

ISTRC



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Newsletter

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ISTRC Council 2012 to 2015

Executive Council

President	Keith Tomlins	Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK	k.i.tomlins@gre.ac.uk
Vice President for Fund Raising	Maria Isabel Andrade	CIP-SSA, Mozambique	m.andrade@cgiar.org
Vice President for Congress	Yinong Tian	Guangxi Subtropical Crops Research Institute, China	gxcassava@126.com
Vice President for GCP21	Claude Fauquet	CIAT, Columbia	c.fauquet@cgiar.org
Secretary/Treasurer	Lateef Sanni	Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria	Sannilateef5@gmail.com
Councillor for Publications	Richardson Okechukwu	IITA, Nigeria	r.okechukwu@cgiar.org
Past President	Andrew Westby	Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK	a.westby@gre.ac.uk

Councillors

Pacific	Satish Chandra	Australia	satish.chandra@internode.on.net
Caribbean	Greg Robin	CARDI, Commonwealth of Dominica	gregrobin7@gmail.com
South Asia	S. K. Chakrabarti	CTCRI, India	ctcritvm@yahoo.com
Europe and USA	Dominique Dufour	CIAT, Columbia	D.Dufour@CGIAR.ORG
South America	Clair Hershey	CIAT, Columbia	c.hershey@cgiar.org
West Africa	Chidiozie Egesi	NRCRI, Nigeria	cegesi@yahoo.com
East and Southern Africa	Sarah Mayanja	CIP, Uganda	S.Mayanja@cgiar.org

Introduction to the Newsletter by the President

I will begin with some history. The ISTRC has been a forum to bring together root and tuber crops workers for the past 48 years since 1967. The society had its first ever formal meeting at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. This symposium brought together many hitherto isolated researchers from many countries. The future sustainability of the ISTRC was secured by having a membership, raising fees at each symposia, having elected Councillors and a constitution that has given guidance to each elected council over the past 48 years. The ISTRC, therefore, has its origins at the grass roots level and has since that time has continued to support the community. That the symposia have all been highly successful is illustrated by the society continuing to attract an ever-widening group of participants.

In addition to ever popular International triennial symposia held by ISTRC, a number of regional events have occurred over the past 48 years. Of particular note has been the activities of the Africa Branch (AB) of the Society which was formally launched in 1978, and since then regular regional symposia have been held (the 13th will be in 2016). A new branch in the Pacific was formed In 2012, in Lae, PNG. They have since then, raised \$100,000 to train early career scientists. The ISTRC also supports training of early career scientists and has key policy briefs.

The ISTRC is keen to consider collaboration. With respect to this, the ISTRC is collaborating with Dr Claude Fauquet, **Global Cassava Program for the 21st Century** for the forthcoming Congress in Nanning, China, 18-22 January 2016. In this respect, I would like to thank the Chinese hosts of the Congress, Professors Yinong Tian, **Guangxi Subtropical Crops Research Institute** and Dr. Wenquam Wang, **Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences** for agreeing to support this. The ISTRC has also continued to work with the **Indian Society for Root Crops**.

Thank you for supporting the society.

Keith Tomlins

President of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops, Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4TB, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1634 883460 | E-mail:

k.i.tomlins@greenwich.ac.uk

Report on the 16th International Triennial Symposium Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Ogun State, Nigeria, 24th to 28th September 2012

The 16th International Triennial Symposium Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Ogun State, Nigeria. The theme of the symposium was “the roots (and tubers) of development and climate change”. A total of 355 participants attended from 32 countries.



A total of 334 papers were presented at the symposium comprising 190 and 140 oral and poster presentations, respectively. The symposium was officially opened by the Vice Chancellor of FUNAAB, Professor Olusola



Bandeley Oyewole. Professor Andrew Westby President of the ISTRC delivered the welcome remarks.

There were two broad plenary, six breakout and four syndicate poster sessions plus one keynote address. There were a total of seven plenary and 10 special groups' presentations. Three joint plenary sessions were held at the 2000-seater auditorium while six breakout sessions were held simultaneous at the international scholar resource centre. The breakout sessions involved several technical presentations ranging based on original research findings, literature reviews, opinions and activity reports papers.

