 11th GFAR-SC meeting in Rome. The most important point is that AARINENA was elected by the Regional Fora to represent them for two years in the Executive Council of CGIAR. The GFAR-SC has adopted three proposals for global partnerships based on commodity chains, direct sowing and global framework on unimproved crops. The new GFAR projects are: Promoting Sustainable Development in Southern AR System, Development of RAIS and Strengthening the Partnership of Farmer Organization, NGOs,
and Universities. The CGIAR adopted three challenge programs: - Water in agriculture, global genetic resources and agricultural technology to improve the health.

The next General Conference of GFAR would be held in 2003 at Dakar, Senegal.

- Ms. Taraneh Ebrahimii, RAIS Secretariat made presentation on AARINENA- RAIS activities: AARINENA Executive Committee approved Iran proposal for hosting RAIS secretariat during Tehran meeting on Dec. 2001, Ms. Ibrahimi has been officially assigned by NARS, IRAN as RAIS secretary. She has designed a main page for AARINENA Website, in collaboration with GFAR, where one can find the general information concerning the Association, its publications, news and link. In the database file one can find the management information system, the monitoring of Agricultural Research and development in the region, the regional NARIs database, database on Regional /Sub Regional Research network, projects and papers, and Economic and Statistical database.

The main problems are: the lack of finance for distributing the network, the incomplete information for filling out the web page and the communication with the different NARS of the regions. It was recommended to renew contact with cosponsors of AARINENA and International organizations for technical and financial support, to nominate a country focal point and design a web page for each country member. In the second phase, the steering committee would be formed to ensure a close contact with all NARS and stakeholders in the region in order to get up to date information.

FAO, ICARDA and GFAR would be officially requested by AARINENA to help every country member to design its own web page. FAO would also help in the arabazation of the Web site.

A workshop will be organized by AARINENA/GFAR/FAO/ICARDA on sub regional and national information system during the period of November/December 2002 in Tehran/Iran or Cairo/Egypt.

**International Organizations Presentations**

- Dr. Christian Hoste from CIRAD, made a presentation on contribution of the French scientific community on Building up the Mediterranean Agriculture Research Area and the Cooperation between French Institutions and AARINENA. He pointed out the recent initiatives done by AARINENA (Strategy for the Future, Vision 2025, Framework for Action 2000-2005, the dialogue with EFARD, GFAR meetings, the establishment of the RAIS and the collaboration with FAO/GFAR (Post harvest symposium) and ICARDA (Priority Settings for Agricultural Research), the Mediterranean conference on Agricultural Research Cooperation between INRA/NAGREF and the Establishment of a regional observatory on agriculture and agri-food policies and the Euro Mediterranean zone in the agricultural and agri-food sectors done by CIHEAM.

He indicated that the support from the French Agricultural Research Community to the region was mainly on: Thematic areas for cooperation based on the regional priorities, national and regional strategy, on increased coordination between ministries and research institutions and active participation to the regional networks with ACSAD, CIHEAM. ESCORENA and ICARDA.
• Dr. A. Maddur FAO Agricultural Research Officer made a presentation on the agreement of FAO/FARA requesting similar arrangement for AARINENA. He explained the international treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture prepared by FAO on a basis of global treaty on agro biodiversity. He urged the country representatives to act on signing this treaty officially.

The objective of the treaty is the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use. The multilateral system applies to more than 60 plants genera, which include 64 major crops and forages. The treaty provides for payment of an equitable share of the monetary benefits derived from the commercialization of a product that uses plant genetic resources from the system. Each country will need to develop its own legislation or regulation to implement the new treaty, 40 governments have already ratified it.

• Dr. A. Belaid from ICARDA, made a presentation on Agricultural Priority Settings in CWANA. He discussed the specific objectives and the expected outputs of the process. His report was based on the finding of the questionnaires fulfilled by various stockholders and on the outcome and recommendations of the five sub regional brainstorming meetings held between September 2001 and January 2002. The CWANA consultation meeting took place on 8-10 May, 2002 at ICARDA and a draft of the main priorities was identified. They fall into five clusters: 1) Germplasm Management 2) Natural Resource Management 3) Socio Economics & Policies 4) Cross Cutting Issues and 5) Methodologies & Approaches. Germplasm was further desegregated into 3 clusters: crops, animals and fisheries. The following have been identified as specific challenges to the region: Desertification, Mountain production systems and Drought irrigation.

