

COALITION OF FARMERS GHANA (CoFaG)

CONSTITUTION

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CONSTITUTION

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A. Preamble

1. In Ghana 60% Of the 24 million Population live in rural areas. Over 9 million people representing 40% of the population are small scale farmers. Majority of these people are poor farmers who earn less than US\$2 a day and live in deprived rural communities. Today, farmers and the nation are faced with food insecurity and rising poverty worsened by the effects of climate change. These are in addition to the several problems facing farmers which have been neglected by successive governments through lip service. Some land tenure laws and policies exist but have not been implemented in favor of farmer land rights. But farmers still play a significant role in national and global economies and in providing vital environmental services, though they are not paid for them. It has become increasingly important for farming to be organized as proper businesses and value added rural enterprises, using innovations and modern technologies, including ICT to enhance sustainable agricultural value chains.
2. Farmers need to be organized to improve their production capacity, access to markets, and building financial mechanisms to support their small and medium size farming enterprises. In recent years many of them have tried to form grass roots associations to pull their resources together and garner support for socio economic and political emancipation. These groups are very small and lack organizational and institutional ability to harness opportunities to address the problems relating to local traditional farming in a modern day economy.
3. We recognize the existence of other farmers groups, associations, alliances and networks and their right to organize and we as an entity are ready to cooperate on common platforms for further Networking and advocacy for farmer and rural interests. But majority of farmers are not in groups; many farmers are not organized at the local and national levels and our current coalition gives an opportunity for other farmers and local groups to belong to a wider coalition and legal status for so many groups which could not afford to register.
4. This coalition has come about through several consultations, contacts, meetings and engaging communications among several farmers and rural organizations since 2009, but gaining momentum in 2011, and has fostered new groups, mobilizations, mergers and alliances of several kinds and involving all manner of small holder farmers and stakeholder groups engaging one another and relevant government departments leading to registrations and legalizations. We have tried hard to accommodate different shades of opinions and interests and found common ground in several areas as enshrined in our Constitution.
5. We, 23 founding farmers associations of COFAG representing 62,000 farmers in villages, small towns and rural areas in all zones and regions of Ghana have come together to adopt this Constitution to provide representation, leadership, capacity building, services and a voice for all small farmers groups in Ghana who believe in our mission and vision and are ready to join this coalition to meet the challenges of small farmers associations and promote

farmers rights and rural interests without discrimination due to social status and other affiliations.

B. Name

COALITION OF FARMERS GHANA (CoFaG) herein called the Coalition, The Association, The Alliance, The Organization or COFAG.

C. Postal Address

P.O. BOX FN 812, KUMASI-GHANA

D. Location

Headquartered near Kumasi, but has subsidiary offices in all the regions, zones and Local associations in villages and presence in districts of Ghana

E. MISSION:

Representation, Participation, advocacy, **research**, capacity and empowerment of Farmers for Policy changes in favor of farmers and the general Society

F. VISION:

A STRONG FARMER ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COALITION CAPABLE OF REPRESENTING FARMER, PRODUCER, AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL INTERESTS THROUGH EMPOWERMENT OF MEMBERS/GROUPS, ADVOCACY, POLICY, RESEARCH, AND NETWORKING/PARTNERSHIPS

G. CORE VALUES

1. DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES
2. EMPOWERING PARTICIPATION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY
3. TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY
4. ENVISIONING CHALLENGES AS OPPORTUNITIES
5. EQUITY AND FAIR COMPENSATION
6. BALANCING MAJORITY AND MINORITY RIGHTS
7. POSITIVE DEBATES AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT
8. RESPECTING RIGHT TO DIVERSITIES AND POSITIVE VULNERABILITIES

9. DYNAMIZING INDEGINEOUS AND AFRICAN SYSTEMS IN A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT/GLOBAL VILLAGE
10. MAINTENANCE OF HAPPINESS AND HOPEFUL OF THE FUTURE
11. CONSTRUCTIVE MUTUAL CRITICAL AND ANALYTICAL APPROACH TO PARTNERSHIPS
12. ACTING LOCALLY AND VOICING NATIONALLY AND GLOBALLY
13. PROMOTION OF COMMON PLATFORMS IN THE RECOGNITION OF DIFFERENCES
14. POSITIVE INTERGRATION OF DIVERSE INTERESTS THROUGH COMPREHENSIVENESS
15. ENHANCING ICT, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND INNOVATIONS IN TRADITIONAL GHANAIAAN RURAL CULTURAL SETTINGS
16. EXCELLENCE, QUALITY, LESSONS LEARNED, RENEWALS, DYNAMISM, ADAPTATION, REPLICATION AND SCALING UP BEST PRACTICES INSTEAD OF RE-INVENTING THE WHEEL.