A number of Nigerian companies occupied stands and displayed equipment including a cyclone flash dryer. Sponsorship was kindly given by the following organisations



21st Century (GCP21). The combined meeting is known as the 1st World Congress on Root and Tuber Crops (WCRTC). The GCP21 has a charter with CIAT, IITA, CIP and the RTB-CGIAR. The Chair of the hosts in China is Prof. Yinong Tian, Guangxi Cassava Research Institute, Nanning. More information about the congress can be found at <http://www.gcp21.org/wcrtc/index.html>.



Communications

As well as this Newsletter, the ISTRC has other forms of communication.



Facebook

- **ISTRC Facebook Group.** The ISTRC Facebook group has nearly 400 people signed up and is free to join. Here you can post news about your work on root and tuber crops, projects, share information and request information.

- **ISTRC LinkedIn Page.** The ISTRC LinkedIn page has similar information to the Facebook group but has a wider circulation, in particular in China.



LinkedIn

ISTRC Training of early career scientists in India, Vietnam and the Pacific

The ISTRC was a partner in a European Union African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Science and Technology Project entitled ‘Science and Technology for Enhancing the Contribution of Tropical Root Crops to Development in ACP countries’ (FED/2009/217073 (ADAPPT)). One of the purposes of this project was to support early career scientists working in the field of root and tuber crops to be better at winning new research from national and international funding bodies.

The ISTRC is continuing this training of early career scientists and organised two half day training events covering the following topics being a) Writing Research

A general meeting was held at the symposium and the members present elected a new Council led by Prof Keith Tomlins as the new President. We would very much like to thank the previous councillors (Professor Andrew Westby, President, Professor Conrad Bonsi, Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Juan Carlos Pérez, Councillor for South America, Professor Malachy Akoroda, Councillor for Africa and Dr Naskar, Councillor for South Asia) for volunteering their time and energy to making the society a continuing success.

Prof Lateef Sanni, Secretary/Treasurer of the ISTRC, after completion of the accounts has reported that the income raised for the symposium was US\$164,104 and the expenses was US\$143,146 (after allowing for adjustments, exchange rate conversions and bank charges). The amount raised for the ISTRC was \$20,958.

The Constitution of the ISTRC is given in appendix 1.

The quality of the papers and posters presented at the Symposium were judged to be of a good standard. The logistical organisation of the 17th symposium both scientifically and socially were judged to be excellent and well organised enabling good interactions between participants from all round the globe.

World Congress on root and tuber crops, Nanning, China, 18-22nd January 2016

For the 17th Symposium of the ISTRC, the society will jointly hold this in collaboration with the 3rd Scientific Conference of the Global Cassava Partnership for the

Proposals, b) Research Methods and c) Intellectual Property Rights. The training is meant as an introduction to these topics. The training material is free to download at <http://projects.nri.org/tropicalroots/materials.html>.

The first training took place in May 2014 at the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. Nearly 50 early career scientists were trained and this was in collaboration with the **Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC)**. We would like to thank the then President, Dr Rama Nathan, for supporting the collaboration.

The second training took place in June 2014 at the Hanoi University of Science and Technology – School of Biotechnology and Food Technology (HUST-SBFT), Hanoi, Vietnam. Nearly 20 early career scientists were trained and we would like to thank Dr To Kim Anh, HUST-SBFT for kindly making this possible.



For more information about the training in the Pacific region, please see the report below from that region.

Report from the South Pacific Region (Professor Satish Chandra, Councillor South Pacific, ISTRC and Associate Professor Mohammed Umar, President, ISTRC – Pacific Branch)



The formation of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops – Pacific Branch (ISTRC–PB) in March 2012 has been a spectacular success. There have been several major

teaching and training workshops, and new research cooperation activities in the Pacific Region.

A European Union Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (EU-ACP) scientific development project funded one-week training course in February/March 2012 on how to write winning research proposals was held at the Department of Agriculture, University of Technology, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Around 57 root and tuber crop workers from various organizations, universities and institutes from Papua New Guinea participated in this training which was considered extremely successful. This training followed a similar one-week EU-ACP funded project training at Nadi, Fiji in September 2011 in which 17 participants from six countries attended including Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

The Institute of Research, Extension and Training in Agriculture (IRETA), University of the South Pacific, Apia, Samoa organised two international training workshops for root and tuber crop workers from Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea in October 2013, and again in November 2014 at Nadi, Fiji. Both training workshops were funded by the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA). The theme of the first training workshop was Policy Development for Root and Tuber Value Chains in the Pacific, and the second was Maximising Value Chains in Root and Tuber Crops in the Pacific Region: Issues, Constraints and Policy Directions. Altogether 48 participants and resource persons participated in these two international training workshops. Both workshops were considered extremely successful.