It was finally recommended to include the CWANA as the third geographic priority region of the CGIAR in order to increase the level of CGIAR resources allocated to the CWANA Region, assess the existing partnerships, strengthen AARINENA and CAC-NARS Forum, enhance CG centers involvement in the region and expand the mandate of ICARDA to include dry land fruit trees and dry land oil crops. It was also recommended to review existing network between AARINENA and CAC forum facilitated by ICARDA. Coordinating meetings would be held every two years on sub regional level and every four years on regional level under the auspices of AARINENA CAC, ICARDA and GFAR. Traveling workshop should be encouraged. It was also recommended to endorse challenge programs on desertification, water, Germplasm improvement and biotechnology as high priority in the region.

**Financial and Administration Issues**

Dr. M. ElTamzini AARINENA Trust Fund Operating Officer presented the financial and administrative matters. He stated that subscription fee for many member countries were overdue. Most institutions did not pay their subscription fees for the year 2002.
The fund balance, at the end of the period 2000-2002, is about $122,000. Unofficial financial statement considering the revenue and the expenses done and those committed is shown in Annex IV.

Regarding the administrative issues, Dr. ElTamzini raised two issues:

- The conference should recruit a full time experienced officer as executive secretary, he stated if this suggestion is adopted, then the secretary should manage and operate the financial affairs of AARINENA, The conference should also decide on the location of the trust find account.
- For strengthening Membership of AARINENA, the executive secretary should attract more countries and request the fees from member countries early January of each year.
- The institution should allocate the fees in their budget and be paid without delay otherwise increasing the membership fees in inevitable.

**Program of Work & Budget**

The program of work and budget for year 2003-2004 was presented by Dr. Christo Hilan and adopted by the conference with minor changes related to the budget fund balance (Annex V).

It was recommended that the workplan and budget revision would reflect the financial support of the cosponsors provided in fulfilling cooperative activities with the Association. A budget would be allocated to establish the olive oil and crop network, recruiting regional or international consultants according to prepared and approved Terms of Reference (TOR).

**Election of the New Executive Committee of AARINENA**

According to the guidelines of the adopted rules of procedure explained by the FAO legal officer, the sub-regional representatives elected five members from their sub regions as follows:

- Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria representatives elected Dr. Abdel Nabi Fardous from Jordan as Mashreq sub regional representative.
- Libya, Malta and Morocco representatives elected Dr. Taher Azzabi from Libya as Maghreb sub regional representative.
- Egypt, Sudan and Yemen representatives elected Dr. Fawzi N. Mahrous from Egypt as Nile Valley and Red Sea sub regional representative.
- Kuwait, Oman and UAE representatives elected Dr. Ahmad N. Al Bakri from Oman as the Arabian Peninsula sub regional representative.
- Iran and Pakistan representatives selected Dr. Mohamad Roozitalab from Iran as West and Central Asia sub regional representative.

Then the conference moved to the election of the President, Vice President by secret ballot the results were Dr. Abdel Nabi Fardous from Jordan was elected as President of AARINENA and Dr. Mohamad Roozitalab from Iran was elected as Vice President.
The Newly Elected Executive Committee members are:

1. Dr. Abed Al-Nabi Fardous (Mashreq Sub-region), President,
2. Dr. Mohamed Roozitalab (West Asia Sub-region), Vice-President,
3. Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al Bakri (Arabian Peninsula), Member
4. Dr. Fawzi Naim Mahrous (Nile Valley & Red Sea), Member.
5. Dr. Taher Azzabi (Maghreb subregion), Member.

Declaration of Intent

Dr. Fardous, the newly elected President of AARINENA thanked all participants in the Conference for their trust and cooperation, then he read the declaration of Intent on behalf of Jordan.

In accepting the Presidency of AARINENA, Jordan is guided by the following principles and considerations:

The Presidency of AARINENA is a very serious undertaking and responsibility as well as a moral obligation. At all levels, efforts will be made to ensure the success and efficiency of the Association, including:

At policy makers level, The Minister of Agriculture will personally act as a patron of the Association while Jordan is assuming the responsibility and honor of the presidency. He will endeavor to promote the Association in the region as well as advocating its goals and objectives at relevant fora.

