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## CHAPTER 197

### THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ACT

*Commencement:* 21 November, 2005

**An Act to provide for the development of a national agricultural research system for Uganda for the purpose of improving agricultural research services delivery, financing and management; to provide for the establishment of the National Agricultural Research Organisation with its governing council and as body corporate to serve as the apex body for the guidance and coordination of all agricultural research activities of the national agricultural research system and for related matters.**

#### PART I—PRELIMINARY

##### 1. Purpose of Act

The purpose of this Act is to—

- (a) create an integrated agricultural research system that will facilitate the achievement of sustainable increases in economic, social and environmental benefits from agricultural research services and products by all the people of Uganda;
- (b) provide for a market-responsive and client oriented national agricultural research system that generates knowledge and information, and disseminates demand driven problem solving, profitable and environmentally sound technologies on a sustainable basis;
- (c) create options for financing and delivery of agricultural research services appropriate for the different categories of farmers and market needs of Uganda;
- (d) facilitate the involvement of the private sector, universities, the civil society and others in the governance, financing, management and conduct of agricultural research;
- (e) provide innovative mechanisms for allocation and execution

- (f) provide for the continued public sector participation in the governance, financing, management and conduct of agricultural research;
- (g) provide for coordination of implementation of agricultural research activities, either singly or jointly, with one or more agricultural research service providers;
- (h) promote linkages, partnerships and collaboration among various categories of agricultural research service providers whether public, private, local, regional or international in the conduct, financing and development of agricultural research in Uganda; and
- (i) provide for sustainable institutional arrangements for the governance, financing, management and conduct of agricultural research in Uganda.

## **2. Interpretation**

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

- “adaptive research” means research designed to solve a specific problem for a specific decision maker or research designed to adjust a technology to specific environmental conditions, including the selecting or customising of technologies, processes, or knowledge to suit the needs of users in a specific location;
- “agriculture” means the management and utilisation of natural resources to produce food, drink, fibre, wood and other products;
- “agricultural” means the various kinds of activities and jobs or work connected, associated or based on agriculture;
- “agriculturalist” means a person involved in the profession dedicated to the harnessing of plants and animals for food, drink, fibre, wood and other products and educating people on how to do it for human use;
- “agricultural product” means any plant or animal product or such other product as may be declared to be an agricultural product by the Minister for the purposes of this Act;
- “agricultural research” means the furtherance, accumulation and improvement of knowledge in the agricultural and related sciences through original and other investigations and methods of a scientific or indigenous nature into the production, treatment or handling of an agricultural product, including research required for a better understanding of the process;

the environment necessary for the production of an agricultural product with the advancement of agriculture as its object;

“agricultural research service provider” means any person whether in the public or private sector who conducts or manages agricultural research in accordance with this Act, and includes public agricultural research institutes, universities, tertiary institutions, farmers’ groups, civil society organisations, private sector organisations and other entities as may be determined by the Council;

“applied research” means research on a subject with a broad range of problems facing a society as a whole or research that creates new technologies;

“basic research” means research designed to improve a discipline and advance the frontiers of knowledge or research that creates new scientific knowledge and may consist of research to develop or improve theories, techniques or measurements with known or unknown relevance;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Council appointed under section 8;

“currency point” has the value assigned to it in Schedule 1 to this Act;

“Council” means the governing body of the National Agricultural Research Organisation;

“development” means the activities by which knowledge acquired through research is scaled-up and utilised;

“Director General” means the Director General appointed under section 14;

“farmer” means a person who gathers or raises plants, livestock, poultry and fish as food, drink, wood, fibre and other products for human use;

“farmers’ fora” means institutions comprising of democratically elected representatives from farmers’ groups at the subcounty, district or national level;

“farmers’ groups” means groups constituted by farmers who have common agricultural interests and are recognised by the Council;

“farmers’ organisations” means organisations recognised by the Council and are formed by those engaged in either production or processing or marketing of a specific agricultural commodity;

“Fund” means the Agricultural Research Trust Fund established under section 39;

- “industry” means any enterprise involved in the processing of agricultural products in such fields as shall be approved in accordance with this Act;
- “innovative agricultural research” means agricultural research that may not be considered immediately relevant but which may open up opportunities for the future and is funded under the innovative fund;
- “invention” includes the development, in whatever way, of new animal breeds, plant cultivars and other organisms living or non-living; ¶
- “management committee” means the management committee of a public agricultural research institute;
- “Minister” means the Minister to whom the President has assigned responsibility for agricultural research;
- “NAADS” means the National Agricultural Advisory Services established by the National Agricultural Advisory Services Act;
- “national agricultural research system” means a cross section of stakeholders, whether in the public or private sector, and comprises of the Organisation, public agricultural research institutes, universities and other tertiary institutions, farmers’ groups, civil society organisations, private sector and any other entity engaged in the provision of agricultural research services;
- “national strategic research” means research responding to national research questions or priorities and identifying the processes, principles and technological elements required for successful adaptation of technologies and increasing the efficiency of applied and adaptive research;
- “Organisation” means the National Agricultural Research Organisation established under section 4;
- “private agricultural research” means research that focuses largely on technological innovations that enable inventors, agricultural research service providers, private firms and others to capture all or some of the economic benefits generated by their innovation;
- “public agricultural research” means research that focuses on public interests and research outputs of public goods nature;
- “public agricultural research institute” means a public agricultural research institute established under section 27;
- “research of national strategic interest” means agricultural research that Uganda cannot rely on third parties to conduct;
- “technology transfer” means the transfer of knowledge, techniques and processes for their application; and

“zonal agricultural research and development institute” means a zonal agricultural research and development institute established under section 27.

### **3. Object of agricultural research**

The object of agricultural research in Uganda is to—

- (a) transform agricultural production into a modern science-based market-oriented agriculture capable of greater efficiency, profitability and of sustaining growth in the agricultural sector while contributing to poverty eradication;
- (b) promote agriculture and related industry for the purposes of contributing to the improvement of the quality of life and livelihoods of the people, having regard to the protection of the environment; and
- (c) support the development and implementation of national policy with relevant information and knowledge.