Following the November 2014 international training workshop in Fiji, two mentoring training programs for root and tuber crops policy-makers, scientists, technicians, and field staff were held at the Sigatoka and the Koronivia Research Stations in Fiji. Altogether 45 individuals participated. These courses were considered extremely useful and timely.

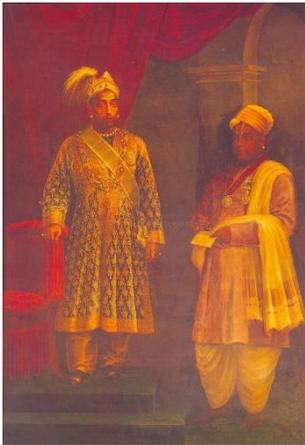
The ISTRC–PB is growing in strength, status and influence as an important organisation promoting the important merits of the root and tuber crops in the Pacific Region. Participants from all the four training courses and workshops listed above, numbering over 120 individuals and organisations, are now members of the ISTRC–PB.

Root and tuber crops play a very important role in the livelihoods of Pacific Islanders - in improving food security, improving nutrition, raising farm and agribusiness incomes, assisting the development of new

enterprises and in helping to reduce the impact of climate change. The society will continue as a forum to address these major and important issues in future training and research activities in the Pacific Region.

Report from South Asia

Dr Rama Nathan, President of the Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC) invited Prof Keith Tomlins, the President of the ISTRC to give the H.H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment lecture on 17 May 2014 at the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. The opportunity for the ISTRC to work with and collaborate with the ISRC was very much valued.



Cassava or Tapioca is an insurance crop in the Indian state of Travancore which safeguarded the people from the ravages of the famines which historically swept through other parts of India. The people of the state owed this good fortune to the great visionary Maharaja H. H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Rama Varma V (1880-85)

who encouraged the cultivation of Cassava on a large scale among the people, during his reign. His Highness's keen interest in Botany and Agriculture helped to popularise Cassava's acceptance as an important food source. A progressive expansion in the area of cultivation of Cassava helped to guarantee the livelihood security of rural people. Cassava has now widened its spectrum of use from a food security crop to an Industrial raw material catering to the needs of Starch, Sago and Wafer industries in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. In the present food security scenario, Tuber Crops especially, Cassava are expected to play a major role in the national perspective.

In acknowledgement of the significant and crucial role of H.H. Sree Visakham Thirunal in popularising the cultivation of Cassava in Kerala; in assessing and recognizing its qualities as a food Crop; in anticipating its compatibility to the agro-eco system and the food habits of the people; in foreseeing its possibilities of the symbol of lifestyle of the community; in making Cassava integral to the very identity of the people of Kerala; the Indian Society for Root Crops decided to pay Homage to H. H. Sree Visakham Thirunal by instituting an Endowment in

his honour to be known as "H.H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment".

The Endowment intends to organize H.H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment lecture annually envisaging the participation of eminent scientists and



technocrats from the field of Agricultural/ Biological Sciences on topics of contemporary significance. Keith Tomlins, President ISTRC gave a lecture entitled "Let them eat root and tuber crops: Is consumer acceptance important?". This was to encourage more debate about the importance of measuring acceptance in root and tuber crops.

Report from the Caribbean (Dr Gregory Robin, Councillor for the Caribbean)

Researchers in the Caribbean were involved in two projects that supported root and tuber crops. **The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)** and the **European Union (EU)** project



"Increased Production of Root & Tuber Crops in the Caribbean through the Introduction of Improved Marketing and Production technologies" ran from 2010 to 2012. The project was executed in Barbados, Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago. Approximately 2,400 stakeholders were trained in good agricultural production and processing practices (GAPs/GMPs), as well as the supply of improved planting material and assistance in marketing and business development in cassava, sweet potato and yam in the project countries has led to greater market supply. In Barbados, a fully-equipped Virus testing Laboratory was constructed for screening of quality planting material both locally and regionally. In Dominica, two Community cassava bread processing facilities operated by 55 resource-poor processors were reconstructed; the processors were then formed into organized Groups and trained in GMPs. Three other small-producer cassava-processing (farine) factories were upgraded to GMP standards and six cassava farine processors supplied with processing equipment. In Haiti, assistance was provided to Community Women's bakers in producing breads and cakes using mixtures of wheat:cassava flour in an effort to substitute for wheat.