At managerial level, The president elect will designate a small number of his institute staff on part-time basis to assist him and the Executive Secretary as needed.

At secretariat level, Jordan will provide a well experienced professional to act as a full-time Executive Secretary assisted by support staff to carry out duties and responsibilities in accordance with the AARINENA constitution.

At logistic level, the Jordanian side will provide all necessary and feasible administrative and logistic facilities for smooth and efficient running of the affairs of the Association for the whole duration of the Term of the Presidency.

The conference expressed their great appreciation to the president for the declaration of intent and commitment of Jordan to AARINENA.

Dr. M. Yaghi, the former President, made a farewell statement in which he thanked the team with whom he worked hard for two years, the cosponsor international organizations for their support and all who contributed to the success and achievement of AARINENA. He wished all the best and success for the new President and the new Executive Committee members. He acknowledged with deep appreciation ICARDA in setting Agricultural priorities for the CWANA, GFAR for their support of the post harvest workshop, and FAO for operating AARINENA trust fund.

Date and Venue of the 9th General Conference of AARINENA
The 9th General Conference of AARINENA will be held in Oman in April 2004 upon the kind invitation from the Sultanate of Oman.

**Decisions Taken by the Executive Committee**

The newly elected executive committee met at the end of the conference and took the following decisions:

1. **Trust Fund**: It was decided that the trust fund account to stay at FAO/RNE office for the next six months. Then the president will request from FAO/RNE Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for the Near East to transfer the balance of the fund to FAO/Amman.

2. **Executive Secretary**: The committee reviewed several applications for the post of the executive secretary and selected Mr. Ra'ed Badwan from Jordan as the Executive secretary who was asked to work on full-time basis.

3. **Work-plan & Budget**: The committee reviewed the program of work and agreed to establish a network on olive oil and a network on herbal and medicinal plants in collaboration with IPGRI. It also planned to organize sub-regional workshop on the priorities of cooperation mechanism. With regard to RAIS, it was suggested that AARINENA seek assistance from International organizations and cosponsors for technical and financial support. It was also recommended that each member country nominate a focal point to AARINENA-RAIS and design a web page.

4. **Executive Committee Meeting**: It was decided to hold the next executive committee meeting in Oman, December 2002.

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8th General Conference of AARINENA
AMMAN – JORDAN 26-28 MAY, 2002

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ANNEX II.

AGENDA
8th General Conference of AARINENA
26-28 May 2002, Amman, Jordan

Sunday 26, May 2002

08:30 hrs. - 09:00 hrs. : Registration

Opening Session
09:00 hrs. - 10:15 hrs. : Statement by President of AARINENA
                          Statement by the Director General of ISNAR
                          Statement by the Director General of ICARDA
                          Statement by FAO ADG/Regional Representative
                          Statement by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture, Jordan

10:15 hrs. - 10:45 hrs. : Reception

10:45 hrs. - 11:00 hrs. : - Election of the Chairman, Rapporteur and Nomination Officer
                          - Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

11:00 hrs. - 11:45 hrs. : AARINENA Activities Report, Dr. C. Hilan

11:45 hrs. - 12:45 hrs. : General Rules of Procedure for AARINENA, FAO Legal Officer

12:45 hrs. - 14:30 hrs. : Lunch Break

14:30 hrs. – 14:50 hrs. : Building up the Mediterranean Agricultural Research Area, Dr. C. Hoste

Sub-Regional Activities

14:50 hrs. – 15:10 hrs. : - Arabian Peninsula Sub-Region, Dr. Y. Al-Shayji

15:10 hrs. - 15:30 hrs. : - Maghreb Sub-Region, Prof. A. Scicluna-Spiteri

15:30 hrs. - 15:50 hrs. : - Nile Valley & Red Sea Sub-Region, Dr. I. Muharram

15:50 hrs. - 16:20 hrs. : - West and Central Asian Sub-Region, Dr. M. Roozitalab

16:20 hrs. - 16:50 hrs. : Coffee Break

16:50 hrs. - 17:20 hrs. : RIAS Secretariat Issues, Mrs. T. Ebrahimi
17:20 hrs. - 17:30 hrs. : Discussions on Sub-Regional Activities