## **PART II—INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

### **4. Establishment of National Agricultural Research Organisation**

(1) There is established an organisation to be known as the National Agricultural Research Organisation.

(2) The Organisation is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may—

- (a) acquire, hold and dispose of movable and immovable property;
- (b) sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
- (c) do all other things as a body corporate may lawfully do.

(3) The Organisation shall comprise the Council as its governing body, committees of the Council as its specialised organs, a Secretariat for its day-to-day operations with the semi-autonomous public agricultural research institutes under its policy guidance.

### **5. Object of Organisation**



**6. Functions of Organisation**

- (1) The functions of the Organisation shall be to—
  - (a) provide strategic direction for publicly funded agricultural research in Uganda and act as a forum for agricultural researchers in Uganda;
  - (b) coordinate and oversee, in collaboration with the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology and other lead agencies, the development, consolidation and implementation of agricultural research policy and national research strategies, plans and budgets relating to publicly funded agricultural research;
  - (c) set national priorities and harmonise agricultural research activities of the national agricultural research system, constituent institutions and public agricultural research institutes, civil society organisations, private sectors and farmers' organisations and promote delivery of quality and efficient agricultural research services;
  - (d) advise and coordinate formulation of policy and legislative proposals, research standards, codes of ethics, conduct and practice; and guidelines for delivery of agricultural research services;
  - (e) provide guidelines, guidance and ensure delivery of quality agricultural research by agricultural research service providers;
  - (f) provide, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, policy guidance to local governments on matters relating to agricultural research;
  - (g) carry out monitoring and evaluation of national agricultural research programmes, projects and activities to ensure adherence to the set work plans, standards and regulations;
  - (h) mobilise funds for agricultural research and manage the agricultural research trust fund including raising funds for research of national strategic interest;
  - (i) coordinate and promote cooperation and collaboration between Uganda and other countries, institutions, scientific or professional societies and other agricultural research service providers, with regard to agricultural research, development and technology transfer in the agricultural sector so as to optimally utilise agricultural resources and improve production capacity of such resources;
  - j) provide leadership and advocacy for the promotion, protection and development of agricultural research in Uganda:

- (k) make grants or provide funds to any institution or person for the advancement of agricultural research and development on both competitive and non-competitive basis; and
- (1) perform such other functions as are conferred on the Organisation by this Act or any other law for the purpose of promoting agricultural research and development.

(2) In carrying out its functions as a forum for agricultural researchers in Uganda, the Organisation shall convene a meeting at least once a year of representatives of agricultural research service providers, farmers, private sector and civil society and other stakeholders for the purpose of discussing issues relevant to agricultural research and setting agricultural research priorities.

#### **7. Other functions of Organisation**

The Organisation shall, in addition to its functions in section 6, and subject to its object—

- (a) advise the Minister on research, development and technology transfer in the field of agriculture;
- (b) coordinate, collect, collate and analyse data and information on agricultural research and ensure their publication and dissemination, and take inventory of all agricultural research in Uganda;
- (c) inspect facilities and any area where agricultural research is being carried out or intended to be carried out;
- (d) register potential agricultural research service providers in the public and private sectors; and
- (e) maintain a central register of agricultural research and development.

#### **8. Members of Council**

- (1) The Council shall consist of the following members—
  - (a) an eminent Ugandan scientist who shall be the Chairperson and who shall be appointed by the Minister;
  - (b) four representatives of farmers, at least two of whom shall be women elected in a manner prescribed by the Minister by

- shall be a person with disabilities elected in a manner prescribed by the Minister;
- (c) a representative from the private sector;
  - (d) a representative of the Uganda Non-Governmental Organisations Forum;
  - (e) three persons with experience in agricultural research representing the Universities, public agricultural research institutes and private agricultural research providers at least one of whom shall be a woman;
  - (f) a representative of the local authorities nominated by the Uganda Local Authorities Association;
  - (g) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for agricultural research;
  - (h) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for finance;
  - (i) the Director General, *ex officio*;
  - (j) the Executive Director NAADS, *ex officio*; and
  - (k) the Executive Secretary of Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, *ex officio*.

(2) The Chairperson and members of the Council shall be persons of high moral character and proven integrity who have had experience of and shown capacity in agricultural research, environment, management, administration, agriculture, marketing, the training of agriculturalists, economic, business and financial management, law, rural development, social science, and development or technology transfer in the field of agriculture.

(3) The Minister shall, in consultation with the relevant bodies, appoint the members of the Council and shall, in appointing the members of the Council, ensure that there is a balance of skills, experience and gender.

(4) The members of the Council, other than the Director General, shall hold office on terms and conditions specified in the instruments of their appointment.

(5) The Director General shall be the Secretary to the Council.

(6) Membership of the Council shall be on part-time basis.

**9. Disqualification from appointment as member of Council**

A person shall not be appointed member of the Council who—

- (a) is an undischarged bankrupt or who has made any assignment or arrangement with his or her creditors;
- (b) is incapacitated by mental or physical illness that renders him or her incapable of performing the function of the office; or
- (c) is a person convicted of an offence of a moral turpitude.

**10. Tenure of office of members of Council**

(1) A member of the Council, other than the Director General, shall hold office for three years and is eligible for re-appointment for one further term.

(2) A member of the Council may, at any time, resign his or her office by letter addressed to the Minister.

(3) The Minister may, at any time, remove a member of the Council, except the Director General, from office—

- (a) for inability to perform the functions of his or her office arising from infirmity of body or mind;
- (b) for misbehaviour or misconduct;
- (c) for incompetence;
- (d) if a vote of no confidence is passed against a member of the Council by the body that nominated him or her to the Council;
- (e) for absence without prior permission of the Chairperson for more than four consecutive meetings of the Council;
- (f) for bankruptcy; or
- (g) on conviction for a criminal offence, in Uganda or elsewhere, in respect of which the maximum penalty exceeds six months imprisonment.

