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REPUBLIQUE **du** SENEGAL

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MINISTERE DU DEVELOPPEMENT

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RAPPORT DE MISSION

CAJRE

15-19 DECEMBRE 1986

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par

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programme MIRCEN

CNRA, BAMBEY

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

L'Association Africaine pour la Fixation Biologique de l'Azote (AABNF) est une organisation scientifique, apolitique et non gouvernementale. La constitution de l'AABNF est indiquée à l'annexe 1.

L'AABNF a tenu sa première conférence à Nairobi (Kenya) du 23 au 27 Juillet 1984. La deuxième conférence qui s'est tenue au Caire du 15 au 19 Novembre 1986 avait pour but essentiel, mis à part les comptes rendus sur les nouvelles acquisitions sur la Fixation Biologique de l'azote (FBA) en Afrique, de statuer sur la constitution de l'association et d'élire un nouveau bureau.

## 2. PARTICIPATION DU MRCEN DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

Une active correspondance a été initiée entre le département ISRA de recherches sur les productions végétales, l'UNESCO (Dr. E. J. DaSILVA) et le MRCEN du Caire (Dr. M.N.I. MAGDOUB) pour assurer la participation de tous les correspondants du MRCEN de l'Afrique de l'ouest. Nous devrions représenter le Sénégal avec Ousmane Diagne (ISRA-CNRF) et Ibrahima NDOYE (ORSTOM). Malgré les dispositions prises par Dr. MAGDOUB et son équipe, nous étions seuls (Mamadou GUEYE) à participer à cette conférence. Pour cela, nous avons été obligés de transformer notre titre de transport (reçu très tard) Dakar-Abidjan-Caire-Abidjan-Dakar en un titre de transport Dakar-Paris-Caire. Dr. MAGDOUB, très compréhensif, nous a délivré un autre titre de transport Caire-Paris-Dakar à notre arrivée au Caire.

Il est probable que les correspondants du MRCEN de l'Afrique de l'Ouest qui étaient attendus au Caire aient reçu trop tard leur titre de transport et que par conséquent, ils n'ont pas pu participer à la deuxième conférence AABNF.

## 3. CONFERENCE AABNF

La conférence comprenait 11 sessions:

Aspects génétiques et compétitivité des Rhizobium

- Facteurs écologiques affectant la FBA par les Rhizobium
- Facteurs écologiques affectant la FBA par les fixateurs non symbiotiques.
- Algues bleues fixatrices d'azote.
- Effets synergiques des microorganismes sur la FBA.
- Economie d'azote et systèmes de cultures associées.
- Recherche et application de la FBA en Afrique.
- Production d'inoculum et application.
- Inoculation des céréales avec les fixateurs non symbiotiques.
- Table ronde sur les MIRCENS.
- Table ronde sur les Organisations du système des Nations Unies et leur implication dans l'application de la FBA.

#### 4. CONSTITUTION DE L'AABNF

Durant la conférence, la constitution de l'AABNF (annexe 1) a été lue, amendée et approuvée à l'unanimité.

#### 5. BUREAU DE L'AABNF

Les articles VI et VII de la constitution de l'AABNF prévoient 12 membres dans le comité exécutif: un président, un vice-président, un trésorier et 9 membres permanents représentant les 5 régions de l'Afrique, les 3 MIRCENS et l'IITA (Ibadan) qui a été un des organismes fondateurs de l'AABNF. Il faut remarquer que le trésorier est toujours choisi dans le pays où réside le président élu de l'association.

#### 6. CONTACTS

Le seul contact que nous avons eu a été Dr. BORDELEAU L.M Ensemble, nous avons revu et corrigé la publication commune que nous voudrions soumettre à Mircen Journal of Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology au plus tard le 1er Février 1987. Cette publication traitera des travaux que nous avons conduits sur le Voandzou dans le cadre de notre Projet NAS.

76. TROISIEME CONFERENCE DE L'AABNF

La troisième conférence de l'AABNF sera organisée par le MIRCEN de l'Afrique de l'Ouest du 7 au 12 Novembre 1988 à Dakar.

Le thème de la conférence sera: MAXIMIZING BIOLOGICAL NITROGEN FIXATION FOR AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY PRODUCTION IN AFRICA.