**Monday, 27 May, 2002**

09:00 hrs. - 09:30 hrs. : Financial and Administrative Matters  
Dr. M. ElTamzini, FAO/RNE

09:30 hrs. – 10:30 hrs. : AARINENA Program of Work & Budget for 2003/2004, AARINENA Secretary (Dr. C. Hilan)

10:30 hrs. - 11:00 hrs. : Coffee Break

11:00 hrs. - 11:30 hrs. : FAO/FARA Agreement Briefing, Dr. A. Maddur

11:30 hrs. - 12:30 hrs. : Agricultural Priority Setting, Dr. A. Belaid

12:30 hrs. - 14:00 hrs. : Lunch Break

14:00 hrs. - 14:15 hrs. : Date & Place of the 9th General Conference

14:15 hrs. - 15:00 hrs. : Election of the Executive Committee and the President and Vice-President, Legal and Nomination officers

15:00 hrs. - 16:00 hrs. : General Discussion

**Tuesday, 28 May 2002**

09:00 hrs. - 10:30 hrs. : Adoption of the Report and Closure

10:30 hrs. - 10:45 hrs. : Meeting of New-Elected Executive Committee

11:30 hrs. - 17:30 hrs. : Field Trip (Optional)

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 29-31, May 2002**

Workshop on “Institutional Needs Assessment for Agricultural Research, Technology Development and Extension in the Near East Region”
Rule I: Definitions

For the purpose of these Rules, the following definitions apply:

**Constitution**: the Constitution of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) as adopted by the Technical Consultation held in Nicosia, Cyprus during the period of 17 – 18 October 1983 and amended by the General Conference at its Fifth Session in April 1996 and at its Seventh Session in March, 2000.

**General Conference**: the supreme body of AARINENA provided for in Article VIII.1 of the Constitution and gathering representatives of all Full Members and Associate Members of the Association.

**Executive Committee**: the permanent restricted body provided for in Article IX.1 of the Constitution that manages the affairs of the Association between two sessions of the General Conference, in accordance with Article IX.2 of the Constitution.

**Delegate**: the representative, head of delegation, of a Full Member or an Associate Member.

**Delegation**: the delegate and his alternate, experts and advisers.

**Observer**: the representative of a national institution or an intergovernmental or a non-governmental organization invited to attend General Conference sessions as observer.

**Members**: the Full Members and Associate Members of AARINENA

**Executive Secretary**: the Executive Secretary of the Association as provided for in Article XI.1 of the Constitution.

Rule II: Sessions of the General Conference

1. In accordance with Article VIII.3 of the Constitution, the regular sessions of the General Conference shall be held every two years. They shall be convened by the President.

2. In pursuance of Article VIII.6 of the Constitution, the President shall convene special sessions of the General Conference, if so requested by the Conference in an interval between regular sessions.

3. The dates of the regular sessions shall be determined by the Executive Committee. The dates of the special sessions shall be determined by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee members. Regular sessions of the General Conference shall be held at a place to be decided upon at each previous regular session. Special sessions of the General Conference shall be held at the seat of the Association or at any other place agreed between the President and the other members of the Executive Committee.

4. Consultations between the President and the other members of the Executive Committee provided for in paragraph 3 above may be held by any means of communication that the President deems appropriate.
5. Invitations to a regular Session of the Conference shall be prepared by the Executive Secretary and issued by the President not less than 90 days in advance of the date fixed for the opening of the session. Invitations to special sessions shall be issued not less than 45 days in advance of the date fixed for the opening of the session. The invitations shall be addressed, together with the provisional agenda of the regular session or the agenda of the special session, to all Full Members and Associate Members of the Association and to such observers as it might have been decided to invite; the working documents of the sessions shall be sent to the Members and observers at the same time or as soon as possible thereafter.

4. The Executive Secretary of the Association shall act as Secretary to the General Conference

Rule III: Credentials

At each session the Executive Secretary shall receive the credentials of delegations and observers. Such credentials shall conform to the standard form set up by the Secretariat. Upon examination thereof, the Executive Secretary shall communicate to the General Conference the list of people officially designated to attend the Session and registered.

