



**ULSTER ARABLE SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1994)**

Constitution and Rules

1. NAME

The name of the society is the Ulster Arable Society.

2. OBJECTS

The objects for which the society is established are:-

- (a) To provide a forum in which all those involved in crop production, processing, marketing and end-use can discuss and investigate topics of mutual interest with a view to benefiting the economic value and wholesomeness of the produce.
- (b) To promote the efficiency, profitability and business competitiveness of the arable sector through co-operation and the exchange of information amongst producers, processors, researchers, lecturers, technologists, advisers and the service sector.
- (c) To improve knowledge and understanding of all aspects of crop production, processing, marketing and end-use.
- (d) To keep members up to date with research and development work pertinent to the sector in this country and abroad.
- (e) To promote fellowship amongst individuals working in all areas of the sector and with neighbouring societies.
- (f) To promote the views of members to Government and other organisations as required.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the society shall be open to those wishing to further the objects of the society.

Only members in good financial standing with the society are entitled to exercise the rights of membership.

4. OFFICERS

The officers of society shall be: **Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer**. The tenure of office of the **Chairperson** and of the **Vice Chairperson** shall be from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which they are appointed 'for 2 years'. On completion of his/her tenure of office the outgoing **Chairperson shall remain on committee for a least one more year but** shall not be eligible for re-appointment to the office of **Chairperson** for a period of 5 years. The tenure of office of the **Secretary, the Treasurer and the Public Relations Officer** shall be from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which each is appointed to the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. On completion of his/her tenure of office the **Secretary, the Treasurer and the Public Relations Officer** shall be eligible for re-election.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee shall consist of the **Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer** together with seven ordinary members, all of whom shall be members of the society and represent the full range of sectors and interests within the remit of the society. The seven ordinary members of the executive committee shall each hold office for three years or more as required to maintain the sector balance within the committee.

Additionally, the executive committee is empowered to co-opt not more than two persons to membership until the succeeding Annual General Meeting for special purposes.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) At the Annual General Meeting of the society the outgoing **Vice Chairperson**, provided he/she was duly elected to that office at the previous Annual General Meeting, shall, without further election, be appointed **Chairperson** for the ensuing period. If at any Annual General Meeting, for whatever reason, the outgoing **Vice Chairperson** elected to that office at the last Annual General Meeting, is not available for appointment as **Chairperson** as provided above, then the **Chairperson's** office shall be filled by election on the lines provided for other officers in Sections (b) and (c) of this article.
- (b) Subject to the provisions of Section (a) of this article, if the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, the election officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be by ballot at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Subject to the provisions of Section (a) of this article, the executive committee is empowered to submit names of members for inclusion in the panel of candidates for election to maintain the balance of representation of all sectors within the committee. This will be circulated to the members prior to the AGM.

Additionally any two members may nominate another member for election provided that the nomination is received in writing by the **Secretary** three weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting.

7. FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS

Chairperson:- The *Chairperson* shall chair meetings of the society and of the executive committee.

Vice Chairperson:- The *Vice Chairperson* shall assist the *Chairperson* and in the latter's inability to serve shall carry out such duties as pertain to the office of *Chairperson*.

Secretary:- The *Secretary* shall be responsible to the executive committee for the summoning of all meetings of the society and of the *executive committee*, for attendance and the keeping of records at all such meetings and the performance of all other duties concerning administration as the executive committee shall specify.

Treasurer:- The *Treasurer* shall be responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds belonging to the society, as the executive committee shall specify.

Public Relations Officer:- The *Public Relations Officer* shall be responsible to the executive committee for the preparation and issue of the society's publications and shall perform such other cognate duties as the executive committee may require.

8. FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee shall have and may exercise and perform the following powers and duties, namely:-

- (a) Manage and direct the affairs of the society according to the provisions of this constitution and to decisions arrived at by the society at meetings.
- (b) Convene, postpone and cancel meetings.
- (c) Appoint special committees.
- (d) Establish, maintain liaison with and provide submissions to other organisations concerned with the objects of the society.
- (e) Issue publications devoted to, or bearing upon, any object of the society.

9. QUORUM AND VOTING

At all meetings of the executive committee, five members, and at all meetings of the society, twenty members, shall form a quorum. Matters in dispute shall be determined by vote and, in the event of there being an equal division of votes, the chairman of the meeting concerned shall have an additional casting vote.

10. MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

An Annual General Meeting of the society shall be held. In addition, other meetings may be held when considered necessary by the executive committee.

11. FINANCES

- (a) Responsibility for the finances of the society is vested in the executive committee.
- (b) The amount of the registration fee and of the membership subscription shall be determined at each Annual General Meeting of the society.
- (c) The financial year of the society shall begin on 1st January
- (d) Membership subscription for each financial year shall be payable on the 1 January in that year.
- (e) The executive committee is empowered to use the society's funds for any secretarial or administrative assistance deemed necessary and is similarly empowered to employ persons for this purpose.
- (f) Accounts shall be kept by the Treasurer of all monies received and expended by the society. These will be checked by two auditors, who shall consist of a member of the executive committee and one other who need not be a member of the society.
- (g) A statement showing the financial position of the society, examined and certified by the auditors, shall be available at each Annual General Meeting.

12. ALTERATION OF THIS CONSTITUTION

- (a) The provision of this constitution shall come into force on 15th January 2013 and shall continue in force until a proposal for their amendment, in whole or in part, shall receive the support of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The executive committee may at any time recommend alterations to the provisions of the constitution to a general meeting, but all other proposals for alteration of the constitution must be supported by at least five members and, further must be received in writing by the **Secretary** at least two months of prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.