Un comité local d'organisation devra nécessairement être constitué au plus tard le 15 Février 1987. Nous rappelons que Pr. DOMMARGUES a déjà accepté de parrainer cette troisième conférence AABNF. Egalement, Dr. BORDELEAU se propose de faire parti du comité international d'organisation.

ANNEXE 1.

CONSTITUTION DE L' AABNF

THE SECOND CONFERENCE  
 OF  
 THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATION  
 FOR  
 BIOLOGICAL NITROGEN FIXATION



THE ROLE OF BIOLOGICAL NITROGEN FIXATION  
 FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AFRICA

15 - 19 December, 1986

CAIRO - EGYPT

CONSTITUTION

AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIOLOGICAL  
NITROGEN FIXATION

(Preliminary Draft)

PREAMBLE

We the Biological Nitrogen Fixation (BNF) Scientists delegated from different research, education and executive institutions in Africa, conscious of the serious food situation in Africa and the vital need to increase bio-productivity, which call for every effort and effective inter-country cooperation in all aspects pertaining to increasing production of food and bioenergy and complicity desertification. The rapid rise in the price of chemical fertilizers and the related constraints of foreign currency as well as the low efficient infra-structures needed for transport and distribution has worsened the situation and thus calls for increased use of bio-fertilizers to improve both yields and quality and avoid environmental pollution. Aware of the extensive research activities in some African countries in the areas of BNF and the individual experimentation in some other African countries, and of the need for additional effort to collate and interpret the existing information from the major ecological zones and subsequently to propose economically viable systems of improving land productivity to Member countries in Africa for adaptation to their specific needs.

The desire for the African Association for Biological Nitrogen Fixation was expressed at various meetings held in Ithaca, New York; Ibadan, Nigeria; Dakar, Senegal; and Cairo, Egypt. These meetings paved the way for the First Conference of the African Association for Biological Nitrogen Fixation (Nairobi, 23-27 July, 1984). Have resolved to unite themselves in the pursuit of their common aims and objectives and hereby to establish an African Association for Biological Nitrogen Fixation (AABNF) Scientific and Technical Cooperation in harmony with the spirit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), The Association of African Universities (AAU), the Association of Faculties of Agriculture in Africa (AFAA) and similar African Organizations.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Organisation shall be 'Africa Association for Biological Nitrogen Fixation (AABNF)' hereinafter to be referred to as the Association.

ARTICLE II: AFFILIATION

The Association shall be affiliated to other similar organizations, ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> as might further its objectives.

ARTICLE III: OBJECTIVES

The African Association for Biological Nitrogen Fixation "AABNF" is a non-political, non-profit making, scientific

Organization that deals with biological **nitrogen** fixation systems. The **purpose** of establishing this association is to **promote** research and application of BNF in **all** regions of African continent.

The main objectives of the AABNF are as follows:

- 3.1. To stand on the recent **developments** in the field of BNF in African Institutions and identify scientists **working in the subject.**
- 3.2. Identification of **societies working** in the field of BNF in different regions of Africa.
- 3.3. Promotion of BNF research and applications **carried out by African institutions and initiation of such** activities in other countries.
- 3.4. Initiation and/or supporting organized meetings, symposia and training courses dealing with BNF in the different regions of Africa.
- 3.5. Encouraging publication of scientific papers, **technical** reports and extension materials dealing with research and application in the field of BNF in Africa.
- 3.6. Establishment of documentation centers in the **different regions** of Africa to organize information **about** research activities, genetic materials and available technical information and services in the fields of BNF.

- 3.7. Preparation of a bibliography of institutions and scientists working in the field of BNF in Africa periodically.
- 3.8. <sup>Fostering</sup> Promotion of network type cooperation on regional <sup>lab.</sup> basis between institutions working on **same** fields of BNF.
- 3.9. Organizing a General biannual **Conference** on BNF to present recent development in the field of BNF

#### ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

1. There shall be three types of membership:

the following categories of memberships:

- (i) Full Members;
  - (ii) <sup>Associated</sup> Affiliated Members;
  - (iii) <sup>Student</sup> Honorary Members.
2. (i) Full membership shall be **open** to **all** persons, institutions working on the BNF research on application of Universities entitled to be members of the Association of African Universities (A. A. U.) and **all** other Institutions of Higher Agricultural Education in Africa, **provided such** dues are paid as **may** be determined **by** the Association from time to time;
  - (ii) Associated membership shall be **open** to any person interested in the **area** of BNF, furthering **the** objectives of the Association, subject to the approval of **Executive** Committee;



- (iii) Honorary membership shall be **open** to **any** Organization, Society, Association or **any** other **similar** body promoting the interests of Biofertilizers and/or agricultural development in Africa, on the **recommendation** of the Executive Committee and subject to the consent of the biennial General Meeting;
- (iv) Only Full Members shall have the right to vote at meetings of the Association.