In Jamaica, a 300% increase in demand for fresh cassava has been obtained by processors Twickenham Bammy Industries and Central Packers due to assistance in oven equipment, mill installation and, GMPs/HACCP training. In St. Vincent, five farine-processing facilities owned by small village processors were upgraded to GMP standards thereby enabling the processors to produce higher volumes of farine more efficiently. Processing equipment supplied to two Trinidad & Tobago Institutions (Trinidad & Tobago Agribusiness Association and the Tobago House of Assembly Facility) has resulted in the commercialization of several value-added products (chips, fries) of sweet potato and cassava in the fast-food market.

The Caribbean Action of **The Agriculture Policy Programme (APP)** funded by the EU under the 10th EDF facility seeks to contribute to enhance the regional and interregional capabilities of the agricultural sectors in eradicating poverty in The Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM). Roots and Tubers is one of the commodities emphasized under the Programme and the



activities aim to build on other projects such as the CFC/EU Roots and Tubers Project. The Programme is in its first year of implementation and the following is a summary of the achievements of the Roots and Tubers component: In Grenada, 25 bakers from small-medium bakeries and hotels have been trained in producing various cassava composite bread types made

with 40% grated cassava mash (and 60% wheat flour) under a Trademark – Farmers’ Joy. Sixty dasheen producers have been trained in advance production methodologies in Dominica. Three young professionals from the Caribbean have been sent on eight-week attachment to the Land Resource Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community where they will acquire knowledge and skills in evaluating and selecting Root and Tuber crops for tolerance to climate change factors.



The **Taro Project** in the Caribbean is progressing well. In St. Vincent 25 genotypes have been established on 25 farms in three different agro-ecological zones, two Ministry of Agriculture Research Stations and a detailed three block experiment was established at the CARDI

Research Station. The plots were established during February 2014 and had to endure a prolonged dry period February to May/June 2014. Some of the genotypes did not survive and those which did, gives an indication of their ability to withstand prolonged dry periods. Monthly monitoring of the farmers’ fields was conducted and data was collected on yield, flowering and stolon formation.



Map of St. Vincent, showing farms where genotypes are established in the different agro-ecological zones



Taro genotypes on the farm of St. Clair Brown in St. Vincent

Farmer Gledalyn Cotoy is growing the CE/IND/24 Taro genotype commercially; she likes the yield and taste.

Report from East Africa (Sarah Mayanja, Councillor for East and Southern Africa)

The Government of Tanzania has moved a step closer to approving standards for different classes of seed for sweetpotato, cassava and potato, through a quality declared quality planting material certification process. Dr. Hamis Mtwaenzi of Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute reiterated that the certification process will ensure seed producers provide quality planting materials to farmers; hence contributing to improved food security and poverty reduction. A joint approach and dialogue among cassava, potato and sweetpotato stakeholders is important since the three crops have common challenges, and, unlike cereals, they currently do not require compulsory certification.



The Common Fund for Commodity (CFC) supported the efforts to tap unexploited highly profitable market opportunities of cassava in Tanzania, Madagascar and Zambia through a project sought to help the private sector in their endeavor to establish supply chains for high quality cassava flour (HQCF). Processors accessed high capacity processing machines (graters, peelers, milling machines, cabinet dryers, press, etc.) and flash driers were installed in Tanzania at Ukaya farm, PECO limited in Zambia and Malaza trading society in

Madagascar. In addition to strategies to stabilize fresh cassava supply, HQCF and cassava based confectionary products are now readily available in the market

In Rwanda, the Scaling up sweetpotato through Agriculture and Nutrition (SUSTAIN) project was officially launched. SUSTAIN aims to reach 1.2 million households with children under the ages of 5 in four countries. The planned interventions in agriculture, nutrition, utilization and marketing will strengthen OFSP production and consumption, thus addressing Vitamin A Deficiency and bolstering livelihoods in Rwanda, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique.

In Uganda, efforts are underway to pilot post-harvest technologies for potato, sweetpotato and cassava with an aim of expanding utilization of these crops. With support from the EU, applied research will be carried out on improved storage of potato, extending shelf life of

cassava through waxing and storage; and silage making from waste vine and sweetpotato roots. It is hoped that the technologies can then be scaled out to the greater East African region.