H. GOALS:

1. Promote the welfare, interest and well being of Farmers/Producers,
2. Enhance the development of farmers, farmer organizations and rural and community based organizations, agri-business and cooperatives,
3. Use ICT, appropriate technology and knowledge management to enhance activities along sustainable agricultural value chains.
4. Promote the Empowerment of farmers, especially female and Youth farmers, to build self esteem, competences , capacities and connectedness
5. Research into farmer, food, agricultural and rural development, agri-business and livelihoods issues.
6. Training farmers, farmers groups, Rural dwellers and their institutions,
7. Secure Finance for members as individuals and in groups, of different kinds and shapes depending on needs and interests, set up farmer financial institutions/banks
8. Provide Support to farmer and farmer-group members, associates, affiliates and other stakeholders on small holder farmer/producer needs, rights and demands.
9. Undertake Advocacy for farmers, small holder farmers, women farmers, youth farmers and farmer organizations locally, nationally and globally, using our local but rich and

indigenous knowledge management to inform national and global policies affecting farmer interests, pricing of agricultural produce, food security, rural poverty and livelihoods, agriculture, environment, sustainable development, eco-systems and natural resources management, water resources, climate change, MDGs and make local farmers understand and apply knowledge in their farming cultural practices.

10. Promote food security and livelihoods for rural people and contribute to developing sustainable rural economies.
11. Contribute to Local, National and global policies and campaigns including MDGs.
12. Create Opportunities for educating farmers, rural people and providing resources for farmers to benefit from better infrastructural facilities and Sustainable Agricultural value chains.
13. Support Local, national and global linkages and exchanges with farmers and farmer-organizations
14. Promote farmer-to-farmer and farmer organization to- farmer organization linkages and exchanges for mutual win-win benefits and local, national and global partnerships, platforms, alliances and Networking with Organizations and individuals, professionals on common areas of interest, work and collaboration.

I. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance fair Representation, strong Networks and Alliances for Farmer and rural interest in National life.
2. To provide finance and logistics for Farmers, sustainable rural development, agri-business and rural enterprises.
3. To provide capacity and training opportunities for rural peoples including ICT, Research and Innovation.
4. To Support legislation and International Conventions for sustainable agriculture, rural development, Climate Change, MDGs, Fair Trade and farmers rights.
5. To promote and advocate for Policies, legislation, political voice and activism supporting farmer and rural interests.
6. To Promote gender and special groups interests (youth, women, disabled/challenged, voiceless, non-formally educated, special needs) in sustainable agricultural value chains, rural development and Sustainable Natural resource management.

7. To strengthen the capacity of small and medium rural farmers for agro-forestry and reforestation.
8. To promote access to markets and finance for small and medium size agro-forestry and reforestation.
9. To promote partnerships and networking for small and medium size farmers for forestry.
10. To promote advocacy for policies on land tenure, resource rights and rural forestry.
11. To research for solutions on climate change on arid and semi-arid areas and rural livelihoods.
12. To promote agriculture and forestry-based green enterprises, food security and poverty reduction.

J. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen the capacity of small and medium rural farmers capacity to acquire best practices for farming, livelihoods, agro forestry and reforestation projects.
2. To promote access to markets and build financial mechanisms to support small and medium size agro forestry and reforestation enterprises.
3. To promote partnerships and networking for small and medium size farmers to share information and exchange programmes to enhance knowledge, innovations and expertise in agriculture and forestry in rural and forest dependent communities.
4. To promote advocacy to influence policy changes relating to land tenure and resource use rights for rural and forest dependent communities.
5. To research and find sustainable solutions to meet the challenges of climate change and rural enterprises and Agri-business enhancement.
6. To promote the development of agriculture and forestry based green enterprises to engender green jobs, improve food security and poverty reduction.

K. PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Mission, Vision, Goals, Core Values and Objectives shall be translated into implementable programmes, projects and activities for the benefit of members, farmers, farmer groups, Agricultural producers and rural peoples and special groups, through Organizational development and Capacity building; Advocacy for implementation of existing National and International laws and policies in favour of Farmers and rural development, including land tenure , land governance and natural resource ownership, protection and management; Implementation of financial mechanisms to enhance sustainable agricultural value chains, MDGs, Climate mitigation and resilience, rural innovations, food security corridors, creation of farmers platforms and networking for policy and legislation enactment, adoption and implementation; farmers rights to fair compensation in pricing of agricultural produce and environmental services, protection of beneficiary rights of small holder farmers and rural people to natural resources and eco-systems functions, services and green enterprises, rural enterprises, agri-business, agro-

forestry, green manure and cover crop technologies, improved livelihood security and income levels; The strategic use of ICT facilities to enhance farmer and rural peoples interaction, meetings, grass root innovations and promotion of activities along the farming value chains, Market access, distribution of Agricultural inputs, storage Facilities and sustainable rural development.

L. STRUCTURE AND ORGANS

There shall be structures and organs of CoFaG. In all cases where there will be meetings/ or voting (as in Articles L-W) a simple majority of members present, voting/or attending forms a quorum/or carry the day/ winning vote (as applicable).Where there is a tie, a deciding vote shall be taken by the Chair (which concludes the stalemate). .All Organs, structures, committees, councils and assemblies, groups and associations and so on (unless otherwise stated elsewhere in this constitution shall select at least its chair (or a relevant designation) and secretary prior to commencement of activities/deliberations. The Chair/Secretary (as the case may be) shall be responsible for the smooth conduct of the Organ's affairs, being guided by articles L-W and relevant sections of this constitution..

M. Individual membership in Local Farmers Associations

Individual farmers do not belong to the Coalition directly but through membership in Local Farmers Associations, consisting mainly of small holder produce-based, rural and farmers groups/Community-based Organizations (CBOs). All individual farmers who want to be members of the Coalition, contribute to the Farmer Course and benefit accordingly through this coalition, may therefore belong to a Local Farmers Association which is a member of the Coalition.

N. Local Farmers Associations Membership

Small holder produce-based, rural and farmers groups consist of individual farmers. There will be several suburban, village and small towns Farmers Associations consisting mainly of small holder produce-based, rural and farmers groups within a district. And each forum/group will send delegates, including a woman and a youth to represent them at the district farmers associations and The Founding Associations Council of Elders (FACE), as well as the General delegates assembly (GDA) and other organs of the Associations. The Local Associations own the Coalition-COFAG.

O. District Farmers Associations Membership

District Farmers Associations are made up of delegates from each local Farmers Associations in suburbs, villages and small towns consisting mainly of small holder produce-based, rural and farmers groups. There are 139 such districts across Ghana at which Farmers Associations come together as District Farmers Association.

P. Regional Farmers Associations Membership

District Farmers Associations belong to regional coalitions. There are 10 regional Farmers Coalitions- Upper East, Upper west, Northern, Brong-Ahafo, Ashanti, Western, Eastern, Volta, Gt. Accra, and Central regions

Q. Zonal Farmers Networks Membership

Regional Coalitions belong to Zonal Farmers Networks. There are 4 zones as follows:

1. Northern-Savanna Zone Consisting of Upper East, Upper West and Northern regions(3 regions)
2. Mid-Forest Zone consisting of Ashanti and Brong Ahafo regions(2 regions)
3. Eastern Corridor Zone consisting of Eastern and Volta Regions(2 regions)
4. Western-Forest/Coastal Zone consisting of Western, Central and Gt. Accra regions(3 regions)

Zones are based on Geographical locations, vegetation and climatic characteristics, dominant agriculture produce and occupational type.

R. General Delegates Assembly (GDA)

This is the highest and biggest participatory and representative Organ of COFAG at which all the Organs and stakeholders all converge at a time. Ideas for policy outlines get adopted at the GDA which are further developed into policies/policy decisions by the EC with advice from FACE, assistance from the S, other relevant Organs and Committees. This measure is to make sure that policy ideas start and emanate from member associations, beneficiaries and stakeholders at the local level and that they are owned by Local Farmers. The works of all the Organs for the previous, current and subsequent years are also presented to GDA for approval. And all Organs prepare for and participate actively in activities prior to, during and after the GDA as applicable. The GDA consists of 5 delegates/or votes each from Farmers groups/associations and other stakeholders as follows:

1. Member associations/groups delegates
2. Women delegates
3. Youth delegates
4. Each District delegates
5. Minority delegates
6. Special groups delegates
7. Each Region delegates

8. Each Zone delegates
9. EC
10. FACE
11. S
12. GLOC
13. Products caucuses
14. Professionals delegates
15. Rural enterprises delegates
16. Agri-business delegates
17. Remote villages delegates
18. Ten poorest districts delegates
19. Advisors/Consultants delegates
20. Funders and Partners delegates
21. The President of COFAG Supported by the Vice-President and Secretary General in that order/EC shall preside over and steer the Affairs of GDA with the standby advisory services provided by the FACE. Committees shall actively work, prior to, during and after GDA as applicable.
22. Observers from Government, Other FBOs/Networks, media. Without voting or deliberative rights, but may make suggestions to other organs informally.
23. The exact quotas for each unless otherwise stated/or implied by other sections/articles of the Constitution will be **deliberated** and approved at the GDA

S. Executive Committee (EC)

The EC consists of the President who provides Strategic Policy Planning and Management to the Coalition, and leads the Fund raising Efforts of the Coalition, seeing to the Overall Resource Utilization and efficiencies of the Organization. S/he presides over EC and the key Organs of the Organization), The Vice-President who deputizes and Assists the President and The Secretary General (who heads a functional Secretariat and Staff as the lead executing/implementing wing of the Organization); The Three are the Key Executive Officers and Official spoke Persons of the Organization, stating policy to the Public and relates to Outsiders and International Affairs of COFAG. The Three shall coordinate their Common approach and strategy so as not to speak or act at cross purposes. The EC meets at least once

every Month. This Organ is responsible for executing the policy decisions and mandate of the Coalition as enshrined in this Constitution, Policy advice of the FACE and other formally approved policies of the GDA, through the issuing of Executive Guidelines to guide implementation of the GDA decisions. It provides Strategic Policy Planning and Management guidelines to Steer the deliberations of the annual GDAs so they do not become chaotic and unachievable. The Secretariat shall assist the EC to prepare all relevant documents in advance of GDAs so they are effective and efficient, within time limits. Such documentation shall go to the Associations and other relevant Organs Three months before the current GDA for study.

T. General Local Operations Council (GLOC)

This consists of the Three member EC, 10 Regional Coordinators, 4 zonal coordinators, and 139 district coordinators a maximum total of 153 members who shall meet at least 4 times a year, preferably quarterly. This Organ implements at the regional, zonal, district and village levels the executive Strategic Policy decisions/guidelines of the EC carried through S. The GLOC also serves as the legs of the GDA, EC through the S at the grassroots level. It is therefore collectively and individually responsible for effects of implementation/operations at the grassroots/local levels, in terms of specific action planning, implementation, time-bound quantitative and qualitative deliverables in line with targets and indicators, on site monitoring, evaluation and results, meeting as it were to carry through and strategize for their respective constituencies/member associations and their individual member benefits and responsibilities at the community level. The GLOC reports to the Secretary General.

U. Founding Associations Council of Elders (FACE)

The FACE is the Organ solely for Local Farmers Associations starting with the Associations founding this Coalition-(A Council of elders). Each of Local Farmers Association selects two representatives to the FACE. Its nominated members from the associations shall be experienced members/or Officers of the Founding Associations, who understand the plight of Farmers, the history, struggles and development of Farmer-based Organizations/small holder farmers in Ghana, who have been involved in setting up and developing farmers and rural development associations, who can advice on good governance and management of such associations. They are the Custodians of the Original Mandate of the Coalition upon which it was founded. Each Social entity has a history with embedded values that are liked to be told to future generations as they are relevant to current realities. There is a story of the Founding of the Coalition which has to be told to future generations-and true members of the Coalition for generations to come must know the founding story in order to be able to place their current realities in the right perspective. Many rich Africa stories are lost to Generations. We must make sure this one is not lost, and this Organ is responsible for this legacy too of COFAG.

1. The FACE shall elect its own Chair, Secretary and others, including Committee members, determine its program of activities, as a Council of Elders.