Rule IV: Agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the General Conference regular sessions which shall be prepared by the Executive Committee shall be dispatched together with the invitation to the session at the time prescribed in Rule II.5. Proposals for the addition of items to the agenda may be addressed to the President by any Full Member not less than fifteen days before the opening of the Session. The Executive Secretary shall communicate them to the Members and observers before the opening of the session concerned. The agenda of the General Conference special sessions shall consist exclusively of items relating to the purpose for which the session was called.

2. The agenda of the regular sessions shall include:
   a) adoption of the agenda;
   b) report of the Executive Committee on the implementation of the approved programme of work and the progress made in fulfilling the objectives of the Association;
   c) report by the Executive Secretary on the annual accounts of the Association and all the activities of the Secretariat;
   d) consideration of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget of the Association for ensuring financial period;
   e) proposals for amendments to the Constitution, the General Rules of Procedure and the Financial Regulations of the Association as appropriate;
   f) election of the five members of the Executive Committee as well as of the President and Vice-President as provided for under Articles VIII.5 and IX.1 of the Constitution;

Rule V: The Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall consist of the Executive Secretary and such full or part time staff appointed by the President, on the approval of the Executive Committee, and under his responsibility.

2. Under the overall supervision of the President, the Executive Secretary shall take all necessary actions to implement the policies of the Association and the decisions of the General Conference and the Executive Committee, to manage and run the day-to-day functions of the Association and shall report thereon to the Executive Committee.
   In the exercise of his functions, the Executive Secretary will have direct relations with all Members, all institutions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations at all levels.

3. The duties of the Executive Secretary shall include:
   a) communication of information received from Members;
b) organization of the General Conference and Executive sessions and preparation, publication and
distribution of the minutes of these sessions;

c) organization of conferences, workshops, training programmes and any other meeting upon the
request of the Executive Committee;

d) receipt, collection and circulation of documents, reports, minutes, papers and decisions of the
General Conference and of the Executive Committee as well as of
the conferences, workshops, training programmes and any other meeting organized by the
Association;

e) maintaining records of the proceedings;

f) preparation;

g) collection of the annual subscriptions and receipt of any other financial contributions to the
Association and making payments in accordance with policies established by the General Conference
and the Executive Committee;

h) accounting for monies received, keeping record of expenditures and financial commitments made in
the implementation of the Budget of the Association and submission of audited accounts to the
General Conference at all its regular sessions;

i) proposition of joint work programmes with regional and international organizations and institutions;

j) coordination of all activities among the Members;

k) organization of documentation services to facilitate easy access to necessary information on
agricultural research in all sub-regions;

l) Performance of such other duties as the Executive Committee may assign to him.

4. Copies of all communications concerning the affairs of the Association shall be sent to the Executive
Secretary by the Members for purposes of information and record.

Rule VI: Election of the Executive Committee Members and of the President and Vice-Present

1. Pursuant to Article VIII.5 and IX.1 of the Constitution, the General Conference shall, at the end of each
regular session, elect the five members of the Executive Committee and then, among these elected
members, select the President and the Vice President who shall act, at the same time, as President and
Vice-President of the General Conference and of the Executive Committee.

2. The Executive Committee members are elected from among the delegations of the Full Member
participating in the General Conference session. However, with the written approval of the General
Conference, candidatures of people who are not representatives can be accepted under the condition it is
submitted by the delegation concerned.

3. All members of the Executive Committee will be eligible for the same office, including the President and
the Vice-President, shall take office at the end of the General Conference session in which they have
been elected until the end of the next regular session.

4. All members of the Executive Committee, including the President and the Vice-President, are elected for
one term, renewable one time only; however the former members of the Executive Committee, including
the President and the Vice-President, are again eligible after the expiry of one term period. A biennial
period between two regular sessions of the General Conference.

5. Nominees must be delegates, alternates, experts or advisers in the delegation of Full Members of the
Association. However, as provided for in paragraph 2 above, on the proposal of the delegation
concerned, and subject to the approval of the General Conference, persons who are not members of this
degregation, but hold responsibilities within the framework of the institution represented, can be
ominated for office in the Executive Committee.
6. In accordance with Article IX.3 of the Constitution, candidature for office in the Executive Committee shall be made in writing, duly seconded, and submitted to the Nomination Officer at least twelve hours before the General Conference session earmarked for the election of officers.