**11. Remuneration of members of Council**

The Chairperson and members of the Council shall be paid such remuneration as the Minister may, in consultation with the Minister responsible for public

**12. Meetings of Council**

Schedule 2 to this Act shall apply to meetings of the members of the Council and other matters provided for in that Schedule.

**13. Functions of Council**

The Council shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, carry out the following functions—

- (a) formulate the policies and strategies of the Organisation;
- (b) ensure that the objects and functions of the Organisation are carried out;
- (c) manage the property, business, income, funds and other affairs of the Organisation;
- (d) set targets and approve work plans and budgets for the Organisation;
- (e) establish, with the approval of the Minister, the terms and conditions of service and approve rules and procedures for appointment, termination and discipline of staff of the Secretariat and employees of public agricultural research institutes;
- (f) appoint and discipline members of staff of the Secretariat;
- (g) appoint the directors and research scientists of the public agricultural research institutes, but in exercising this function, the Council shall ensure full participation of the management committee of the respective public agricultural research institute in the entire process and the interviewing panel for this purpose shall be constituted in accordance with Schedule 3 to this Act; and
- (h) perform any other functions relating to the above as the Minister may direct.

**14. Secretariat and staff of Organisation**

(1) The Organisation shall have a secretariat which shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Organisation.

(2) The Secretariat shall be headed by the Director General who shall be appointed by the Minister, on the recommendation of the Council, on such terms and conditions to be specified in his or her instrument of appointment.

(3) The Director General shall be a person with a minimum qualification of a masters degree with proven experience in public or private sector management and administration, and with relevant experience in agricultural research.

(4) The Director General shall hold office for four years and is eligible for re-appointment for one further term.

### **15. Functions of Director General**

(1) The Director General is the chief executive of the Secretariat and is responsible for the day-to-day operations and administration of the Secretariat.

(2) Subject to this Act and to the general supervision and control of the Council, the Director General is responsible for

- (a) tendering advice to the Council;
- (b) coordinating and implementing policies, programmes and activities of the Organisation and reporting on them to the Council;
- (c) the proper management of the funds, property and affairs of the Organisation;
- (d) managing the various funds created by this Act;
- (e) coordinating and monitoring of agricultural research programmes and the award of contracts given under the Agricultural Research Trust Fund established under this Act and any other agricultural research activities contracted directly by the Organisation;
- (f) the management and control of the staff of the Secretariat;
- (g) the development of an operating plan and strategies to guide the Organisation in achieving its objectives;
- (h) the development of management plans and strategies for utilisation in agricultural research;
- (i) the development of an efficient and cost effective internal management structure; and
- (j) performing any other duty that may be assigned to him or her by the Council or under this Act.

(3) The Director General, in the performance of his or her functions,

**16. Vacation of office by Director General**

The Director General shall cease to hold office if—

- (a) he or she resigns;
- (b) he or she is declared or becomes bankrupt or has made an arrangement with his or her creditors;
- (c) he or she is convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, fraud or moral turpitude;
- (d) he or she is removed from office by the members of the Council for—
  - (i) inability to perform the functions of his or her office arising from infirmity of body or mind;
  - (ii) misbehaviour or misconduct;
  - (iii) or incompetence.

**17. Other staff**

(1) The Organisation shall, appoint such other officers and employees as may be necessary for the proper and efficient discharge of the objects and functions of the Organisation.

(2) The officers and employees appointed under this section shall hold office on terms and conditions that the Council may determine.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (2), the Organisation may provide for the payment to its officers and employees of salaries, allowances, pension, gratuities or other retirement benefits and may require them to contribute to any pension, provident fund or superannuation scheme.

**18. Committees of Council**

(1) The Council may appoint such committees as it may determine to assist it in the carrying out of its functions, and may delegate to any committee such functions as it may consider fit and subject to such condition as it may determine.

(2) The committee appointed under subsection (1) shall consist of a chairperson who shall be a member of the Council and four other persons whether members of the Council or not

(3) The Council shall prescribe the procedure of any committee appointed by it under this section.

**19. Finance, scientific and users committees**

(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of section 18, there is established the following standing committees of the Council whose members shall be appointed in accordance with section 18—

- (a) finance committee;
- (b) scientific committee; and
- (c) users committee.

(2) In appointing the committees, the Council shall ensure that there is adequate representation of farmers on the finance committee and that the user committee is composed of farmers and other users of results of agricultural research.

- (3) The finance committee shall—
- (a) ensure that financial and other resources are mobilised and effectively deployed;
  - (b) review and recommend for approval annual budget and financing plan of the Organisation and public agricultural research institutes;
  - (c) plan financing of the envisaged agricultural research, development and technology transfer, taking into consideration the available expertise and the economic merits; and
  - (d) subject to the instructions of the Council, perform such other functions as the Council may determine.

- (4) The scientific committee shall—
- (a) ensure that publicly funded agricultural research has a scientific, social, economic and environmental basis;
  - (b) recommend national thematic research areas on basis of national priorities determined in consultation with stakeholders;
  - (c) identify core agricultural research activities to be undertaken by the public agricultural research institutes;
  - (d) review and recommend on the core capacity including on an

11. in which the total resources required to undertake core



- (e) review projections on requirements for different types of scientific expertise and recommend appropriate human resources development and capacity development needs for the entire agricultural research system;
  - (f) coordinate the external and peer reviews of publicly funded agricultural research programmes, proposals and bids for their scientific integrity, taking into consideration the available expertise, facilities, the economic and social merits; and
  - (g) perform such other functions as the Council may determine.
- (5) A users committee shall—
- (a) ensure that the needs and priorities of the client are met in all agricultural research activities; and
  - (b) perform such other functions as the Council may determine.