2. It shall develop the Charter, anthem, slogans, Logo, emblems, and recitations, of COFAG which shall be sang, recited and used for all official functions/purposes of the Coalition. Each member association, organs and Officers shall know and use these emblems. The FACE shall determine the conditions under which these emblems shall be used.
3. The FACE elects the members of the Executive Committee (EC), The President, The Vice-President and The Secretary General and advises same on Maintaining the Key Mandate of the Coalition and any new paradigms emerging in the area of Farming, Agriculture and Forestry and the rights, needs and interests of Farmers and rural development in such a manner as to keep the Coalition consistently focused on its core mandate to protect Farmers/rural interest and rights.
4. It shall advise all Organs as Necessary not to deviate from the Original idea of keeping the Promise to Farmers.
5. They shall provide Policy and strategic advice to the EC and other Organs.
6. They shall foresee and prevent conflict, especially among the EC members, EC and Secretariat(S)/or Other Organs of the Organization. The FACE is a reference point for Conflict management and resolution.
7. And the FACE shall participate in and vote at the other Organs including General Local Operations Council (GLOC) and the General Delegates Assembly (GDA). It shall also review the Policy, the focus and Mandate of the Coalition on an annual basis and give written directional advice to all Organs, Members and Officers as applicable.
8. The EC members shall participate in the activities of FACE. The FACE shall also invite individuals/Organs and Associations to explain some aspects of the Coalitions policies, program and activities and give its written comments to the respective invitee.

V. Secretariat(S)

The Secretariat(S) is headed by the Secretary General (SG) (elected by the FACE alongside other members of the EC. The SG is the CEO of Coalition-COFAG. The SG will be assisted by other officials/or staff (whom s/he appoints and approved by EC as the case may be.) SG interprets and formulates the Policy ideas/outlines of GDA and Policy decisions, guidelines and framework of the EC and advice of FACE into programs, projects and activities of COFAG and leads their implementation. He is thus responsible for the implementation of the Organization's mandate, decisions, policies, programs, projects and activities and the day to day running, secretarial, administration, financial management, accounting, program, HR, Logistics and management of the Organization, undertaking its task at the grassroots through the members of the GLOC- regional, zonal, district officers/coordinators and member Farmers associations/or their individual members. As possible the President and

Vice-President shall also have office space at the Secretariat to facilitate their presidential responsibilities and coordination with SG. S services the Organization's policy, executive, implementation and other activities, coordinating resources, logistics and supplies, monitoring, evaluation and reporting mandate. It keeps the records, documentation, Property, Emblems, facilities and inventory of COFAG. It is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the secretarial, administrative, HR and financial and accounting policies and procedures/manuals of the Organization, drafts and reviews same for the approval of EC with the advisory of FACE and relevant organs/committees.

W. Joint Organs (GDA/EC/GLOC/S/FACE) Working Committees (JOWOC)

These Committees will be jointly empanelled with GDA, EC, S, GLOC, FACE and co-opted members with relevant expertise (including members, officials and secretariat officers with expertise in areas of concern to the particular committee). They will work at scheduled times between/along side, the GDAs, EC, GLOC, S work(in addition to submitting their reports/plans eventually to EC three months prior to GDAs for deliberations at the GDAs). This will allow a lot of interaction between the various organs of the Coalition working together, exchanging expertise and having synergies thereby also building capacity of the rank and file of the Coalition and its members. This will also encourage a high degree of participation of all stakeholders of the Coalition, enhancing democratic governance and human rights of all. The findings and recommendations(reports/plans) of the various committees will input into the respective work/organs of the COFAG; Those findings/recommendations(reports/plans) to be policy however, they will be adopted finally by the GDA after the respective Organ has passed It over to the GDA Through the S,GLOC and EC as the case may be. The Committees will play some Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, drafting and reporting functions on each of the areas of responsibility. Where some issues overlap with other committees/or Organs the synergies, Synchronizations, symbiosis and communications on it should be done by the respective committees concerned, in order to avoid unnecessary repetitions and duplications. Each committee shall choose its Chair and Secretary from time to time as necessary perhaps on a rotating basis. Each Committee shall draw up it terms of reference from article W. And its communications, meetings and working methods, shall include the use of ICT as possible and relevant. Meeting announcements/invitations shall state dates, times, venues, methods (including face-to-face/or ICT as relevant), and minutes/records or reports shall be written/done at all meetings. Meetings shall close having fixed next meeting dates, times, venues and agenda as relevant. Members of Committees who absent themselves without written requests and written approvals to/or from Chair/or Secretary shall be sanctioned/or fined. Chairs/Secretaries and members of committees are individually and collectively responsible to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources-time, energy, cash and logistics, avoiding wastages.