Rule VII: Functions of the President and the Vice-President

1. The President shall exercise the function conferred on him in the Constituent and in these Rules and in particular shall;
   
   a) preside at all meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee and declare the opening and closing of each of these plenary meetings;
   
   b) direct the discussions at such meetings and ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions;
   
   c) rule on points of order;
   
   d) subject to these Rules, have complete control over the proceedings of the meetings;
   
   e) represent the Association in all legal matters.

2. In the absence of the President or at his request, the functions of the President shall be exercised by the Vice-President.

3. The President or the Vice-President acting as President has a right to vote. In case of equal votes cast, the President's vote shall prevail.

4. In the interval between two regular sessions of the General Conference, the President shall exercise the functions assigned to him by the Constitution as well as any other functions entrusted to him by the General Conference.

Rule VIII: Voting arrangements and proceedings

1. Except as provided for in paragraph 5 of this Rule, voting in plenary meetings shall be oral or by show of hands except that a vote by roll call shall be taken if a special majority is required by the Constitution or by these Rules or if a request for vote by call is made by any delegation.

2. A vote by roll call shall be conducted by calling upon delegations in the Arabic alphabetical order.

3. A record of any roll call vote shall show the votes cast by each delegate and any Abstention.

4. If the General Conference or the Executive Committee are equally divided when a vote is taken on a question other than election, a second vote shall be taken during the current session. If the General Conference or the Executive Committee is then again equally divided, then President vote shall prevail and the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

5. Unless the General Conference decides otherwise, voting on matters relating to individuals, including the election of the Executive committee members, the President and the Vice-President, shall be by secret ballot.

6. Elections of the President and Vice-President shall be held after all members of the Executive Committee have been elected.

7. Elections of the Executive Committee members will be held by sub-region. Each sub-region shall elect one representative. In no case one sub-region will have more than one representative in the Executive Committee.

8. Elections of the five members of the Executive Committee will be held separately according to the Arabic alphabetical order of the names of the sub-region. The President and the Vice-President shall be elected separately among the elected Executive Committee Members.
9. The nominees having obtained the highest number of votes for the offices to be filled will be considered as elected. When no nominee for an office obtains on the first ballot a majority of the votes cast, there shall be taken a second ballot confined to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If the votes are equally divided on the second ballot, the President shall choose between the candidates by drawing lots.

10. Each delegate at the General Conference shall have one vote for all matters. However, for the purpose of election of the Executive Committee members, as well as of election of the President and Vice-President, voting shall be done by country. Each country of the Near East and North Africa Region represented in the Association by one or several Full Members shall have one vote.

**Rule IX: The Executive Committee**

1. Pursuant to Article IX.1 of the Constitution, the Executive Committee shall consist of five members, including the President and the Vice-President, elected from among representatives of the Full Members of the Association.

2. The Executive Committee shall hold a session at least once a year and shall be called by the President. The date and venue of next Executive Committee session will normally be decided at the end of each session. However, if no decision has been taken on the matter, the President will decide after consultation with the other members of the Executive Committee.

3. Special sessions of the Executive Committee may be convened at any time on the request of at least three members of the Executive Committee. The date and venue of the session will be decided by the President after consultation with the other members of the Committee.

4. If matters of exceptional urgency requiring action by the Executive Committee should arise between two sessions of the Committee, the President, after having consulted the Vice-President, or after notifying him, should such consultations not prove feasible, may seek the opinion of the Executive Committee members by correspondence or any other rapid means of communication. Unless a special session of the Executive Committee is requested in accordance with provisions of paragraph 3 above, the President may proceed with the action contemplated as soon as he has received concurrence by any written means of communication from the majority of the Executive Committee members.

5. As provided for in Article VIII, paragraph 5, 6 and 8, the President and Vice President of the Executive Committee, who are at the same time President and Vice President of the General Conference, shall be elected by the General Conference from among the Executive Committee members just elected. They shall hold office from the end of the General Conference regular session at which he has been elected until the end of the next regular session of the Conference; they shall be eligible for re-election once.