### **PART III—PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE**

#### **20. Provision of agricultural research services**

Under the national agricultural research system, agricultural research services shall be provided by agricultural service providers who shall comprise of public agricultural research institutes, universities, tertiary institutions, private sector organisations, civil society organisations, farmers' groups and any other entity with appropriate capacity as may be determined by the Council.

#### **21. Common functions of agricultural research service providers**

- (1) The functions of agricultural research service providers shall include—
- (a) carrying out agricultural research whether basic, applied, adaptive or strategic;
  - (b) utilisation of the technologies and expertise in its possession arising out of publicly funded agricultural research including making it generally available;
  - (c) mobilising teams to carry out agricultural research;
  - (d) participating in problem identification and prioritisation;
  - (e) establishment and control of facilities in fields of research, development and technology transfer which are of interest to them or which the Organisation may delegate to them;

- (f) the training of agricultural researchers and others;
- (g) hiring or letting of services for the management and conduct of agricultural research;
- (h) establishing and maintaining collaboration with other agricultural research service providers, Organisation and agricultural research institutes both at national and international levels;
- (i) reporting on the findings of agricultural research to the Organisation, in particular, agricultural research service undertaken with public funding from the Organisation;
- (j) as an end product of research development and technology transfer undertaken—
  - (i) produce, process and sell agricultural products;
  - (ii) conduct or commission market research and sale of its results;
  - (iii) provide against payment, services not directly related to agricultural research;
- (k) acquisition and dissemination of agricultural research and development results from tertiary institutions and other entities;
- (l) provision of grants for agricultural research and development activities;
- (m) providing agricultural research services as a contracted agricultural research service provider and entering into performance arrangement with the Organisation or any other person;
- (n) ensuring the multiplication of foundation technologies;
- (o) undertaking agricultural research with farmers and other stakeholders; and
- (p) collaborating and consulting with the farmers' fora and farmers' groups or organisations provided for under Part V of this Act.

(2) An agricultural research service provider shall be professionally competent as shall be determined by the Council.

## **22. Registering of agricultural research service providers**

(1) A person or an institution shall not provide or carry out agricultural research service using public funds under this Act, unless that

(2) The Minister shall, on the recommendation of the Council, by regulations, provide the system of registering of agricultural research service providers and the fees payable and other matters connected with it.

(3) Any person who contravenes this section, commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding twenty-four currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or both.

#### **6. Guidelines for carrying out agricultural research**

(1) The Council shall issue guidelines and such directives as may be necessary for the conduct and management of agricultural research.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with the guidelines or directives issued under subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding twenty-four currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or both.

#### **Contracting of agricultural research service providers**

(1) The Council may contract or enter into an arrangement with an agricultural research service provider to carry out agricultural research on agricultural product or activity.

(2) An agricultural research service provider shall carry out agricultural research activities in accordance with a performance contract with the Organisation, or from a public agricultural research institute, or local government and in accordance with a code of conduct issued by the Organisation.

3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act, the development and technology transfer shall, under subsection (1), be undertaken on such conditions as may be agreed upon between the Organisation and the agricultural research service provider, including any conditions, Government or local government, on whose behalf the research, development and technology transfer are to be undertaken.

**25. Functions of universities and tertiary institutions**

Subject to the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, and in addition to the provisions of section 21(1), the function of universities and tertiary institutions in the provision of agricultural research shall be—

- (a) training the personnel who shall act as agricultural research service providers;
- (b) acting as centres of excellence, especially for basic scientific research;
- (c) providing services as managers of agricultural research at any level;
- (d) conducting strategic research on contract from the Organisation and the private sector; and
- (e) undertaking adaptive research on a competitive basis from the Organisation, local governments, civil society and the private sector.

**26. Functions of private sector and civil society organisations**

(1) In addition to the provision of section 21(1), the private sector and civil society organisations shall—

- (a) participate in the articulation of demand and supply of agricultural research services;
- (b) mobilise and provide funds, personnel and facilities for agricultural research; and
- (c) provide advice and information to support the development and implementation of a given policy.

(2) The Organisation may contract the universities, private sector and civil society organisations to provide a variety of agricultural research services such as—

- (a) providing services as managers of agricultural research at any level;
- (b) conducting agricultural research through contracts from the Organisation, from the public agricultural research institute or from local governments;
- (c) conducting technology demonstrations and multiplication; and

PART IV—ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES

**27. Establishment of public agricultural research institutes**

(1) For the purpose of this Act, there are established public agricultural research institutes as provided in Schedule 4 to this Act as semi-autonomous agencies under the policy guidance of the National Agricultural Research Organisation for the purpose of providing agricultural research services.

(2) The public agricultural research institutes shall be of two categories—

- (a) national agricultural research institutes; and
- (b) zonal agricultural research and development institutes.

(3) The objectives of public agricultural research institutes shall

- (a) in case of national agricultural research institutes, to manage and carry out agricultural research of a strategic nature and of national importance; and
- (b) in case of zonal agricultural research and development institutes, to manage and carry out agricultural research whether applied or adaptive for a specific agro-ecological zone.

(4) A public agricultural research institute shall be under the general provision of its management committee.

**Operation of public agricultural research institute**

(1) A public agricultural research institute shall be autonomous in operations relating to the implementation of its programmes, allocation management of its resources in accordance with its approved annual

programmes and budget as approved by the Council.

(2) Each public agricultural research institute shall have a management committee.

(3) Each public agricultural research institute shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue or be sued in its own name and do things as body corporate may lawfully do.

**29. Establishment of other public agricultural research institutes**

Subject to section 52, the Minister may, on the advice of the Council, establish such other public agricultural research institutes, as may be deemed necessary, for the purposes of carrying out agricultural research.