In a regional initiative of five countries –Kenya, Tanzania Uganda Malawi and Mozambique, IITA and partners have exchanged the most promising cassava germplasm with dual resistance to viruses. 25 elite clones (five from each country) are being evaluated for virus interactions in multi-location trials. The results will contribute to better understanding of how long it will require a farmer to source new clean planting materials. Under the same initiative, stakeholders are piloting a model of a clean cassava ‘seed’ system that ensures availability of quality planting material in Tanzania. If successful, the system will be scaled out to other countries for adoption.

Appendix 1. Constitution of the ISTRC

<http://www.istrc.org/istrc-constitution>



ISTRC Constitution (revised September 2012) (www.istrc.org)

Article 1. Name, Legal Status and Seat

Section 1.

The Society shall be called the "International Society for Tropical Root Crops (ISTRC)" - hereinafter referred to as the Society.

Section 2.

The Society is established as an autonomous and non-governmental body. It shall have the capacity:

To perform any activity appropriate to the fulfilment of its objectives as laid down by the constitution.

To hold funds or currency of any kind and operate accounts.

To collect subscriptions from its members and to solicit and accept grants and donations in cash or in kind, for the purpose of the Society. Also the Society shall have the capacity to collect proceeds from the sale of its publications.

To conclude agreements and contracts, to acquire, hold and dispose of immovables and movable property and to institute legal proceedings.

Section 3.

The official language of the Society shall be English

Article 2. Objectives

Section 1.

The objectives of the Society shall be to foster, stimulate and support any type of activity leading to the general improvement of tropical root crop production and utilization. To achieve its objectives, the Society shall:

1. Sponsor regional, international meetings, workshops and training courses.
2. Encourage and support the establishment of regional branches and affiliates to the Society.
3. Sponsor study groups on subjects of importance to the goals of the Society.
4. Strengthen cross-linkages between national, regional and international research centres and organisations, including universities, through involvement in jointly-planned research and training programmes.
5. Publish appropriate and informative communications, such as newsletters, summaries of the status of particular crops, lists of research workers and their areas of specialisation, proceedings of meetings and other appropriate publications.

6. Facilitate the exchange of personnel and germplasm materials.

7. Provide financial assistance if possible to members of the Society from developing countries to attend the Society's meetings.

Award members of the Society prizes for outstanding publications or any other achievement for the improvement of tropical root crops.

Article 3. Crops

Section 1.

The Society will be concerned with the following crops: Cassava, Yams, Sweet potatoes, Aroids and other tuberous crops of tropical origin.

Article 4. Membership

Section 1.

Membership shall be open to any person or organisation interested in the objectives of the Society.

Section 2.

There shall be four types of membership:

- Ordinary: Individuals interested in promoting the objectives of the Society.
- Student: University and schools or agriculture students who are interested in promoting the objectives of the Society.
- Sustaining: Institutions and organisations interested in promoting the objectives of the Society.
- Life: Ordinary members who pay a subscription fee for life; which may also be given to individuals selected by the General Meeting of the Society in recognition of their distinguished services to the Society.

Section 3.

Subscription. Dues for the different types of membership will be established during the Symposium by the Council and approved by the General Meeting. Membership shall be suspended automatically, without notice, upon failure of a member to pay Society's dues by or during the triennial Symposium and will only be restored after all outstanding arrears have been settled. Subscription fees shall be paid by members for three years in advance.

Section 4.

Membership privileges. All members who attend the General Meeting of the Society have voting rights and can be elected for the Society's Council. Sustaining members can cast only one vote but are not eligible for election to the Council.

Members are entitled to receive free of charge the Society's Newsletter and all communications other than the proceedings of the Symposium, which will be given free of charge to those who have paid registration fees for the Symposium. A reduction will be given to ISTRC members.

Article 5. Council

Section 1.

There shall be a Council for the Society that will serve from one Symposium to the next. It shall be composed of the following officers:

1. President
2. First Vice-President (Symposium)
3. Second Vice-President (Fund Raising)
4. Secretary/Treasurer
5. Councillor - Publications
6. Councillor - Past President

7. Councillor – Africa (West and Central)
8. Councillor – Africa (East and South)
9. Councillor - South and South East Asia
10. Councillor - East Asia
11. Councillor - South Pacific
12. Councillor - Latin America
13. Councillor - North America and Europe
14. Councillor - Caribbean

Section 2.

Nomination and election of Council officers. The Council shall present to the General Meeting a slate of nominees for the new Council from among members of the Society attending the Symposium.

