



**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA**

ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

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1. DETAILS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1.1 Name of the association

- 1.1.1 The name of the association is *THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA* (hereinafter referred to as AEASA).
- 1.1.2 The abbreviated name for the association shall be AEASA.

1.2 AEASA as a legal entity

AEASA is a legal entity and can act in law in its own name as claimant and defendant and can execute all actions required by and pertaining to the achievement of its objectives.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION

The Association's main and ancillary objectives are –

- 2.1 To promote training, research and interest in Agricultural Economics;
- 2.2 To promote the applications of the scientific principles of Agricultural Economics in order to solve agricultural, rural and relevant national problems in South Africa;
- 2.3 To improve liaison between agricultural economists at regional, national and international levels; and
- 2.4 To promote the interests of agricultural economists in terms of activities as envisaged in clause 3.

3 ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION

The description of business and any restrictions thereto are outlined in clause 2 above. AEASA is responsible for the execution of the following activities –

- 3.1 Organising regular national conferences;
- 3.2 Organising a regular F.R. Tomlinson Commemorative Lecture;
- 3.3 Arranging and/or assisting national or regional ad hoc symposia, lectures or discussions and liaise on potential Public-Private-Partnerships;
- 3.4 The publishing of newsletters to publicise its activities and those of its members, as well as other matters of importance;
- 3.5 The publishing of a journal – *Agrekon* - with at least four editions per annum. The Association may publish additional issues depending on the availability of staff and other resources;
- 3.6 Provide support and/or publish meritorious papers on Agricultural Economics on an ad hoc basis;
- 3.7 Acknowledge exemplary publications, conference papers and post-graduate dissertations in the field of Agricultural Economics;

- 3.8 Provide 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 South Africa;
- 3.9 The affiliation with additional organisations on condition that the rights of members are not prejudiced. It may also collaborate with organisations when such affiliation and collaboration could further the aims and objectives of AEASA;
- 3.10 The support of worthy activities of its members, financially or otherwise, provided that such activities promote the objectives of AEASA; and
- 3.11 The organisation of an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in each calendar year.

4 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 An application form approved by the Management Committee of AEASA can be used for applications of ordinary and *Agrekon* membership.
- 4.2 A member is enrolled in the Association as of the end of the annual conference against payment of his/her membership fee.
- 4.3 Membership is renewed annually, either through paying the registration fee for the conference (which is inclusive of the annual membership fee), or by paying the membership fee for members not attending the conference.
- 4.4 The membership base comprises of regular, student and honorary members.

4.5 STUDENT MEMBERS

Students may register as a member if -

- 4.5.1 They have obtained at least a three-year university degree specialising in Agricultural Economics, Economics and/or other applications of Economics;
- 4.5.2 They share 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 AEASA; and
- 4.5.3 They are *bona fide* undergraduate and/or full-time postgraduate students in Agricultural Economics, Economics and/or other applications of Economics.

4.6 HONORARY MEMBERS

These are individuals who -

- 4.6.1 Have substantially contributed to the activities of AEASA and who have been recommended as an honorary member in the prescribed way.
- 4.6.2 The election of any member as an honorary member will take place after the Management Committee is in receipt of a written proposal, which is signed by at least six regular members of AEASA. The proposal must give the name and address of the proposed honorary member as well as a complete account of the reasons for the proposal in terms of the provisions as stipulated in this Constitution. The Management Committee will announce the induction of its honorary members at the AGM.

5 MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION FEE

- 5.1 Membership fees for each year are decided at the AGM.
- 5.2 Membership fees are charged, and statements are sent out to the members at the end of each conference.
- 5.3 Honorary members are exempted from paying membership fees.

6 MEMBERS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

- 6.1 Subscription fees, as determined by the Management Committee, are payable upon the approval of a person's application for membership.
- 6.2 A certificate of admission to membership will be issued upon induction.
- 6.3 Members are encouraged to notify AEASA of any change of personal particulars, failure of which will cause AEASA not to be able to communicate with its members.
- 6.4 Upon induction, all members undertake to abide by the stipulations of this Constitution and any amendment thereto.