**30. Functions of public agricultural research institute**

In addition to the functions prescribed in section 21, the specific functions of a public agricultural research institute shall be—

- (a) planning, conducting national strategic agricultural research which is of public interest and, in case of zonal agricultural institute, conducting applied and adaptive research of zonal importance;
- (b) acting as a centre of excellence and reference on specified agricultural research programmes and enterprises;
- (c) conducting relevant training and skills development programmes for other agricultural research service providers;
- (d) maintaining core technical, administrative research staff and facilities;
- (e) providing technical back-stopping to advisory service providers in collaboration with NAADS;
- (f) establishing and maintaining regular contacts and collaboration with other research and technology institutes both at national and international levels; and
- (g) exploring new opportunities in agricultural research and development.

**31. Composition of management committee of public agricultural research institute**

(1) A management committee of a public agricultural research institute shall consist of persons provided for in subsections (2) and (3).

(2) In case of the National Agricultural Research Institute, it shall comprise of—

- (a) Director of the institute who shall be an *ex officio* member;

- (c) three representatives of farmers, at least one of whom shall be a woman elected in a manner prescribed by the Minister by recognised farmers' groups or farmers' organisations and one of whom shall be a person with disabilities elected in a manner prescribed by the Minister;
  - (d) a representative of the agricultural advisory service providers;
  - (e) an eminent scientist not affiliated to any of the public agricultural research institutes; and
  - (f) two other persons of integrity with experience and proven capacity in economic, finance, development, business or administration.
- (3) In case of the zonal agricultural research and development institutes, it shall comprise of the following—
- (a) three representatives of farmers, at least one of whom shall be a woman elected in a manner prescribed by the Minister by recognised farmers' group or farmers' organisations and one of whom shall be a person with disability elected in a manner prescribed by the Minister;
  - (b) a representative chosen by the agricultural advisory service providers from within the area served by a particular zonal agricultural research and development institute;
  - (c) the director of the zonal agricultural research and development institute, *ex officio* member;
  - (d) a representative from the district local governments served by a particular zonal agricultural research and development institute; and
  - (e) two other persons of integrity with experience and proven capacity in economics, finance, business, development or administration.
- 4) The members of the management committee shall recommend to Council for appointment a person as their chairperson.
- i) The chairperson and members of the management committee : persons of high moral character and proven integrity who have ice of, and shown capacity in agriculture, agricultural research, and administration.

The Council shall appoint the members of the management :e and membership of the management committee shall be on part-s.

(7) The Council shall, in appointing the members of the management committee, ensure that there is a balance of skills, gender and experience among the members of the management committee.

(8) The members of the management committee shall hold office on terms and conditions specified in their instruments of appointment.

(9) The Minister may, by statutory instrument, alter the composition of a management committee of a public agricultural research institute as and when necessary.

### **32. Functions of management committee**

The management committee of a public agricultural research institute shall—

- (a) formulate the policies of a public agricultural research institute and mobilise sufficient resources for the proper functioning of a public agricultural research institute;
- (b) ensure that the objects and functions of a public agricultural research institute are carried out in line with policy and guidelines provided by the Council;
- (c) approve work plans and prepare budgets for a public agricultural research institute;
- (d) appoint and discipline all support staff of a public agricultural research institute;
- (e) provide technical support and guidance to a public agricultural research institute in the delivery of agricultural research services;
- (f) convene a meeting twice a year of agricultural researchers from the respective public agricultural research institute, farmers, NAADS service providers, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders for the purpose of discussing matters relevant to the conduct of the respective institutes-programme of agricultural research;
- (g) establish and maintain linkages between the respective public agricultural research institute and National Agricultural Advisory Services;

... for the employees of a



- (j) prepare for approval by the Council rolling three years research and manpower development plans for the public agricultural research institutes;
- (k) develop and implement an agricultural research information management strategy for the public agricultural research institutes and facilitate sharing of information amongst the public agricultural research institutes;
- (l) review and evaluate performance of all staff of public agricultural research institutes; and
- (m) do all other things which are incidental to the efficient and effective discharge of the functions of the management committee.

### **33. Tenure of office of management committee**

(1) A member of the management committee, other than the director, shall hold office for three years and is eligible for re-appointment for one more term.

(2) A member of the management committee may, at any time, resign his or her office by letter addressed to the Council.

(3) The Council may, at any time, remove a member of the management committee—

- (a) for inability to perform the functions of his or her office arising from infirmity of body or mind;
- (b) for misbehaviour or misconduct;
- (c) for incompetence;
- (d) if the member is absent without prior permission of the chairperson, for more than four consecutive meetings of the management committee;
- (e) if the member is bankrupt or insolvent or enters into a composition scheme with his or her creditors; or
- (f) if the member is convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, fraud or moral turpitude.

### **Remuneration of management committee**

The chairperson and the members of a management committee shall be paid such remuneration as the Minister may, in consultation with the Minister

responsible for public service, determine in relation to the chairperson and the members.

**35. Funds of public agricultural research institute**

(1) The funds of a public agricultural research institute shall consist of—

- (a) money appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of a public agricultural research institute;
- (b) money received by virtue of the contracts and the functions performed by the institute as agricultural research service provider;
- (c) loans, donations or contributions from any person, local government, institution or private company; and
- (d) money which may become payable to the institute in the performance of its functions.

(2) All revenue collected by or payable to a public agricultural research institute shall form part of the revenue of the public agricultural research institute and, having regard to its capacity to generate income from its own operations and its annual business plans and budget, the Minister, after consultation with the Minister responsible for finance, shall determine, in respect of each public agricultural research institute, the amount of revenue which shall remain the property of the public agricultural research institute.

**36. Meetings of management committee**

Schedule 5 to this Act has effect in relation to meetings of the management committee and other matters provided for in that Schedule.

PART V—FARMERS’ FORA AND OTHER FARMERS’ GROUPS  
OR ORGANISATIONS

**37. Farmers’ fora and other farmers’ groups or organisations**

The farmers’ fora referred to and established under Part IV of the National Agricultural Advisory Services Act and other farmers’ groups or organisations

- (b) monitor the effectiveness of agricultural research activities;
- (c) advise on the use and integration of local knowledge in agricultural research;
- (d) collaborate with agricultural research service providers in agricultural research and development activities;
- (e) assist local communities to benefit from agricultural research;
- (f) perform such other functions relating to agricultural research as the Organisation may require or delegate to them; and
- (g) inform the Organisation of the ideas, desires and opinions of the people in their respective areas on all matters relating to agricultural research.

