**The [*Regional Crop Network*] Membership Agreement**

**Introduction**

[Provide necessary background on the regional crop network (history, crops, countries, institutes)]

**[Regional Crop Network] breeding network Vision**

Our vision is to […..]

Mission: [……..]

**Table 1. [Regional Crop network] network Members**

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|  | **Institute** | **Acronym** | **Country / Regions** |
| 1 | Eg International Institute of Tropical Agriculture | IITA | Africa |
| 2 | Eg Institut Senegalais de Recherches Agricoles (Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research) | ISRA | Senegal |
| 3 | Eg West Africa Center for Crop Improvement, University of Ghana | WACCI | Ghana |
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**Scope of the Network Membership Agreement**

This network membership agreement specifically seeks to address the following areas:

1. Standardization of crop improvement tools and processes across the network
2. Ensure effective exchange of data, technologies and germplasm across the network
3. Ensure fair attribution for network member contributions to network outputs
4. Promote the use of centralized services in order to standardize processes and negotiate discounted rates
5. Promote alignment with national priorities and inclusive decision making
6. Define responsibilities of Crop Working group (CWG) network coordinators from the CGIAR
7. Propose general terms of reference for the ADCIN regional steering committees (governance mechanism)

By signing this agreement, network members commit to:

1. **Use of common tools, nomenclature and processes that facilitate information and data exchange within the network. These include:** 
   1. Adoption of a common breeding data management system by all network members (eg EBS, BreedBase, BMS etc)
   2. A standard system of trait nomenclature, pedigree naming and ontology including use of standard scales and definitions to score traits.
   3. Use of common templates to define market segments and product profiles.
   4. Use of common templates to assess breeding programs, breeding stations and develop modernization or improvement plans.
   5. Use of Common QA/QC protocols across network breeding pipelines
2. **Sharing breeding material and technologies generated by network funded activities in alignment with national policies and obligations (eg national MTAs, SMTAs and licensing agreements) for use in:** 
   1. Research, evaluation & breeding by other network members
   2. Commercialization by other network members provided adequately attributed as per network standards
   3. Use of research methodologies (eg SOPs) and technologies discovered or generated through network research (eg molecular markers) by network members
3. **Regularly sharing market information for the benefit of the network (support prioritization and resource allocation) particularly:**
   1. National priorities and trends arising from national strategy and development planning
   2. Market intelligence information gathered through surveys, national product design team meetings, foresight analysis etc
4. **Sharing of network critical breeding data to facilitate network awareness, planning and reporting including:**
   1. Annual Crossing lists and advancement decisions
   2. Regional trial data returned on time to enable combined analysis across the network and data driven decision making
   3. Pedigree data of early-stage trialling products
   4. Results and status of past releases on a regular basis as defined by the network
   5. Data points generated from CGIAR shared services for reporting (eg # of marker assays)
5. **Truthfully acknowledging the following:** 
   1. Origin of data
   2. Origin of germplasm
   3. Contributions made by others to secure network resources and funding
   4. Contributions made by network member scientists to develop publications (Co-authorship)
   5. Contributions made by network members to developing and identifying varieties
6. **Using shared services provided through OneCGIAR wherever feasible in order to standardize processes and facilitate bulk discounts for the [crop x region] network**
7. **Implement network reporting and management commitments including:**
   1. Participating in network Steering or technical committee meetings when requested or nominated for various functions including identifying network investment priorities and agreeing resource allocation.
   2. Submitting network technical reports on time
   3. Submitting network financial reports on time
8. **Adopting a culture of continuous improvement including** 
   * 1. Actively participate in program and station assessments of both self and network member programs and stations
     2. Make assessment reports and improvement plans available to Steering Committees and technical teams to guide capacity development investments
   1. Implementing recommendations in the Breeding Program improvement plans
   2. Participating in capacity development activities organized by the [crop x region] network
9. **Implementing and pursuing the breeding and scaling role assigned by the [crop x region] network including:**
   1. Operating regional breeding pipelines as agreed by the network determined through a comparative advantage assessment.
   2. Executing early, late and onfarm evaluation trials as defined by the network
   3. Adopting best network agreed practice for the implementation of regional breeding pipelines and trialing.
   4. Supporting variety registration, promotion and scaling including actively engaging scaling partners.
10. **Conducting National Market Segment Review and Product Advancement Meetings including:** 
    1. Regular review of national market segments and target product profiles by a multidisciplinary product design team
    2. Annual national product advancement meeting where:
       1. advancement decisions for national breeding pipelines are discussed and made
       2. varieties from regional trials are identified for national advancement into on-farm verification trials and the formal release process.
       3. National breeding programs report on their progress against defined TPPs
    3. The registration and scaling of varieties whilst acknowledging the original developer of the variety whether a NARES, CGIAR or ARI network member.
11. **Participating in regional network advancement meetings where:** 
    1. Regional market segments are reviewed and regional target product profiles updated accordingly
    2. Early and late stage regional advancement decision are made
    3. The performance of the regional trialing network is assessed and improvements identified for particular sites or the testing network in general.
    4. An update is provided on past national and regional releases
12. **CGIAR regional network coordinator commits to:** 
    1. Ensuring regional activities pursued by the CGIAR are aligned to national priorities
    2. Support coordination of the regional crop working group by:
       1. Establishing communication platforms
       2. Organizing regular virtual or physical crop working group meetings to facilitate information exchange and joint planning
       3. Responding to and sharing information about funding calls that would benefit the crop working including training opportunities, infrastructure development opportunities and access to services.
       4. Regularly monitoring the technical performance of the regional network (data quality, status of regional network phenotyping hubs, adoption of common standards etc)
       5. Supporting network members to execute their individual improvement plans.
    3. Supporting all network members adopt an MTA or SMTA to facilitate germplasm movement, tracing and attribution.
    4. Provide virtual and in-situ technical backstopping to network members
    5. Coordinate the regional testing network including trial assembly, design, packaging, shipment, phytosanitory, data analysis.
    6. Ensure the contribution of network members is duly recognized in technical reports, peer reviewed publications, presentations given at international conferences, proposal development and fund raising.
    7. Ensure network members have access to OneCGIAR shared services
    8. Provide transparency on the use of network operational budget
    9. Proactively lead fundraising efforts for the working group
    10. Ensure fair and diverse representation in regional Steering Committees
    11. Lead reporting (technical and financial) of ADCIN funded activities
13. **The [Crop x Region network] Steering Committees will:** 
    1. Develop and Implement a Capacity Development plan for the [crop x region] network
    2. Develop and implement an infrastructural development plan for the [crop x region] network
    3. Manage resources / budget and actively lobby / fund raise / policy advocation for the network and it’s work.
    4. Ensure sustainability of the [crop x region] network
    5. Recognize achievement and exception work of high performing network members and scientists through awards
    6. Develop and implement a MEL strategy for the network including the deployment of technical and partnership KPIs
    7. Resolve disputes that may arise amongst network members
    8. Set the strategic goal and vision of the network

**Endorsement Option:**

1st Option: Table of members and signature of Institutional representative (Breeding Lead, Program Director, DDG or DG)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Organization | Institute Representative | Role | Signature | Date |
| 1 | Eg IITA |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Eg WACCI |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Eg ISRA |  |  |  |  |
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2nd Option: Letter of support from each network member that is appended to the network membership agreement.