1. Policy, Advocacy, Legislation and International Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations, drafting and reporting functions on Policy, Advocacy, Legislation and international issues

2. Technical Assistance and Capacity Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations drafting and reporting functions on Technical Assistance and Capacity building issues.

3. Gender, Special Groups, Innovations and Minority Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, drafting and reporting functions on Gender, Special Groups, Innovations and Minority issues.

4. Program and Organization Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations drafting and reporting functions on Program and Organization issues.

5. Farms, Fields, Extension and Inspectorate Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations drafting and reporting functions on Farms, Fields, Extension and Inspectorate

6. Finance, Accounting and Banking Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations, drafting and reporting functions on Finance, Accounting and Banking issues.

7. Membership, Associations, Participation, Stakeholders and Networking Committee

8. This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations, drafting and reporting functions on Membership, Associations, Participation, Stakeholders and Networking issues.

9. Administration, Secretarial, Human Resource, Logistics and Management Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations drafting and reporting functions on Administration, Secretarial, Human Resource, Logistics and Management issues.

10. Research, Monitoring, Evaluation, Audit Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations drafting and reporting functions on Research, Monitoring, Evaluation, Audit issues.

11. Quality ,Excellence, Standards, Control and Compliance Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, drafting and reporting functions on Quality ,Excellence,Standards, Control and Compliance issues.

12. Complaints, Disputes and Conflict Management Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations, drafting and reporting functions on Complaints, Disputes and Conflict Management issues.

13. Agricultural Produce, Products, and Inputs Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations, drafting and reporting functions on Agricultural Produce, Products, and Inputs issues.

14. Land Tenure, Natural Resources, MDGs, Climate Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations drafting and reporting functions on Land Tenure, Natural Resources, MDGs, Climate issues.

15. Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains and Rural development Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations, drafting and reporting functions on Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains and Rural development issues.

16. Rural Enterprises, Agri-business and Small Holder Committee

This Committee is responsible for Policy planning, Implementation, Monitoring, standardization, evaluation, Proposals and recommendations, drafting and reporting functions on Rural Enterprises, Agri-business and Small Holder issues.

17. Other Committees- will be set up as and when necessary by the respective organs/groups of organs with terms of reference, members and timelines/deadlines(as relevant) such as:

- **Other working Committees**
- **Other standing committees**
- **Other ad-hoc Committees**
- **Sub-committees**

X. FINANCE, ACCOUNTING, AUDITING AND BANKING

CoFaG will observe the highest level of financial propriety, Transparency, probity and accountability by internationally and generally accepted financial, accounting, banking, auditing and cash management, policies, procedures, standards, manuals, exposure and capacity. These will include daily and periodic systems, internal controls and internal auditing, qualified and experiences personnel (and their corresponding fair compensations) and annual external audits by reputable Accounting/Auditing Firms; Where necessary assistance will be sought/bought to augment these.

Y. INTERPRETATION, COMPLAINTS, DISPUTES AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

1. The interpretation of this constitution will be done by respective organs applying aspect/or the Constitution, except that when a particular interpretation/or interpretations, as the case may be is disputed by a group/or individual(s), such matters shall be referred to the appropriate committees (including disputes and legislation), when this is further disputed by any party, it shall go to the FACE. The final interpretation rests with the FACE whenever there is a dispute over interpretation. And the interpretation that shall be given by the FACE shall carry the day and be binding on all. Except that this Constitution is under the Laws of the Republic of Ghana.
2. Fair and due processes and procedures shall be used for disputes and conflict management in GOFAG.