PART VI—DISCOVERIES, INVENTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS  
BY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICES PROVIDERS

**38. Rights of patents, inventions, *etc.***

(1) All rights of patent in discoveries, inventions and improvements on proprietary inputs both technological and material, transformational systems, selectable markers, promoters, genetic research including diagnostic probes, shall vest in the Organisation in cases of agricultural research from public funds.

(2) Subject to subsection (1), the rights in all discoveries and innovations and in all improvements in respect of processes, apparatus and machinery made by—

- (a) persons assisting the Organisation with any investigation or research shall vest in the Organisation; or
- (b) persons to whom bursaries or grants-in-aid have been granted by the Organisation, shall vest in the Organisation.

(3) For the purpose of this section, the intellectual property rights are limited to tools and methods used in agricultural research.

(4) The Organisation may make discoveries, inventions and improvements referred to in subsection (2) available for use in the public interest subject to such conditions or the payment of such fees or royalties as Organisation may determine.

(5) Where any discovery, invention or improvement is vested in the Organisation under subsection (1), the Organisation may award to the person responsible for the discovery, invention or improvement such bonus as agreed, or make provision for financial participation by that person in the profits derived from the discovery, invention or improvement to such extent as the Organisation may determine, after consultation with the Minister and in accordance with the existing laws relating to intellectual property rights.

(6) The Organisation or an agricultural research service provider may apply for a patent in respect of any discovery, invention or improvement referred to in subsection (1), and shall for the purposes of Industrial Property Act and Plant Variety Protection Act be regarded as the assignee of the discoverer or inventor in question.

(7) The Minister, in consultation with the Council, shall prescribe by regulations the manner for protecting intellectual property, innovations, improvements and inventions arising out of agricultural research.

#### PART VII—FINANCIAL AND OTHER MATTERS

### **39. Agricultural Research Trust Fund**

(1) There is established a fund to be known as the Agricultural Research Trust Fund.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Fund shall be managed by the Council.

- (3) The money to constitute the Fund shall consist of—
- (a) money appropriated by Parliament;
  - (b) loans obtained by Government;
  - (c) grants from donors;
  - (d) any surplus made from the operations of the Council and declared to the Minister responsible for finance;
  - (e) money paid into the Fund under this Act; and
  - (f) money from any other source approved by the Minister, in writing, in consultation with the Minister responsible for finance.

**40. Utilisation of Agricultural Research Trust Fund**

- (1) The Fund shall be utilised—
  - (a) for funding of core activities of research of national strategic interest;
  - (b) to create endowment, with which to support competitive funds;
  - (c) for funding of national and zonal competitive agricultural research contracts; and
  - (d) for funding of innovative agricultural research.

(2) The Minister shall, on the recommendation of the Council, by regulations, provide for—

- (a) the management of the Fund;
- (b) the eligibility criteria for research funding; and
- (c) adequate representation of farmers on the body administering the Fund.

**41. Funds of Organisation**

- (1) The funds of the Organisation consist of—
  - (a) money appropriated by Parliament;
  - (b) money received by virtue of contracts and the functions performed by the Organisation;
  - (c) donations or contributions which the Organisation may receive from any person, institution, government or any other source;
  - (d) interest on investments by the Organisation;
  - (e) fees prescribed by the Organisation for processing of registration applications charged under this Act, royalties and such other fees, including fees payable annually by registered persons as may be prescribed under this Act;
  - (f) ten percent of the cess collected on agricultural produce export;
  - (g) money borrowed by the Organisation under this Act or any other law; and
  - (h) grants and gifts from Government and grants, gifts or donations from other sources acceptable to the Minister and the Minister responsible for finance.

(2) The Organisation shall utilise its funds for defraying expenses in connection with the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers.

(3) The Organisation may, in respect of any work performed or services rendered by it under this Act, or for the use of its facilities or rights consequent upon any discoveries, inventions or improvements, charge such fees or make such other financial arrangements as it may deem fit.

#### **42. Estimates**

(1) The Director General shall, not less than two months before the beginning of each financial year, prepare and submit to the Council for its approval, estimates of income and expenditure for that financial year.

(2) The Director General may also, at any time before the end of the financial year, prepare and submit to the Council for approval, any estimates supplementary to the estimates under subsection (1).

(3) The Council shall submit the estimates approved by it under this section to the Minister for his or her approval and the Minister shall submit the estimates to the Minister responsible for finance, for inclusion in the annual estimates of Government for a financial year.

(4) No expenditure shall be made out of the funds of the Organisation unless the estimates in respect of the expenditure have been approved in the manner provided by this section.

(5) The Organisation and a public agricultural research institute shall not incur any expenditure exceeding its budget without the approval of the Minister.

#### **43. Use of funds**

(1) The funds of the Organisation and a public agricultural research institute may be applied for the—

- (a) payment or discharge of its expenses, obligations or liabilities incurred in connection with the performance of its functions or exercise of its powers under this Act; and
- (b) payment of any remuneration or allowances payable under this Act.

- (a) fixed deposits with a bank approved by the Council, or a management committee;
- (b) treasury bills and securities of the Government; or
- (c) such other manner as may be approved by the Council or the management committee after consultation with the Minister.

(3) The funds of the Organisation or a public agricultural research institute may not be invested in any business licensed under this Act.

(4) Where, at the end of a financial year of the Organisation or of a public agricultural research institute, and after—

- (a) setting aside the amount required for its capital expenditure and operations;
- (b) making provision for bad and doubtful debts;
- (c) making provision for depreciation of assets; and
- (d) taking into consideration any other contingencies,

any surplus is made from its operations, the Organisation and a public agricultural research institute shall declare the surplus to the Minister responsible for finance and it shall be paid into the Fund.

