NARO

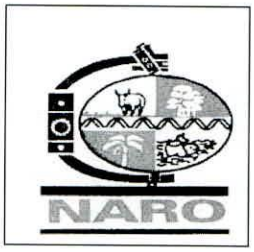
The Republic of Uganda

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION OF NON-PARI SERVICE PROVIDERS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

11th April 2006



The Republic of Uganda



GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION OF NON-PARI SERVICE PROVIDERS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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1.0 Purpose of the Guidelines

The strategic framework for the NARS calls for the decentralization of supply of research services by establishing and maintaining institutional models that enhance programmatic integration and coordination of agricultural research through research teams implementing research in an integrated natural resource management approach. The conduct and management of research using public funds will now also involve scientists, professionals and practitioners from institutions other than the public agricultural research institutes (PARIs).

In the new law, the non-PARI agricultural research service providers have been defined to consist of (a) Universities, (b) other tertiary institutions, (c) private sector, (d) civil society and (e) other entities with appropriate capacities and professional competencies.

The functions of agricultural research service providers have been specified as follows:

(a) carrying out agricultural research whether basic, applied, adaptive or strategic;

(b) establishing and controlling of facilities in fields of research, development and technology transfer;

(c) training of agricultural researchers and others;

(d) participating in problem identification and prioritisation;

(e) hiring or letting of services for the management and conduct of research;

(f) mobilising teams to carry out agricultural research;

(g) establishing and maintaining collaboration with other agricultural research service providers both at national and international levels;

(h) reporting on the findings of agricultural research to the Council in particular agricultural research service undertaken with public funding by the Council;

(i) producing, processing and selling agricultural products;

(j) conducting or commissioning market research and sale of its results;

(k) providing against payment, services not directly related to agricultural research;

(l) acquiring and disseminating agricultural research and development results; and

(m) providing grants for agricultural research and development activities.

The purpose of these guidelines is to:

- provide a system of data collection on potential agricultural research service providers.
- provide a system for registering eligible agricultural research service providers.
- in the long run, ensure the attraction and equitable participation of non-PARI agricultural research service providers.

2.0 Registration for Providing Services

The National Agricultural Research Act, 2005 stipulates that all capable agricultural research service providers (RSPs) (including public agricultural research institutes,

universities, tertiary institutions, private sector organisations, civil society organisation, farmers groups or any other entity) are eligible to carry out agricultural research services under funding (partially or fully) provided through the NARO Council. However, no RSP shall provide or carry out agricultural research service using public funds, unless registered and acknowledged to do so by the Council (or is working in partnership and under the guidance of a RSP so registered).

2.1 Useful definitions

"agriculture" means the management and utilisation of natural resources to produce food, drink, fibre, wood and other products. It is the production and utilisation of plants, animals and fish and the management of the environment in which they are raised. It is the science, art or practice of cultivating the soil; breeding, keeping or producing animal or vegetable/plant life; afforestation and the gathering of forest products; catching, gathering, breeding, keeping or producing marine life from ocean, coastal or inland waters; and in varying degrees the preparation and marketing of crop, animal, forest and fish products, all especially for the purpose of people making a living.

"agricultural research" means the furtherance, accumulation and improvement of knowledge in the agricultural and related sciences through original and other investigations and methods of a scientific or indigenous nature into the production, treatment or handling of an agricultural product, including research required for a better understanding of the process involved in or the environment necessary for the production of an agricultural product with the advancement of agriculture as its object.

"agricultural research service provider" means any person whether in the public or private sector who conducts or manages agricultural research and includes a public agricultural research institute, universities, tertiary institutions, farmers groups, civil society organisations, private sector organisations and any other entity professionally competent.

2.2 General registration requirements and procedure

A: For all applicants

(a) Collect application forms from the Council Secretariat, Zonal Fund Secretariat or designated District contact office

(b) Submit to the Council Secretariat, Zonal Fund Secretariat or designated District contact office the following not later than the indicated closing date for applications:

i. The completed application form (sample Annex 1).

ii. In the case of new applicants or any changes in status a Statement of Capability/Competence of the RSP.

(c) A letter of acknowledgement shall be issued once to all successful applicants as conclusive evidence of registration as an agricultural research service provider (Annex 2) in Uganda.

(d) A registration may be cancelled where it is confirmed that:

i. unqualified staff have been used to execute contracts won.

ii. a relevant professional body has passed a judgement of

professional dishonesty and/or misconduct.

iii. the research service provider has perpetually failed to meet contractual obligations.

(e) Applicants must also comply with all other statutory requirements.

B. For non-autonomous entities/units of other institutions

Application for registration from constituent units of other institutions, which units do not have autonomous status, shall also have to be accompanied by the following:

(a) A letter of commitment from the parent institution.

(b) A certificate of registration or practice from a recognised Competent Authority for the type and category of institution.

(c) Two passport photographs of the head of unit duly endorsed by the Head of the parent Institution.