7 MEMBER BENEFITS

The benefits of being an accredited AEASA member are –

- 7.1 A membership certificate;
- 7.2 Receipt of all circulars and notices from AEASA;
- 7.3 Receipt of all electronic newsletters from AEASA;
- 7.4 Receipt of electronic access to the journal/s of AEASA if such journal/s are published, and a hard copy if the applicable journal subscription fee has been paid in full; and
- 7.5 Receipt of any other publication that AEASA may decide to publish, from time to time, for general distribution among members.
- 7.6 All members of AEASA who are present at the AGM of AEASA at the time of voting on any AEASA business, have an equal right to vote on such business.

8 CONDITIONS FOR WITHDRAWAL/SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 8.1 The rights of members, as stated in clause 6, will automatically be suspended when members are in arrears with payment of their subscriptions, until such overdue fees have been paid in full.
- 8.2 Members who have been in arrears with the payment of their subscriptions for two or more years may be terminated by AEASA. Such termination of membership does not exempt the person concerned of their outstanding and present obligations towards AEASA.
- 8.3 Any member may, at any time, terminate his/her membership of AEASA by written notice. Such termination does not exempt the person concerned of any outstanding and/or present obligations towards AEASA.
- 8.4 The membership of a student member will automatically lapse at the end of each financial year until the student member ceases to be an

undergraduate or full-time postgraduate student, at which time he or she may apply for regular membership.

9 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF AEASA

- 9.1 The management committee of AEASA comprises of **nine members**, i.e. a President, a Vice President, the former President, together with a further three additional members who are elected at the AGM. The Secretary/Treasurer, the Journal and Newsletter Editors are appointed by the six elected Management Committee members.
- 9.2 A person is ineligible to serve on the Management Committee if he or she -
- 9.2.1 is a juristic person;
 - 9.2.2 is an unemancipated minor, or is under a similar legal disability;
 - 9.2.3 does not satisfy any qualification set out in this Constitution or does not sign the required confidentiality undertaking.
 - 9.2.4 has been prohibited by a court of law to be a director of a company, or has been declared to be delinquent in terms of section 162 of the Companies Act, or in terms of section 47 of the Close Corporations Act;
 - 9.2.5 is an unrehabilitated insolvent;
 - 9.2.6 is prohibited in terms of any public regulation to be a director of a company;
 - 9.2.7 has been removed from an office of trust, on the grounds of misconduct involving dishonesty;
 - 9.2.8 has been convicted, in the Republic or elsewhere, and imprisoned without the option of a fine, or fined more than the prescribed amount, for theft, fraud, forgery, perjury or an offence:
 - (a) involving fraud, misrepresentation or dishonesty;
 - (b) in connection with the promotion, formation or management of a company;
 - (c) under the Companies Act, the Insolvency Act, the Close Corporations Act, the Competition Act, the Financial Intelligence Centre Act, the Securities Services Act, or Chapter 2 of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Activities Act.
- 9.3 Subject to the stipulations in clauses 9.2 and 11 of this Constitution, any regular or honorary member of AEASA may be elected as a member of the Management Committee.

10 TERM OF OFFICE

- 10.1 The normal term for each member of the Management Committee is taken to be from the close of the AGM, at which such a person is elected or nominated, until after the close of the second AGM that follows the initial meeting at which the member was elected.
- 10.2 The President shall serve for two normal terms; namely as President in the first term and as former President in the second term.
- 10.3 Two of the additional members will serve a two-year consecutive term.

For half of this normal term, the additional member will serve as Chairman of the Conference Organising Committee, in accordance with the stipulations of clauses 12.6 and 14.2.10. They will serve as ordinary additional members for the other half of the normal term.