#### **44. Financial year**

The financial year of the Organisation and a public agricultural research institute shall be the period of twelve months commencing on the 1st day of July and ending on the 30th day of June of the following year.

#### **45. Books of accounts**

(1) The Organisation shall keep proper accounts of its income and expenditure and records in relation to them.

(2) For the purpose of proper accounting, each public agricultural institute shall keep separate accounts which shall be maintained in a manner and form approved by the Organisation and in accordance with the Government accounting regulations for the time being in force.

(3) The Organisation shall, within three months after the end of each financial year, cause to be prepared and submitted to the Auditor General for auditing by the Auditor General or an auditor appointed by the Auditor

General, a statement of accounts of the Organisation for that financial year in a form approved by the Auditor General.

(4) The Auditor General or an auditor appointed by him or her is entitled to inspect all books, papers and other records of the Organisation and a public agricultural research institute relating to all matters dealt with in any statement of accounts required to be prepared under subsection (3) and is entitled to any information and explanation required in relation to those financial records.

(5) The Auditor General shall, within three months after receiving the accounts of the Organisation under subsection (3), cause them to be audited and reported on in accordance with Article 163 of the Constitution.

#### **46. Duty to operate on sound financial principles**

The Organisation and a public agricultural research institute shall, in discharging its functions under this Act, operate in accordance with sound financial and commercial practice and shall ensure that expenditure does not exceed revenue.

#### **47. Power to open and operate bank accounts**

(1) Subject to section 31 of the Public Finance Management Act, the Organisation and a public agricultural research institute shall open and maintain such bank accounts as are necessary for the performance of their functions.

(2) The Organisation and a public agricultural research institute shall ensure that all money received by or on behalf of the Organisation or a public agricultural research institute is banked as soon as practicable after being received.

(3) The Organisation and a public agricultural research institute shall ensure that no money is withdrawn from or paid out of any of the bank accounts without the approval of the authorised person.



**48. Borrowing powers**

The Organisation and a public agricultural research institute may, with the prior approval of the Minister and the Minister responsible for finance, borrow money from any source as may be required for meeting its obligations or for the discharge of the functions of the Organisation and a public agricultural research institute under this Act.

**49. Annual and other reports**

(1) The Organisation shall, one month after the end of each financial year, submit to the Minister, a statement of its activities in the preceding financial year, containing such information as the Minister may require.

(2) The Organisation shall also submit to the Minister, such other reports on its activities or on any other matter as the Minister may require.

**50. Accounting officers**

(1) The Director General shall be the accounting officer charged with the responsibility of accounting for all money received, its utilisation and the use and care of the properties of the Council.

(2) The head of each public agricultural research institute shall be the sub-accountant charged with the responsibility for accounting for all money received, its utilisation and the use and care of all the properties of the institute he or she heads.

(3) A sub-accountant referred to in subsection (2) shall for accounting purposes be directly answerable to the accounting officer referred to in subsection (1).

**PART VIII—MISCELLANEOUS****Official seal of Organisation**

(1) The official seal of the Organisation shall be in a form determined by the Council.

(2) The official seal shall, when affixed to any document, be authenticated by the signatures of the Director General and one other member of the Council.

(3) In the absence of the Director General, the person performing the functions of the Director General shall sign.

(4) An instrument or contract which if executed or entered into by a person other than a body corporate would not require to be under seal may be executed or entered into on behalf of the Organisation by the Director General, or by any member of the Council or any other person if that member of the Council or other person has been duly authorised by resolution of the Council to execute or enter into the instrument or contract as the case may be.

(5) Every document purporting to be an instrument or contract executed or issued by or on behalf of the Organisation in accordance with this section shall be deemed to be so executed or issued until the contrary is proved.

## **52. Powers of Minister**

The Minister may give general directions in writing to the Organisation and a public agricultural research institute with respect to the policy to be observed and implemented and the Organisation and public agricultural research institute shall comply with those directions.

## **53. Service of documents**

(1) Any notice or document may be served on the Organisation by delivering it at the office of the Director General or by sending it by registered post to the Director General.

(2) Any notice or document may be served on a public agricultural research institute by delivering it at the office of the head of the institute or by sending it by registered post to the head of a particular institute.

## **54. Protection of members and employees**

of the Organisation shall not be personally liable to any civil proceedings for any act done in good faith in the performance of those functions.

(2) A member of the management committee or an employee of a public agricultural research institute or any person performing any function of a public agricultural research institute under the direction of the management committee shall not be personally liable to any civil proceedings for any act done in good faith in the performance of those functions.

## **55. Regulations**

(1) The Minister may, by statutory instrument, after consultation with the Council, make regulations for the better carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding the general effect of subsection (1), the Minister may, after consultation with the Council, make regulations—

- (a) prescribing the procedure and criteria for the allocation of grants both on competitive and non-competitive basis;
- (b) for the registration, conduct of agricultural research service providers and the payment of fees by agricultural research service providers;
- (c) for the setting of standards and a code of conduct of the agricultural research service providers;
- (d) for the management of public agricultural research institutes;
- (e) prescribing the procedure and criteria for the election of district local governments and the chairpersons of the management committee;
- (f) for the registration and management of agricultural research service providers;
- (g) prescribing anything which is authorised or required to be prescribed under this Act;
- (h) prescribing the procedure and criteria for the election of persons as members of a management committee; and
- (i) prescribing in respect of the contravention of the regulation, a penalty of a fine not exceeding twenty-five currency points.

### **Delegation**

(1) The Council may delegate any of its function under this Act to—

- (a) any member of the Council;
- (b) any public agricultural research institute;
- (c) any management committee of a public agricultural research institute;
- (d) any employee of the Organisation or of a public agricultural research institute.

(2) The management committee of a public agricultural research institute may delegate any of its functions under this Act to—

- (a) a member of the management committee; or
- (b) any employee of the public agricultural research institute.