(d) Two passport photographs of the Accounting Officer/Head of the parent institution.

3.0 Incentives and Entitlements

3.1 Private sector investment in R&D

Non-PARI agricultural research service providers are actively encouraged to make direct private investment in agricultural research and development in accordance with the following guidelines:

i) The non-PARI agricultural research service providers, especially from the private sector, shall indicate research areas likely to be attractive and shall be backed by strategic and applied research in the public sector to develop R&D capacity in these areas.

ii) Where private sector capacity has been developed, the public sector will limit its participation to strategic interventions.

iii) Subject to and in accordance with existing laws, non-PARI agricultural research service providers will be free to release new discoveries, inventions and improvements on proprietary inputs both technological and material and/or import new technology.

iv) Non-PARI agricultural research service providers will be entitled to full and exclusive rights to trade secrets, patent and intellectual properties rights relating to discoveries, inventions and technology exclusively privately financed.

v) For technologies where it is very costly or impossible to appropriate the benefits of investment in agricultural research, or where pay-off periods are long and uncertain, yet substantial use of research results in the public interest is anticipated, non-PARI agricultural research service providers may apply for and be allocated matching funds to finance research activities.

vi) Non-PARI agricultural research service providers shall, on agreed terms and conditions under public-private partnerships and/or joint ventures, have access to public research facilities and public-sector research products for adapting, testing and use in developing proprietary technologies. A share of

profits arising out this restricted access shall be returned to the public sector research institution that originated the foundation technology.

3.2 Accessing Competitive Grant Funds

Non-PARI agricultural research service providers shall have equal access to public funds under the Competitive Grant Scheme for agricultural research on the basis of the following guidelines:

i) Proposals that address the research priorities identified in the national and zonal strategic plans and strategic objectives chosen for a particular period will be solicited from all eligible agricultural research service providers through public advertisements in the print and electronic media.

ii) Proposals have to be submitted based on a call for proposals issued by the competent authority and must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines for preparation of proposals. Details of these guidelines and formats can be found in the general Guidelines for the Competitive Grant Schemes.

iii) All applicants will be subjected to an institutional evaluation to establish that they have the technical capacity, the experience and the managerial, administrative and control systems required to implement the proposed project successfully.

iv) Proposals that favour inter-institutional action and joint research among research entities at the national, sub-regional, regional and international level will be most preferred.

Non-PARI agricultural research service providers:

i) in accordance with the existing laws relating to intellectual property rights:

   a. shall not have automatic and exclusive claim to rights to ownership of patent and property rights over discoveries, inventions and improvements on proprietary inputs both technological and material in cases of agricultural research wholly financed from public funds.

   b. shall be entitled to an agreed bonus, where a discovery, invention or improvement they were responsible for is vested in a person as than the concerned service provider.

   c. shall be paid such fees or royalties, on agreed conditions, for discoveries, inventions and improvements for which they were responsible, in the event that these are being made available for use in the public interest.

   d. may participate financially and share in the profits derived from commercialisation of any discovery, invention or improvement in which they were involved.

   e. may apply for a patent in respect of any discovery, invention or improvement and shall for the purposes of the Patents Act and Plant Variety Protection Act be regarded as the assignee of the discoverer or inventor.

Submit 2 passport photographs

Annex 1: Registration Application Form

Office use only

Reference Number:		Date received by Registrar:	

Acknowledged by:	

Review by Secretariat		Status:	

1. Name of applicant

2. Contact details of Applicant/Head of Unit

Name:		Tel:	
Position:		Fax:	
Address:		E-mail:	

3. Details of parent Organisation/Institution (if applicable)

Name:		Tel:	
Name of Head:		Fax:	
Year established		e-mail	
Type of organisation		Address	

4. Statement of capability

(a) In the case of institutions/organisations attach a Statement of Capability for the institution/organisation. Also complete the following summary form.

Name of institution/organisation	
Type of core business	(e.g. agric. research, agric. extension, agro processing, agro marketing, agric. policy, training, agric. financing, etc.)
Number of professional/ technical staff	

Is there a separate financial/accounting department	YES / NO
Type of organisation/institution	(e.g. Government Dept.; University; NGO; Private Company; PARI, IARC, CBO etc.)
Year registered in Uganda	
Number of years operating in Uganda	
Annual turn-over (shillings)	
Independent Board of Directors (i.e. do not receive salary from the organisation)	YES / NO
Links with other organisations	(name the organisation and the type of link)
Sources of funding:	

Signature of Head ---------- **Date:** ----------

(b) For individuals a summary Curriculum Vitae

Name

Gender

Nationality

Residency

Postal address

Physical address

Educational qualifications [Tertiary and above (unless highest qualification held is less than tertiary) including relevant technical short courses]

Membership to Professional Associations

Summary of work experience [in reverse chronological order]

Signature of Applicant ---------- **Date:** ----------

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