- 10.4 Other elected or nominated members shall serve for one normal term.
- 10.5 A person automatically ceases to be a member of the Management Committee as soon as one or more of the following occurs –
- 10.5.1 Expiration of the normal term of service of the person, as defined in clause 5.3;
 - 10.5.2 A written resignation by such a person as member of the Management Committee;
 - 10.5.3 Termination of a person's membership of AEASA;
 - 10.5.4 Termination of the service of the person due to good corporate governance practices within the fiduciary powers of the Management Committee.

11. RE-ELECTION OF MEMBERS

- 11.1 An individual who is serving as former President may not be re-elected as President for a second consecutive term.
- 11.2 No member may serve as an elected member of the Management Committee for more than two consecutive terms, barring circumstances as defined in clauses 10.2 and 11.3 of this Constitution.
- 11.3 A person who has already served as an elected member of the Management Committee for two consecutive terms, may be elected President for the term immediately following this, provided that the member concerned has not served as a former President during a previous term as referred to.
- 11.4 The Secretary/Treasurer, the Journal and Newsletter Editors may be reappointed for any number of terms.

12. CONDITIONS FOR VACATION OF OFFICE

- 12.1 Regular and honorary members of good standing may submit nominations and secondments for vacancies on the Management Committee.
- 12.2 Vacancies which may occur on the Management Committee, with the exception of those of the Secretary/Treasurer and the former President, shall be filled by way of election at the next AGM. If it is not an electoral AGM, the outstanding term of a vacancy will be completed, and all positions will be re-elected at the next electoral AGM.
- 12.3 Written nominations in respect of vacancies on the Management Committee must reach the Secretary/Treasurer before the commencement of or during the AGM at which members are elected.
- 12.4 The signature of the nominator and his/her second, together with the signature of the nominee, must accompany the nomination for vacancy on the Management Committee.
- 12.5 Voting will be by secret ballot at the AGM. Each eligible voter of AEASA will be entitled to one vote for each vacancy that is to be voted for.
- 12.6 Nominations for Chairman of the Conference Organising Committee

shall be forthcoming only from members who reside in the area, which will host the next Conference, in accordance with clause 14.2.10. The following provisions shall also apply –

12.6.1 The Chairman of the AGM shall rule on the eligibility of nominations; and

12.6.2 The election of the Chairman of the Conference Organising Committee for the Conference one year hence will take place annually, in accordance with the stipulations of clauses 10.3 and 14.2.10.

13. VOTING ORDER BY MEMBERS

13.1 The election of the President of AEASA;

13.2 The election of the Vice President of AEASA;

13.3 The election of one additional member on the Management Committee.

13.4 The other two additional members on the Management Committee are nominated by the respective provincial branches of AEASA.

13.5 No candidate for the Management Committee may be elected unless the candidate has gained an absolute majority of votes in the ballot concerned.

13.6 When a candidate is available for more than one vacancy on the Management Committee, the name of the candidate shall be submitted for election in accordance with his/her nomination category and according to the order as stipulated above.

14. POWERS AND DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14.1 It is the duty of the Management Committee to execute the legal resolutions of the General Meetings of AEASA.

14.2 The Management Committee has power to give effect to the objectives and undertakings of AEASA, including the following –

14.2.1 To convene the AGM and other General Meetings as set out in clause 18;

14.2.2 To rule on the admission of members to AEASA in terms of clause 4;

14.2.3 To appoint special committees from the ranks of AEASA and to co-opt members on an ad hoc basis;

14.2.4 To circulate notices among members of AEASA and to authorise publications in the name of AEASA;

14.2.5 To make decisions on awards for written articles, publications, conference papers and post graduate dissertations under clause 3.7 and to support meritorious activities of members under clause 3.2.

14.2.6 To make known any decisions of AEASA in the name of AEASA;

14.2.7 To make recommendations to the AGM of AEASA in respect of the conferment of honorary membership under clause 4.6.1 and the AEASA Honorary Award under clause 3.8;

14.2.8 To make recommendations to the AGM of AEASA regarding the pursuit of the activities of AEASA;

- 14.2.9 To exercise responsible control over the financial affairs of AEASA and to give a proper account of the financial position of AEASA; and
- 14.2.10 To determine the venue of the National Conference at least two years in advance.
- 14.3 The Management Committee may decide on co-operation with other organisations and bodies under clause 3.9.
- 14.4 The Management Committee may make recommendations to the AGM of AEASA regarding affiliation with other organisations under clause 3.9. Should AEASA consider affiliation with another organisation, and such affiliation would put the constitution of AEASA in a subordinate position, this affiliation will be recommended as a constitutional amendment.

15. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF AEASA

The executive officers of AEASA are as follows -

- 15.1 The President under clause 18;
- 15.2 The Vice President;
- 15.3 The Secretary/Treasurer;
- 15.4 The Chairman of the Conference Organising Committee;
- 15.5 The Journal Editor; and
- 15.6 The Newsletter Editor.

16. POWERS AND DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- 16.1 The President of AEASA will be responsible to the Management Committee as CEO under clause 18.1. As CEO, he/she is responsible for the effective management of the administrative and financial business of AEASA.
- 16.2 The duties of the Vice-President are –
 - 16.2.1 To regulate and order the fundraising/sponsorship efforts of AEASA and its activities by other individuals and institutions; and
 - 16.2.2 To liaise with the Trustees of the *Bax Nomvete Bursary Fund* on behalf of the Management Committee.
- 16.3 The duties of the Secretary/Treasurer are –
 - 16.3.1 To act as Secretary at the AGM, General Meetings and meetings of the Management Committee of AEASA;
 - 16.3.2 To inform members of AEASA, by way of announcements, about important decisions taken at all the General Meetings and meetings of the Management Committee or by making announcements in AEASA publications;
 - 16.3.3 To receive all AEASA funds, to endorse and deposit these to the credit of AEASA; and
 - 16.3.4 To make payments in the name of AEASA subject to the regulations of the Management Committee under clause 14.2.9 and subject to co-signature by the President of AEASA or a representative of the Management Committee appointed ad hoc by the President.
 - 16.3.5 The Association should retain a copy of the following records –

- a) Its Constitution, including any amendments thereto;
 - b) The minutes of every AGM, special General Meetings and meetings of the Management Committee;
 - c) A list/register of its members –
 - i) The full name and address of each member;
 - ii) The date on which each member was inducted;
 - iii) The date on which a person's membership was terminated; and
 - iv) The amount of any membership fees paid, the number of membership shares owned and the number and amount of member loans.
 - d) A list/register of executives –
 - v) The name, address and identity number of each executive member, including former executive members; and
 - vi) The date on which such executive members became or ceased to be executive members.
 - e) A register of executive's declaration of interest in contracts or undertakings and their confidentiality undertakings.
 - f) Professional journals of AEASA; and
 - g) Newsletters.
- 16.3.6 To manage any other AEASA business as authorised by the President on the recommendation of the Management Committee.
- 16.3.7 To form an Administrative Committee, subject to the approval of the President of AEASA, with the function of assisting in organisational and other tasks as described under clause 16.3.
- 16.4 The duties of the Chair of the Conference Organising Committee are to perform the duties as stated in the Management Handbook.
- 16.5 The duties of the Journal Editor are as follows –
- 16.5.1 To undertake the editing and publication of any journal published by AEASA as provided for under clause 3.5; and
 - 16.5.2 To appoint an editorial staff for any journal published by AEASA subject to the approval of the Management Committee of AEASA.
- 16.6 The duties of the Newsletter Editor are –
- 16.6.1 To undertake the editing and publication of any newsletter published by AEASA as provided for under clause 3.4; and
 - 16.6.2 To form an editorial staff for the Newsletter of AEASA subject to the approval of the Management Committee of AEASA.

17. THE BRANCHES OF AEASA

- 17.1 Each province may establish a provincial branch of AEASA to promote AEASA's activities within the provinces.
- 17.2 The provincial branches shall have by-laws that are consistent with the AEASA Constitution.
- 17.3 The branch shall elect its own provincial management committee.
- 17.4 The provincial management committee shall take steps to communicate regularly with the AEASA Management Committee.