6. The President of the Executive Committee shall have, during the Executive Committee meetings, the same powers and duties as he has as President of the General Conference in relation to meetings of the General Conference itself.

7. The Executive Secretary of the Association shall act as Secretary to the Executive Committee.

8. The Executive Committee shall:

   a) manage the affairs of the Association in accordance with the Constitution and the policies and directives adopted by the General Conference;
   b) prepare the budget estimates of the Association for the consideration and approval of the General Conference;
   c) report to the General Conference on the implementation of the approved programme of work and the progress made in fulfilling the objectives of the Association;
   d) carry out such other functions as the General Conference may delegate to it.

9. The Executive Committee may establish such working groups as it considers desirable.
10. The procedures of the Executive Committee and of its working groups shall be governed by Rule VIII above.

11. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall normally be held in private. However, if it deems appropriate, the Executive Committee may decide to invite such scientists it considers competent to participate in the debates on some agenda items of its meetings.

**Rule X: Budget and Finance**

1. The Financial Regulations adopted in accordance with Article XII of the Constitution shall apply to the Association.

2. As provided for in Article VI of the Constitution, all subscriptions, grants and donations and other forms of assistance received from individuals, governments, national, regional or international organizations and development banks and other sources as well as proceeds for sale of publications and fees collected from participants at any technical meeting shall be placed in a Fund administered by the Executive Secretary in conformity with the Financial Regulations of the Association.

3. The expenses of the Association are paid out of its autonomous budget by the Executive Secretary, in accordance with Rule XI.2 (d).

4. The draft annual budget of the Association, prepared by the Executive Secretary and approval of the General Conference in accordance with Articles VIII.2 and IX.2 of the Constitution and finalized by the Executive Secretary as provided for in Article XI.2 (c), is submitted to the General Conference by the Executive Secretary, for adoption.

5. Such budget will consist, inter alia, of the expenses required for the functioning of the Association and its permanent Secretariat, the expenses of publications and communications, the proposed traveling expenses of the Staff, as well as the expenses of experts invited by the General Conference or the Executive Committee to attend, in their individual capacity, meetings of the Conference or the Committee. The budget will also include other expenditures as recommended by the General Conference.

6. In accordance with Article XIII.1 of the Constitution, auditors shall be appointed at the General Conference regular session for the period until the next regular session. All the Association's accounts and document shall be subject to

**Rule XI: Participation by observers**

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other cosponsors will be invited to fully participate without right to vote in all sessions of the General Conference, of the Executive Committee and of any of its working groups.

2. On its own initiative or on request addressed to the Executive Secretary at least four months in advance, the General Conference may invite national institutions from the Region or outside the Region as well as intergovernmental (IGO) or non-governmental organizations (NGO) having special competence in the field of activity of the Association to attend as observers such of its meetings as it may specify. Invitations to IGOs and NGOs can be extended by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee members.

3. Participation of national institutions as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the work of the General Conference and the relations between the Association and such institutions and organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Association, as well as by any other Rules on the relations with national and international institutions and organizations that the General Conference might adopt.

4. Unless the General Conference expressly determines otherwise, observers may attend the plenary meetings of the General Conference and participate in the discussions. In no case will they be entitled to vote.
5. The General Conference as well as the Executive Committee and its working groups may invite consultants or experts to attend their meetings or participate in their work.

**Rule XII: Records, Reports and Recommendations**

1. Records shall be made of each session of the General Conference and of the Executive Committee and shall be distributed as soon as possible for comments to the delegates and observer.

2. The minutes shall be adopted at the end of each session of the General Conference and shall be published with such technical papers and other documents.

3. The minutes adopted shall embody the General Conference recommendations, including, when requested a statement of minority views.

4. The report of the General Conference as well as the decisions and recommendations, with the schedule for their implementation by the Members of the Association, shall be transmitted by the Executive Secretary to all Members of the Association; they will be also forwarded to the institutions and organizations invited to attend as observers to the General Conference session.

5. The President may request Members to supply the Association with information on action taken on the basis of decisions and recommendations made by the General Conference.