The slate of nominees shall be for the offices of President, Second Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Councillor for Publications. Other nominations, duly seconded can be submitted in writing or electronically to the Secretary/Treasurer, to be in his/her hand not less than two days before the Symposium. Nominees, proposers and seconders should all be existing members of the Society. The nominated person should attend the Symposium. It will be the responsibility of the Secretary/Treasurer to inform existing members of the requirement for nominations not less than two weeks before the Symposium

The General Meeting shall elect the new Council from among all nominees by a simple majority ballot vote. The Chairman of the Organising Committee of the next Symposium shall be appointed as First Vice-President. Councillors representing regions or regional branches of the Society shall be elected by their respective ISTRC branches or by Society members attending the Symposium from a region.

Names of elected regional councillors should be communicated to the Secretary/Treasurer at least two days before the General Meeting. Such councillors do not have to be in attendance at the Symposium. The right for electing a representative from a region, shall be in effect even if another person from the same region is elected for the Council.

Section 3.

The Council shall be empowered to replace any one of its members who resigns for any reason or if the member proves to be inactive for a year or more for any reason other than those beyond his/her control. Any member of the Council can make a recommendation to replace one of its inactive members in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer and the Council shall decide on such recommendation by a simple majority vote of those responding to a postal/electronic ballot.

Article 6. Duties of the Council

Section 1.

The Council shall:

Manage the affairs of the Society in accordance with this Constitution and policies and directives adopted by the General Meeting.

Make all the decisions by a simple majority vote of those present in Council meetings or those that respond to a postal vote.

Be empowered to replace any of its members as provided in Article 5, Section 3.

Appoint committees or working groups to conduct specific functions of the Society.

Hold its meetings normally at the time of the Symposium. Other Council business may be conducted in an extraordinary meeting of the Council or through a postal ballot.

Make nominations for Council elect.

Section 2.

The President shall:

Preside at all sessions of the General Meeting and Council meetings if present.

Delegate the First Vice-President or the Secretary/Treasurer to take the Chair for any meeting if he/she cannot be present. The Deputy shall have the same constitutional rights as the President during the meeting.

Have a deliberative and casting vote.

Have the right for election for a total of two terms only. However he/she can be elected for other positions on the Council.

Be the official spokesman and signatory of the Society when corresponding with other organisations.

Section 3.

The First Vice-President shall:

Organise the next Symposium of the Society in collaboration with the President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Assist the President in all his/her duties and when requested by the President, deputise for him/her and chair meetings as provided in Article 6, Section 2.

Succeed the President if he/she resigns or if replaced by the Council as provided in Article 5, Section 3. In that event he/she shall have the same rights and duties of the President until the next Symposium as stated in Article 6, Section 2. This period of succession shall not interfere with his/her right for election as President for two additional terms as provided in Article 6, Section 2.

Section 4.

The Second Vice-President (Fund Raising) shall:

Be responsible for fund raising for the Society.

Have the right for election for unlimited number of terms for this position, while maintaining the right to be elected for any other position in the Council.

Section 5.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall:

Be responsible for all financial affairs of the Society which includes receiving membership dues and gifts to the Society, cause books of account to be kept which can be audited by chartered accountants before the General Meeting and submit a financial report on accounts which shall be read at the General Meeting.

Prepare an updated list of members of the Society by the next Symposium.

Keep minutes of all General Meetings and all meetings of the Council and publish the minutes of the previous General Meeting in the Newsletter before the next Symposium.

Prepare and distribute stationery of the Society to Council members as soon as possible after their election.

Deputise for the President if the First Vice-President is absent or cannot deputise for the President.

Convene meetings after consultation with the President.

Section 6.

The Councillor - Publications shall:

Be responsible for all publications of the Society in consultation with the President.

The Councillor shall have the right of election to this position for an unlimited number of terms while maintaining the right to be elected for other positions in the Council.

Section 7.

The Councillor - Past President shall:

Serve as an advisor to all Council members because of his/her past experience with the affairs of the Society.

He/she shall have the right for election for positions in the Council except as stated in Article 6, Section 2.

Section 8.

Regional Councillors shall have the responsibility of liaising closely between the Society and its regional branches. This shall include financial matters, meetings, news and reports to the Newsletter and other matters that will provide cross-linkage between the Society and regional branches. The right of Regional Councillors for re-election will be the decision of regional branches or Society members of that region attending the Symposium. Regional Councillors have the right to be elected for any position in the next Council.