(3) Any delegation made under this Act may be made subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be contained in the delegation.

#### **57. Power to amend Schedules**

The Minister may, by statutory instrument, with the approval of Cabinet, amend the Schedules to this Act.

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National Agricultural Research Act

**SCHEDULES**

Schedule 1

**Currency Point**

Sections 2, 57

A currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings

*Schedule 2 Meetings*

Sections 12, 57

**of Council**

**1. Meetings of Council**

(1) The Chairperson shall convene every meeting of the Council at times and places as the Council may determine, and the Council shall meet for the discharge of business at least once in every three months,

(2) The Chairperson may, at any time, convene a special meeting of the Council and shall also call a meeting within fourteen days, if requested to do so in writing by at least eight members of the Council.

(3) Notice of a Council meeting shall be given in writing to each member at least fourteen working days before the day of the meeting.

(4) The Chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the Council and in the absence of the Chairperson, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.

**2. Quorum**

The quorum for a meeting of the Council is eight members.

**3. Decisions of Council**

All questions proposed at a meeting of the Council shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present, and in case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.

**4. Power to co-opt**

(1) The Council may invite any person who, in the opinion of the Council, has expert knowledge concerning the functions of the Council, or who is likely to be of assistance to the Council to attend and take part in the

(2) A person attending a meeting of the Council under this section may take part in any discussion at the meeting on which his or her advice is required but shall not have any right to vote at that meeting.

#### **5. Validity of proceedings not affected by vacancy**

The validity of any proceedings of the Council shall not be affected by a vacancy in its membership or by any defect in the appointment or qualification of a member or by reason that a person not entitled, took part in its proceedings.

#### **6. Disclosure of interest of members**

(1) A member of the Council who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a contract made or proposed to be made by the Council, or in any other matter which falls to be considered by the Council, shall disclose the nature of his or her interest at a meeting of the Council.

(2) A disclosure made under subparagraph (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

(3) A member who makes a disclosure under subparagraph (1) shall not—

- (a) be present during any deliberation of the Council with respect to that matter; or
- (b) take part in any decision of the Council with respect to that matter.

(4) For purposes of determining whether there is a quorum, a member withdrawing from a meeting or who is not taking part in a meeting under subparagraph (3) shall be treated as being present.

#### **Council may regulate its procedure**

subject to this Act, the Council may regulate its own procedure or any other matter relating to its meetings.

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*Schedule 3*

Sections 13(g), 57

**Composition of Interviewing Panel**

**1. Appointment of directors and research scientists**

The appointment of the director and scientists of the public agricultural research institute shall be by the Council but with full participation of the management committees of the public agricultural research institutes.

**2. Composition of the interviewing panel**

The following persons shall constitute a panel for the selection process of the directors and scientists of the public agricultural research institutes—

- (a) a representative of the respective public agricultural research institutes;
  - (b) a representative from the Public Service Commission;
  - (c) a representative from the Ministry responsible for agricultural research; and
  - (d) a representative from the scientific committee of the Council.
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*Schedule 4*

Sections 27(1), 57

**Public Agricultural Research Institutes**

## PART I—National Agricultural Research Institutes

1. National Crops Resources Research Institute
2. National Fisheries Resources Research Institute
3. National Forestry Resources Research Institute
4. National Livestock Resources Research Institute
5. National Agricultural Research Laboratories
  
6. Serere National Semi Arid Resources Research Institute

## PART II—Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institutes

1. Abi Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
  2. Bulindi Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
  3. Kachwekano Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
  4. Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
  5. Ngetta Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
  6. Nabuin Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
  7. Mbarara Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
  8. Buginyanya Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
  9. Rwebitaba Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute
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*Schedule 5*

Sections 36, 57

**Meetings of Management Committee**

**1. Meetings of management committee**

(1) The chairperson shall convene every meeting of the management committee at such times and places as the management committee may determine, and the management committee shall meet for the discharge of business at least once in every three months.

(2) The chairperson may, at any time, convene a special meeting of the management committee and shall also call a meeting within fourteen days if requested to do so in writing by at least four members of the management committee.

(3) Notice of a management committee meeting shall be given in writing to each member at least fourteen working days before the day of the meeting.

(4) The chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the management committee and in the absence of the chairperson, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.

**2. Quorum**

(1) The quorum for a meeting of the management committee shall be one-third of the members of the management committee.

(2) All decisions at a meeting of the management committee shall be by a majority of the votes of the members present, and in case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.

**3. Power to co-opt**

(1) The management committee may invite any person who, in the opinion of the management committee, has expert knowledge concerning the functions of the public agricultural research institutes, to attend and take part in the proceedings of the management committee.

(2) A person attending a meeting of the management committee under this section may take part in any discussion at the meeting on which his or her advice is required, but shall not have any right to vote at that meeting.

#### **4. Validity of proceedings not affected by vacancy**

The validity of any proceedings of the management committee shall not be affected by a vacancy in its membership, or by any defect in the appointment or qualification of a member.

#### **5. Disclosure of interest of members**

(1) A member of the management committee who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a contract made or proposed to be made by the management committee or in any other matter which falls to be considered by the management committee, shall disclose the nature or extent of his or her interest at a meeting of the management committee.

(2) A disclosure made under subparagraph (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

(3) A member who makes a disclosure under subparagraph (1) shall not participate in any deliberation, or take part in any decision of the management committee with respect to that matter.

(4) For purposes of determining whether there is a quorum, a member withdrawing from a meeting or who is not taking part in a meeting under subparagraph (3) shall be treated as being present.

#### **6. Management committee may regulate its procedure**

Subject to this Act, the management committee may regulate its own procedure or any other matter relating to its meetings.

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*National Agricultural Research*

[Cap. 197. 7235

*Act History:* Act 19/2005

### **Cross References**

Constitution

Industrial Property Act, Cap. 224

National Agricultural Advisory Services Act, Cap. 196

Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171

Plant Variety Protection Act, Cap. 40

Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, Cap. 262

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