

# THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## CONSTITUTION

as amended at the AGM of 30 September 1989

### **Name:**

1. The Society shall be called the Agricultural Economics Society of Ireland.

### **Objects:**

2. The objects of the Society shall be to promote the study and understanding of economics and sociology in relation to agriculture and the rural community.

### **Membership:**

3. Ordinary membership will be open to all persons who are interested in advancing the objects of the Society. Application for membership shall be made to the Hon. Secretary and admission to membership shall be at the discretion of the Council of the Society. Associate membership will be open to firms and organisations. Associate members shall not have voting rights. The Council of the Society may from time to time grant Honorary Life Membership to distinguished members of the society.

### **Management of the Society:**

4. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Council. The Council shall consist of the officers of the Society and nine other members, three of whom shall retire each year after serving three years (subject to the provisions of Section 8) and shall not be eligible for re-election until one year has elapsed after their retirement. The officers of the Society shall be the President, President-elect, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer. The President-elect, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and three ordinary members of the Council shall be proposed and seconded and (subject to their consent) elected by members at the Annual General Meeting by simple ballot. The serving President-elect shall automatically become President at the Annual General Meeting and following his election shall hold office for one year and shall not be eligible for re-election for a period of three years. The Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall retire each year but shall be eligible for re-election. The incoming Council shall assume office immediately. A Council member who does not attend three successive meetings of the Council shall automatically cease to be a member of the Council unless the Council decides otherwise.

The Council may fill any casual vacancy other than that of the president during the year by co-option or election from the ordinary members of the Society, such co-opted or elected members to retire at the Annual General Meeting at which the person whose vacancy is being filled would normally have retired. If the office of President becomes vacant, the President-elect shall automatically become Acting President until the next Annual General Meeting.

### **General Meeting:**

5. The date of the Annual General Meeting shall be fixed by the Council but shall not be later than eighteen months from the date of the previous A.G.M. The Council shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting on the request of any twelve members of the Society, such request to give notice of the business for which the meeting is being called. No other business shall be discussed at this meeting. Addition to, and alteration of the constitution can only take place at A.G.M. or an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for this purpose, and must be agreed by two-thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting. Notice of all A.C.Ms and Extraordinary General Meetings shall be sent to all members at least fourteen days in advance.

### **Subscriptions:**

6. The Annual Subscription maybe different for ordinary and associate members. An entrance fee of a sum equivalent to the Annual Subscription shall be payable on admission to membership. This fee shall also constitute the Annual Subscription for the year of admission to membership. The Annual Subscription shall fall due on the first day of January of each year. A member who has not paid the subscription on or before the 31 day of March shall be deemed to be in arrears and shall cease, ipso facto, to enjoy the privileges of membership.

A member who has forfeited the privileges of membership must re-apply for membership in the manner of a new member. No member shall be liable for more than the annual subscription. The amount of the subscription shall be as determined from time to time at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Duties of Officers:**

7. The President, or in his absence the President-elect, shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Council. In the absence of the President and President-elect the meeting shall call a Chairman from the members present. The Chairman shall have a casting vote. The Hon. Secretary, or in his absence the Hon. Treasurer, shall record minutes of all meetings or arrange to have such minutes recorded. He shall deal with all correspondence, shall enrol the names of members, prepare the business to be laid before meeting of Council and the Society and shall ensure that all notices prescribed in this Constitution shall be posted to members.

The Hon. Treasurer, or in his absence the Secretary, shall receive all monies due to the Society and shall issue an official receipt therefor and shall pay all debts due by it out of the funds of the Society. He/she shall keep a correct account of transactions and shall prepare a statement duly certified by the Hon. Auditors showing the financial position of the Society for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

The Hon. Auditors shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting.

The Council is empowered to interpret and enforce the Constitution of the Society and to make such provisions as may be found necessary to conduct the affairs of the Society provided that nothing shall be done which is repugnant to the Constitution.

Four members of the Council shall form a quorum.

8. At the first Annual General Meeting of the Society, the President, President-elect Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer and nine other Council members shall be elected. The retirement of three ordinary members of the Council at each of the two succeeding Annual General Meetings shall be decided by the Council by lot.