4. **Any** member **may** be expelled from the **Association** if the Executive Committee **so recommends** and if a General Meeting resolves by a two-thirds majority of the Full Member present at the general meeting that **such** a member should be expelled on the grounds that its **conduct** has adversely **affected** the **reputation** or dignity of the Association, or that it has contravened **any** of the provisions of the Constitution. The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend a member from his/her membership until the next **General** Meeting of the Association following **such** suspension, but this notwithstanding a member whose expulsion is proposed shall have the right to address the General Meeting at which its expulsion is to be considered;

5. Membership shall be suspended automatically in the event of failure to settle the **annual** subscription for two **consecutive** years. **All** membership rights **will** automatically be regained on payment of the total amount of **subscription** outstanding;
6. **Any** member who resigns or is removed from membership shall not be entitled to a refund of his/her membership fee or **subscription** or **any** part thereof or any moneys contributed at **any** time.

ARTICLE V: RESOURCES

The **resources** of the Association shall **consist** of:

1. Membership **fees** applicable to both **Full** and Associate Member which shall be two US dollars or its equivalent in convertible currency;
2. Grants, gifts, donations, bequests, legacies, etc. from individuals, governments, national parastatal and **private** organisations, regional and international **organizations**.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Association, made up of three **officers** and **nine** <sup>elective</sup> ~~ordinary~~ members. **Each** of these shall be elected from the Full Members at the biennial General Meeting. They shall hold office until the next biennial General Meeting.

2. Nominations for offices in the Executive Committee of the Association should be made **seconded** at the session of the biennial General Meeting that has been set aside for the **purpose** of the **election** of officers. In case of no representation of **one** or more of the five regions, candidates from this region **can be** recommended in absentia **provided that the** nominees willingness to serve **can be substantiated.**
3. Voting of the election of the officers **and** members of the Executive Committee of the Association shall be by secret ballot.
4. Any vacancies in the Executive Committee **caused by** resignation or **any** other **cause** will **be filled by** the Executive committee from among the runners-up in the previous **election.**
5. In the event that the general meeting of the AABNF is delayed the **current** executive committee shall continue in office until **such** time as a general meeting **is convened.** The maximum period between general meetings however, shall not exceed **3 years.**

#### ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

1. There shall be a Chairman, a Vice Chairman.
2. Secretary/Treasurer shall be co-opted by the Executive Committee for the country in which the **Chairman** is resident.

#### ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The Chairman shall normally preside at all General meetings of **the** Association and the Executive Committee Meetings; **He shall** be the spokesman for **the** Association in all matters of policy approved by **the** Association or the Executive Committee; and he shall represent the Association in all legal matters.
2. The Vice-Chairman shall perform all duties of the Chairman in the absence of the latter, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Chairman.
3. The **Secretary/Treasurer** shall be responsible for the records, finances and **assets** of the Association. **He shall prepare audited accounts to the Executive Committee.**

ARTICLE IX: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall **manage** the affairs and administer the funds of the Association in accordance with this Constitution and the **policies** and directives issued by the General meetings of the Association, and it shall prepare the budget of the Association for the **consideration** and approval of the biennial General Meeting;
2. The Executive Committee shall fulfil the objectives of the Association, among other things, by organizing scientific meetings, training course, study **groups**, and **any** other appropriate activities.
3. The Executive Committee shall **collect, collate** and disseminate information pertaining to the activities of the Association and prepare the minutes of the biennial and **all** other General Meetings and those of the Executive Committee and arrange for the publication, distribution and preservation of the reports and proceedings of **all** Meetings and **Conferences** of the Association.
4. The Executive Committee **may** establish **rules** under this constitution to facilitate the **execution** of its **functions**.

ARTICLE X: MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall **meet** if possible once between every two consecutive biennial General Meetings; the Executive Committee meetings shall be called by the Chairman.