Article 7. Symposium

Section 1.

There shall be a Symposium for the Society every three years approximately at a place and date determined by the General Meeting during the previous Symposium. The agenda of the Symposium shall be prepared by the First Vice-President in consultation with the Secretary/Treasurer and shall consist of the following events:

Council meetings

Presentation of papers and invited lectures

General Meeting of the Society

Section 2.

Council meetings. Meetings will be held by the Council at the beginning of the Symposium during which all business matters shall be discussed for later presentation to the General Meeting.

Section 3.

Papers and invited lectures. During the Symposium, papers and invited lectures will be presented according to a programme prepared by the First Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall communicate, at least a year before the Symposium to Society members through circulars, all matters pertaining to preparation of papers for presentation, hotel accommodations and other useful information to participants.

Section 4.

General Meeting. There shall be a General Meeting of the Society that will be held within the period of the Symposium. The agenda shall be prepared by the President and shall contain the following:

Reports of Council members

Next Symposium

All matters submitted in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer at least two days before the General Meeting

Awards presentations

Election of new Council

Any other business

Closing by the President and new President

Article 8. Quorum

Section 1.

The quorum at all meetings of the Council shall be fifty per cent. For the General Meeting of the Society, fifty per cent of those members who registered for the Symposium shall constitute a quorum. In the event a quorum is not present, the General Meeting shall not be held and the same Council will remain in office.

Article 9. Expenditures

Section 1.

The Society shall apply its incomes to promote the aims set out in Article 2, Section 1.

Section 2.

Payment of reasonable and proper remuneration may be made to any member of the Society in return for certain services actually rendered, or for rent of premises let to the Society or reimbursement of out of pocket expenses; except that no member of the Society shall be appointed to any salaried office of the Society and remain or become a member of the Council. All such services shall be on such terms as may be agreed by the Council. Attendance at meetings will not qualify for remuneration.

Section 3.

Monies and funds of the Society shall be banked with a banker approved by the Council. At the discretion of the Council, investments may be made in Securities.

Article 10. Society Publications

Section 1.

There shall be official publications for the Society which will be determined by the General Meeting. Special publications may be published periodically at the discretion of the Council.

Article 11. Regional Branches and Affiliates

Section 1.

The society shall encourage and actively participate in the creation of branches and affiliates to promote its objectives in specific regions.

Section 2.

The Society may accept applications of affiliation from national societies with interest in tropical root crops.

Section 3.

The name of such regional branches shall be the "International Society for Tropical Root Crops" followed by the name of the regional branch.

Section 4.

All members of regional branches and affiliates are not automatically members of the parent Society unless they pay the parent Society its stipulated dues.

Section 5.

Constitutions of regional branches and affiliates of the Society shall be in line with the objectives of the Society and shall complement the Constitution of the Society.

Section 6.

Regional symposia shall be held by regional branches during any of the two years following the Symposium of the parent Society. Regional branches should be given the task whenever possible of hosting the parent Society's triennial Symposium in combination with their own symposia.

Section 7.

Whenever financially possible the Society will provide funds to help regional branches in amounts decided by the Secretary/Treasurer in consultation with the President and Regional Councillor.

Article 12. Amendments to the Constitution

Section 1.

Amendments to the Constitution shall be considered only by the General Meeting at its triennial Symposium. Proposals for amendments shall be sent in writing, duly seconded by two members of the Society, to the Secretary/Treasurer at least two days in advance of the General Meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer shall communicate such proposals to members attending the Symposium in advance of the General Meeting.

Section 2.

Amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted by a simple majority vote of members attending the General Meeting.

Article 13. Dissolution

Section 1.

The Society can only be dissolved by a resolution approved at a General Meeting by a vote of two-thirds of members present.

Section 2.

Should a motion for dissolution be approved, the Secretary/Treasurer shall pay all debts and liabilities of the Society, including the auditors' honorarium, within three months and shall, within one further month, initiate the appropriate action required for the discreet implementation of the instructions of the General Meeting with respect to the utilisation of the balance of assets. The auditors shall inspect the accounts and certify in writing to all members that they are correct, duly vouched and in accordance with the Constitution of the Society, or report in what respect they are found to be incorrect, or not in accordance with such Constitution. The dissolution of the Society shall not take effect until the auditors have certified that the accounts are correct in all respects and that no debts or assets remain.