

Resolutions of the 30th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers (CoM) of the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice), 22-26 August 2016, Kampala, Uganda

Resolution 1: Timely distribution of COM meeting reports

The Council of Ministers;

- Considering the need for effective review and appropriation of minutes immediately after a COM meeting; and
- Cognizant that availability of such reports in good time should stimulate meaningful discussions leading to robust and relevant decision-making during the following COM meeting;

Urges AfricaRice management to ensure the timely distribution of COM meeting reports to member states as stipulated in the Constitution.

Resolution 2: Demonstration of the approach to strengthening the rice value chain

The Council of Ministers;

- Cognizant of the efforts made by AfricaRice to move the focus of its research from a production approach to a value chain approach and in view of the need for actors to derive optimal benefits from the rice value chain;

Requests that AfricaRice demonstrate a clear approach to strengthening the rice value chain in Africa and in member countries.

Resolution 3: Demonstration of the impact of AfricaRice research

The Council of Ministers;

- Convinced that the provision of adequate convincing information by AfricaRice to relevant authorities covering its actions and achievements in boosting the rice sector in member countries should facilitate the processes of payment of membership contributions to AfricaRice;

Urges that AfricaRice demonstrates the impact of its research on the rice sector of member countries

Resolution 4: Support to countries in constituting strategic reserves of breeder and foundation seeds

The Council of Ministers;

- Recognizing the perennial challenge of providing quality seeds, and the timely availability of such seeds to producers, and;
- Further recognizing that the establishment of strategic reserves of breeder and foundation seeds would be most desirable during periods of rapid intervention needed to aid food production and recovery during times of emergency such as the Ebola epidemic and unpredicted disasters;

Requests that AfricaRice supports countries in constituting strategic reserves of breeder and foundation rice seeds.

Resolution 5: Policy Support on Rice Production in Africa

The Council of Ministers;

- Considering the growing strategic importance of rice in Africa and recognizing the need to reduce the massive importation of, often times, poor quality rice to African countries with a concomitant drain on foreign exchange;
- Recognizing the high potential of the competitiveness of rice locally produced in member countries;

Reiterates the need for AfricaRice to propose policy options/guidelines, which should aid in improving the quality of locally produced rice so as to enhance its competitiveness.

Resolution 6: Holding of a summit on rice

The Council of Ministers

- Recognizing the need to establish and implement evidence-based policies that would create an enabling environment for AfricaRice and other stakeholders including donors and the private sector in particular to support member countries in achieving their ambitions of self-sufficiency in rice production, food security and to eventually reduce rice importation;

Requests that AfricaRice, in consultation with its partners, organize a rice summit for Africa to raise the profile of rice science in national policy agenda.

Resolution 7: Support to the implementation of rice component of Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) funded by AfDB.

The Council of Ministers;

- Noting the importance of the uptake of rice technologies and innovations delivered by AfricaRice as a key step in creating impact on livelihoods especially of poor farmers;
- Considering the importance of the rice value chain as a potential source for youth employment in Africa;
- Acknowledging the pertinence and timely arrival of the new AfDB-funded Technologies for Africa's Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) within the context of the African Development Bank's agenda on the transformation of African Agriculture, ; and
- Recognizing the leadership role of AfricaRice in the implementation of the rice component of the TAAT, which has the potential for disseminating the valued technologies and innovations delivered through research carried out by AfricaRice and its partners and creating opportunities for youth employment;

Concurs that member countries promote the implementation of the rice component of the African Development Bank-funded initiative on 'Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT);

Requests that AfricaRice endeavor to promote youth employment in the implementation of the TAAT;

Requests also that AfricaRice make provisions in its activities for on-the-job training of national scientists, for early career development.

Resolution 8: Sustainable Funding for AfricaRice

The Council of Ministers;

- Recognizing the continued increase in demand from member countries for support from AfricaRice to contribute to boosting the rice sector in their countries amidst significant financial challenges faced by the Center, attributed mainly to the low level and collection rate of membership dues from countries, coupled with declining funding from the CGIAR;
- Considering the need for sustained research to result in development activities for the Center to adequately fulfill its mandate; and
- Further considering the potential opportunities presented by AfricaRice in engaging with the Private Sector as a means of obtaining financial gain;

Agrees that AfricaRice proceeds with its plan of engaging with the private sector in its objective of developing sustainable funding mechanisms for the Center.

Urges all AfricaRice member countries to endeavor to pay their countries' membership dues in a timelier manner.

Resolution 9: Chairmanship of the 31st Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers;

- Considering the passing of Resolution 10 on the sub-regional rotation of the Chairmanship of Council of Ministers at the 27th COM in 2009 in Lomé, Togo;
- Cognizant that the chairmanship of Council now rotates to West Africa at the end of East Africa's mandate as Chair; and
- Further considering the recommendation of the NEC on the request made by Senegal through its representative at the 30th COM to Chair and host the 31st Council of Ministers of AfricaRice;

Approves that Senegal assume the chairmanship of the AfricaRice Council of Ministers and hosts the 31st Ordinary Session of Council.

Consideration of the Membership by Ethiopia

The Council of Ministers;

Considered the application for membership of AfricaRice submitted by the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;

Unanimously approved Ethiopia's request to be a member of AfricaRice and in so doing, becoming its 26th member country.

Signing of the amended constitution of AfricaRice

The Council of Ministers;

- Considering Resolution 1 of the 27th COM of 2009 titled: 'Effective change of the institution's designation' which states: "The Council of Ministers; Considering the expansion of the geographical mandate of Africa Rice Center towards East, Central and North Africa; Agrees to remove the acronym WARDA from the Center's name to adopt with immediate effect in all communications and official documents the new

designation Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) to replace the designation Africa Rice Center (WARDA); Agrees also to use the acronym “AfricaRice” in the French appellation of the Center as follows: Centre du riz pour l’Afrique (AfricaRice);

- Considering the recommendation of the NEC on the need for members of the Council of Ministers to append their signatures to the new amended constitution;

The members of council present at the 30th COM appended their signatures to the amended constitution.

Motion of congratulations to the AfricaRice Director General and staff: The Council of Ministers, in recognition of the outstanding work done by AfricaRice during the past three years, congratulated the Director General for this excellent performance. The Council of Ministers also congratulated the staff for their continued high level of productivity.

Vote of thanks to the Government and people of Uganda: The Council of Ministers gave a vote of thanks to H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda for his leadership and vision for rice development in Uganda. Council also expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Uganda for the warm welcome extended to the delegates attending the 30th Ordinary Session and for the excellent facilities offered for the meeting.

The Council of Ministers gave a special vote of thanks to the Government of the Republic of Benin for temporarily hosting the Africa Rice Center headquarters and research facilities for a period spanning over 11 years. It also expressed gratitude to the management of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) for making available its Cotonou station to AfricaRice during the period of the center’s stay in Benin.

The Council of Ministers gave a special vote of thanks to Côte d’Ivoire for its magnanimity in providing a befitting building in Abidjan for the Center’s headquarters, and for its financial contribution to facilitate the center’s transition from Benin to Côte d’Ivoire.

The Council of Ministers especially thanked all the delegations and dignitaries that took the time to attend the 30th Ordinary Session of the AfricaRice COM. Council also expressed gratitude to the interpreters for facilitating the exchange in French and English between the various delegations.

Kampala, August 23, 2016

30th Ordinary Session of the AfricaRice Council of Ministers