3. Complaints shall first be sent in writing with reasons/evidences by complainants (who shall identify themselves. anonymous complaints shall not be acted on) to the Disputes and Legislation Committees with copies to the accused.
4. The disputes and legislation committees shall make their comments with reasons to the parties(schedule resolution/or verdict meetings).
5. If they are not resolved, The Matter shall be referred to the NC by the committees for resolution. If it is not satisfactory to any of the parties, The GLOC/or the respective parties shall send the matter in writing, with reasons/evidence to the EC.
6. The EC shall make a decision after meeting parties and calling witnesses and reviewing reasons, evidences and consulting with Relevant committees(including disputes/legislation), the NC and others and make a decision/or verdict for resolution/or sanctions, compensations as applicable.
7. If any of the parties do not agree with the EC, it shall finally refer the matter in writing adding all preceding documentations that have been used in the previous resolution efforts to the FACE for a final resolution-meetings of parties in conflict, EC, GLOC, relevant Committees (including disputes/legislation),witnesses and so on.
8. The FACE shall then give the final verdict in writing-indicating decisions, reasons, evidences used, and summary from credible witnesses, and other Organs who have participated in the resolutions so far, and make a verdict/conclusion, sanctions, compensations which shall be final and binding on all.
9. This however is subject to the Laws of Ghana. Not Withstanding this, No Person/or group/or organ/or committee related to, working, with/or for, member of/or beneficiary of the Coalition(COFAG) shall take the COFAG/or any of its Organs/or Representatives, member associations/or individual members/farmers of member associations and others related to the Coalition/or in a matter directly/or indirectly related to the Coalition to a Court of Law/or Arbitration outside the Coalition until procedures of the Coalition for prevention and management of disputes, complaints and conflicts and interpretation have been exhausted as contained in this Constitution. All those who violate this shall be summarily sanctioned/or suspended/or dismissed as the case may be. All issues related to interpretation, disputes, conflict, complaints, resolution, verdicts, reasons and comments and evidences shall be put in writing as applicable, besides verbal presentations as relevant(to avoid further disputes on procedures)
10. All Parties in dispute shall be given fair hearing, due processes and common law, and justice shall be applied. If Applicable The respective resolution Organs/or parties/witnesses shall seek the relevant legal advice within these procedures.
11. Quality, Excellence, Standards, Control and Compliance Committee shall monitor and evaluate matters under article Y and give their written report. All parties shall submit themselves and the respective information required by this committee for purposes of this monitoring to assure that various standards have been complied with by all.
12. All Persons and Organs/or groups (inside and outside COFAG) who misconduct themselves against COFAG/or put the Organization in disrepute/or abuse the Coalition shall be appropriately sanctioned by the Coalition.

Z. AMENDMENTS, DISSOLUTION AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. An amendment of the Constitution shall be done using this procedure: An amendment from at least 30% of Farmer member associations/ 5 Organs shall be drafted including reasons for the proposed amendment and sent to the Legislation committee, which shall make its comments with reasons and send to the EC, which shall have a choice to accept or reject the proposed amendment or reject it with reason and shall circulate all the proposed amendment and comments/reasons to all members and organs. The members and organs which so choose shall send in their comments, not later than 6 months before the GDA at which the amendment shall be considered to the FACE for its wisdom, which shall use its procedures to consult with all parties/or others in and out of the Coalition before it Chooses either to forward the amendment or not to the GDA with reasons 3 months before the GDA at which the amendment shall be considered. IF/When the FACE forward to the GDA there shall be deliberations on the amendment at the GDA; a 2/3 majority of all members/organs voting shall accept or reject the amendment by vote. And the outcome of the vote shall be binding. Apart from these procedures no one/or group shall amend the Constitution.
2. A dissolution shall be done using this procedure: A dissolution proposal from at least 50% member association/10 Organs shall be drafted including reasons for the proposed dissolution and sent to the Organization, Legislation and Disputes and Compliance and Administration committees which shall make their comments with reasons and send to the EC and GLOC, which shall have a choice to accept or reject the proposed dissolution/comments with reasons and shall circulate all the proposed dissolution/comments/reasons to all members and organs. The members and organs which shall all send in their comments, not later than 12 months before the GDA at which the dissolution shall be considered to the FACE ,which shall use not less than 6 months for its own procedures, including expert legal and administrative consultations. If and when the FACE presents its decisions or not to the GDA with reasons then this shall be deliberated by the GDA considering the dissolution. After deliberating the dissolution or not at the GDA, a 2/3 majority of all members/organs qualified and voting with the appropriate quorum as enshrined in this constitution shall accept or reject the dissolution by vote. And the outcome of the vote shall be binding. Apart from these procedures no one/or group shall dissolve the Organization/Coalition/COFAG. If the vote accepts the dissolution the appropriate laws and administrative procedures of the Republic of Ghana shall be used to dissolve The Coalition.
3. Before the adoption of this Constitution, for the purpose of continuing functioning of the Coalition, Organs, Officers and Staff holding the fort shall continue to do so until the adoption of The Constitution by the GDA and election of Officers as enshrined in the adopted Constitution.