- 17.5 The branch may promote professional development in the province through lectures, seminars, symposia, newsletter, training and research.
- 17.6 The Branch may support membership drives and administration of AEASA activities in the province.

18. MEETINGS OF AEASA

- 18.1 The President is the chief executive officer (CEO) of AEASA as well as the Chairman of the Management Committee and General Meetings.
- 18.2 Should the President not be available for any reason, or not be able to attend to his/her duties, the Vice President will officiate as President.
- 18.3 At meetings of the Management Committee, **four members** will form a **quorum** if all seven of the posts occupied by the full-time members (i.e. the President, Vice President, Past President, Secretary/Treasurer, newsletter editor, journal editor and additional member) in the Management Committee are filled at the time of the meeting concerned; otherwise three members will form a quorum.
- 18.4 The Management Committee may invite any individual to attend any meeting of the Management Committee as an observer and/or adviser. Such persons shall not have any right to vote at the meeting concerned.
- 18.5 The resolution of a majority of members of the Management Committee who are present at a Committee meeting becomes a decision of the Committee. When the votes are equal, on any matter voted on, the President, or the person acting in his/her place, as the circumstances may be, has a casting vote in addition to his/her regular vote.
- 18.6 Meetings called by AEASA will be an AGM, special General Meetings, which may be called ad hoc, as well as special gatherings such as conferences, symposia, lectures and discussions which can be arranged under clauses 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.
- 18.7 The regulations for the AGM are as follows –
 - 18.7.1 The AGM of the members of AEASA is to be held at a time and place to be determined by the Management 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.
 - 18.7.2 A quorum for the AGM is ten per cent (10%) of the members of the Association entitled to vote at the time of the meeting concerned.
 - 18.7.3 The President of AEASA takes the chair at the AGM of AEASA under clause 18.1 and in his/her absence the Vice-President presides under clause 18.2. If both the President and Vice-President are absent, or if both are absent fifteen minutes after the time of the commencement of the AGM, the members of AEASA who are present at the meeting must appoint a Chairman from their ranks to act as Chairman of the meeting.
- 18.8 A special General Meeting of AEASA shall be called by the Management Committee at the written request of at least ten 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 AGM as set out under clause 18.2 are also operative at special General Meetings.

- 18.9 Meetings under clauses 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 may be arranged by the Management Committee subject to notification of at least fourteen days in advance, not including the day of notification and the day of the meeting.

19. FINANCES OF AEASA

- 19.1 The AEASA financial year is operative from 1 April to 31 March of the following year.
- 19.2 Immediately after the close of the financial year, an Income and Expenditure Account, which will reflect the financial position of the Association, must be drawn up. The Auditor, appointed by the Management Committee, must audit this account.
- 19.3 In order to improve the financial position, AEASA may according to rules determined by the Management Committee, do any of the following - Solicit funds through appreciation clubs, recognition awards, defined contributions and gifts; establish trust funds; and make dedicated fixed deposits.

20. PLACE OF BUSINESS

The main place of business of the Association is situated at _____ (place), _____ (province) and shall occasionally be revised and decided upon by the Management Committee.

21. LANGUAGE MEDIUM OF AEASA

All official languages may be used. In order to promote effective communication, English shall be the language used during conferences and all other meetings convened by AEASA.

22. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

- 22.1 This Constitution may be amended only during an AGM or a special General Meeting of AEASA. Notification of the proposed amendments shall be given to members at least fourteen days prior to the date of the AGM or special General Meeting. Any proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be duly seconded by at least two members and submitted in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer at least three weeks before the relevant Meeting. During such a Meeting, amendments will be passed by a two-thirds majority of the recorded votes.
- 22.2 Amendments to the proposed amendments may be handed in during the Meeting concerned.
- 22.3 Amendments shall be accepted on condition that they are approved by a simple majority of votes. If accepted, an amendment shall supersede the original proposal, should that amendment embrace the proposal in its entirety.