ARTICLE XI: GENERAL MEETINGS

1. There shall be regular biennial General Meetings of the Association at a place to be decided upon at the previous General Meeting. The dates for these meetings shall be determined by the Executive Committee and communicated to **all** Members at least six months in **advance**. The agenda for the biennial General Meetings shall be prepared by the Executive Committee in accordance with the apparent wishes of the Association and the provisions of this Constitution and in consultation with the members, and shall be despatched to **all** members and to **such** observers as the Executive Committee shall **decide** to **invite** not less than six days before the scheduled date **for** these meetings,
2. The biennial General Meeting shall appoint **Auditors** who shall audit **all** accounts of the Association and submit a report the next biennial General Meeting;
3. Extraordinary General Meetings of the Association **may** be called by the **Chairman** at the request of two-thirds of the Full members, **such** meetings shall require a minimum notice of sixty days and the agenda shall consist exclusively of those **items** listed in the request for **such** a meeting.

4. Full members of the Association attending the meeting shall be entitled to vote.
5. All decisions at any General Meeting shall be taken by simple majority vote, except for those decisions relating to expulsion of members and amendments to the Constitution which shall be subject to the provisions of Article IV (4) and XIV (2), respectively, and those relating to dissolution of the Association which shall be subject to the provisions of Article XV (1). In the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

ARTICLE XII: QUORUM

1. The quorum at the biennial General Meetings and any other General Meetings shall be twenty five percent of the membership;
2. The quorum at the Executive Committee meetings shall be four elected members.

ARTICLE XIII: BYLAWS

The bylaws of the Association shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and approved by a General Meeting of the Association; amendments to bylaws may be made by simple majority vote at any General Meeting of the Association

ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1. Amendments to the Constitution of the Association shall be considered only at a biennial General Meeting of the Association; proposals for such amendments shall be made in writing, duly seconded, and circulated to all Full Members, at least sixty days before the date of the General Meeting at which the amendments are to be voted on;
2. Amendments to the Constitution shall be by a two-thirds majority vote taken at the biennial General Meeting.

ARTICLE XV: DISSOLUTION

1. The Association shall not be dissolved except by a resolution passed at General Meeting by a vote of two-thirds of all Full Members of the Association. Full Members unable to attend the meeting shall be entitled to a postal vote.
2. Should the motion for dissolution be passed, the Secretary and Treasurer shall pay all debts and liabilities of the Association within one month and shall, within one further month, distribute the balance of the assets of the Association to the paid-up Full Member Institutions, in equal shares. No expenses, debts or liabilities shall

be incurred after the General Meeting at which the motion for dissolution of the Association was passed, **except** for the expenses directly **connected** with the settling of existing debts and liabilities and the distribution of the **assets**, and the Auditor's honorarium. The **Auditor** shall **inspect** the accounts and certify in writing to **all Full** Members that they are correct, duly vouched and in accordance with the law, or report in what respect they are found to be incorrect, unvouched or not in accordance with the law. The dissolution of the Association shall not take **effect** until the **Auditor** has certified that the accounts are correct in **all** respects and that no debts or **assets** remain.

ARTICLE XVI: TEXT LANGUAGE

The **Arabic**, English, **French** and Portugese certified versions of this Constitution shall be **equally** authoritative.

**ANNEXE 2. Bureau de l'AABNF.**


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<u>Postes</u>	<u>Noms</u>	<u>Origines</u>	<u>Régions ou Organismes représentés</u>
Président	Dr. ALAA EL-DIN, M. N.	Egypte	
Vi ce-président	Dr. GUEYE, M	Sénégal	
Membres	Dr. LUYINDULA, M	Zaïre	Afrique Centrale
	Dr. SALEMA, M P.	Tanzanie	Afrique de l'Est
	Dr. MAHMOUD, S. A. Z.	Egypte	Afrique du Nord
	Dr. SANGINGA, N.	Zimbabwe	Afrique du Sud
	Dr. ODEYEM, O.	Nigeria	Afrique de l'Ouest
	Dr. SSALI, H.	Kenya	MIRCEN de Nairobi
	Dr. AMARA, 3.	Sierra Léone	MIRCEN de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
	Dr. EL-HADDAD, M	Egypte	MIRCEN du Caire
Dr. MULONGOY, K.	Nigeria	IITA (Ibadan)	

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