**Rule XIII: Amendments to the Constitution**

1. As provided for in Article XV.1 of the Constitution, proposals for the amendment of the Constitution may be made by any Full Member of the Association. The proposals, made in writing and duly seconded, shall be addressed to the President, through the Executive Secretary, not later than 90 days before the regular session of the General Conference at which they are to be considered. The President shall circulate the proposals for amendments to all Full Members of the Association at least 60 days before the Session.

2. The amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of all Full Members present at the session and duly registered.

3. No action on a proposal of amendment to the Constitution shall be taken by the General Conference at any session unless it has been included in the provisional Agenda of the session.

**Rule XIV: Amendment of Rules**

Amendments or additions to these General Rules may be adopted on the motion of any delegation of Full Members by a two-thirds majority of the Full Members of the Association at any regular session of the General Conference provided an announcement is made at the plenary meeting and copies of the proposals for amendment or addition have been distributed to the delegations not less than 24 hours before the meeting at which action is to be taken.

**Rule XV: Official languages**

The official languages of the Association shall be Arabic and English.
ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

I. I. AARINENA SECRETARIATE:

Your Conference should adopt the following:

Recruit a full time experienced officer as Executive Secretary. According to AARINENA Constitution the Executive Secretary should manage and operate the Financial Affairs of AARINENA Trust Fund.

IF YOU ADOPTED the above recommendation, THEN Your Conference should decide the location of the newly recruited Secretary and the TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS:

a) With the President Office as decided in the 7th General Conference in Beirut that the Secretariat go with the President Office OR

b) With other Co-Sponsor Organization.

II. II. Strengthening MEMBERSHIP of AARINENA:

- If your Conference decided to recruit a full time executive secretary, it is suggested that AARINENA should attract more members or the membership fees be increased to $3000 /year.

- Membership fees to be allocated in each Research Institution Budget and paid without delays.

- AARINENA Executive Secretary to request (early January of each year) the fees from the Member Countries followed by two reminders.
According to the last financial statement, the balance for AARINENA Fund as of today is $115,000 only.

Regarding International experts and consultants, $10,000 would be allocated for olive crops/oil consultancy in year 2003 and $4,000 for olive oil proposal and secretariat in year 2004.

Concerning administrative support, $5,000 would be allocated for AARINENA secretariat and $1,500 for other administrative work annually.

Concerning Travel & missions $15,000 would be allocated for the president and executive committee meetings in year 2003 and $40,000 for the president and executive committee meetings and the 9th General conference in year 2004.

Regarding the contracts, $4,000 would be allocated for 2 Newsletter issues annually. For the RAIS and Website $6,000 would be allocated for each annually, but this should be decided upon discussion during the General Conference. A $2,500 should be allocated for accounting and auditing to cover the expenses in case AARINENA trust fund was transferred from FAO/RNE to other location.

$2,500 would be allocated annually for the General operating expenses.
ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

(AARINENA)

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES
AND FUND BALANCE
FOR THE PERIODS INDICATED
(IN US DOLLARS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>YEAR 2001</th>
<th>YEAR 2002*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Countries (Note 2)</td>
<td>34,910</td>
<td>15,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizations (Note 3)</td>
<td>6,986</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants (Note 4)</td>
<td>32,994</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>74,890</td>
<td>15,978</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>IN THE SYSTEM</th>
<th>COMMITTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>9,765</td>
<td>10,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>1,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses (ARC-LOA)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Expenses</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>12,965</td>
<td>26,941</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excess of Revenue over Expenses | 61,925 | -10,963 |

Fund balance at beginning of Period | 110,738 | 172,627 |

FUND BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD | 172,663 | 161,664 |

| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

* 1 January 2002 - 20 May 2002
** Committed in year 2002
***Actual balance may be less than indicated
### SUBSCRIPTIONS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES

1. Subscriptions of Member Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>Balance Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>1,992</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>1,999</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,000 **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
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* Iraq is committed to pay dues upon lifting of UN boycot as per letter received in this regard

** Payment in process

| 30 |
### 1. Subscriptions of Member Countries (Cont.)

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* Already paid for 2001 and 2002 but does not show in the Oracle System
### SUBSCRIPTIONS OF ORGANIZATIONS & GRANTS

#### 2. Cosponsors & Organizations

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#### 3. Grants (Cosponsors)

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