

**CHARTER**

of

**«KRASS»**

**Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service**

**Urgench, 2008**

## **1. General Provisions**

- 1.1 KRASS, hereafter named the “Foundation” is a self-governing, independent, non-governmental non-for-profit and non-political organization, based on voluntary membership of scientists, researchers, practitioners and other specialists sharing common ideas and interests.
- 1.2 The Foundation acts according to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, its acting laws, International Conventions ratified by the Republic of Uzbekistan, other legislative acts such as presidential and parliament decrees, as well as the present Charter and can enjoy the rights and privileges of an NGO and other public organizations, as foreseen by the legislation of Uzbekistan.
- 1.3 The Foundation obtains the status of a legal entity starting from the day of registration with the Ministry of Justice and has an independent balance, settlement and other accounts with the banks of Uzbekistan, a proper round seal, stamp and logo.
- 1.4 The Foundation has the right to own property and non-property for which it is responsible. In order to carry out their duties and rights it can be a complainant or a responsible entity in court.
- 1.5 The Foundation can become a member of national and international organizations and can have direct contacts and make its own agreements and contracts with other persons and structures as long as this is in compliance with the acting legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
- 1.6 The state of Uzbekistan does not undertake obligations of the Foundation. Neither is the Foundation responsible for any obligations of the Government of Uzbekistan.
- 1.7 Members of the Foundation retain their independence, are physical or legal entities and cooperate with the Foundation according to the contractual options specified in the present Charter.
- 1.8 The Foundation is not responsible for any individual and private obligations of its members neither are the members responsible for any obligations of the Foundation.
- 1.9 The full name of the Foundation is: “Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service”
- 1.10 The Foundation is located in the Khorezm region of Uzbekistan, but can perform operations on the entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 1.11 The legal address of the Foundation is:
  - 14, Hamid Olimjan street
  - 220100 Urgench, Uzbekistan
  - Tel: +998 62 224 34 13, +998 62 226 21 19
  - Fax: +998 62 224 33 47

## **2. Goal, objectives and Activities of the Foundation**

2.1 The overall goal of the Foundation is: “To contribute to improvement of rural livelihoods, poverty alleviation and increasing long-term food security and environmental sustainability in rural Uzbekistan through agricultural support services”.

2.2 In general the Foundation envisages to fulfill the following objectives:

to promote agrarian policy for improving farming sustainability and mitigating environmental problems (the Foundation will cooperate thus with governmental institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources and State Nature Protection Agency of Uzbekistan, local and international NGOs to support agricultural reforms and development);

to contribute to research and development activities for environmental protection and sustainable development and promote the rational use of land and water resources as well as of alternative and renewable energy sources the future generation of Uzbekistan;

to promote the development of science and technologies and contribute to the development and management of such information and render thus agricultural support services in order to increase the agricultural knowledge and skills of the farming population and the youth of rural Uzbekistan;

to disseminate updated and improved agricultural and irrigation methods and techniques for crop and livestock production to the farming community;

to promote small scale private (agro) business undertakings;

2.3 To reach its vision, the Foundation will conduct the following activities:

- to help the agricultural population in analyzing their problems and finding appropriate solutions, (Agro research and consulting);
- to elaborate farm development and farm business plans together with farmers;
- to train upcoming agricultural extensionists/agricultural advisors in methodologies and organization of agricultural extension, training and education of the farming population;
- to support the establishment of community based agricultural service centers and water users associations in rural areas;
- to conduct seminars, workshops, training courses, exhibitions, conferences and charitable meetings on farm technical, marketing, economical and ecological topics; as well as to provide logistic support in conducting and preparing the seminars and other events;
- to prepare and publish extension aid materials such as handouts, bulletins, booklets, folders, and prospects for the farming population (market/price dynamics reports, etc.);
- to build up and maintain a library and data base on technical, economical and legal aspects concerning the ecology, agriculture and irrigation water and make these accessible to the rural population;
- to carry out environmental assessments and render technical assistance and logistic support to research and development activities;

- to render consultation and technical assistance (preparation of documents) on educational programs abroad for the adult and young rural population;
- to cooperate with development projects working in the region;
- to serve as intermediates in setting up business relationships between farming population and processors, marketing agents, etc.;
- to conduct all other kind of activities according to the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

### **3. Rights and Responsibilities of the Foundation**

3.1 In order to pursuit its goal and objectives as stipulated in section 2, the Foundation has all rights and responsibilities granted to legal entities by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

3.2 The Foundation has the following rights:

- to freely distribute information about its aims, objectives and activities;
- to create social groups by voluntary means;
- to establish international contacts and collaborations as permitted by the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- to collect, process, and analyze agricultural information (science, common) and disseminate these to the farming population;
- to conclude and implement agreements and contracts as a legal act and order;
- to use financial resources and properties for conducting its duties and activities within the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

3.3 Services provided by the Foundation can be free of charge or are charged for according to the legislation of Uzbekistan on NGOs and social groups, the Foundation takes responsibility for its administration, its property, discipline and its criminal acts against the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

3.4 The Foundation is also obliged to:

- take responsibility before its members for the function assigned to them
- provide a rational use of the mutual financial reserve/funds of the Foundation for support and development of its activities
- defend the rights and interests of the Foundation members in the local state authorities/courts
- prepare documents for the registration authorities, tax and statistics committees of Uzbekistan

### **4. Membership at the Foundation: rights and duties of the members**

4.1 Members of the Foundation can be all inhabitants of the Republic of Uzbekistan who accept the charter of the Foundation. Collective membership is possible.

4.2 Acceptance of the membership is the responsibility of the governing board.

4.3 To become a member, the applicant needs to submit his/her written application to the governing board. The board decides on the request of the applicant. The new member of the Foundation receives an identification card issued by the director of the Foundation. The identification card will be paid for by the member.

4.4 A membership fee is charged on a monthly basis. Its amount will be determined by the annual conference.

4.5 The members of the Foundation have the following rights:

- to elect the members of all bodies and to be elected him/her self;
- to take part in the conference and in the decision-making during the conference (see 5.5);
- to participate in the activities conducted by the Foundation;
- to obtain information about the activities of all elected organs, its structures and its management;
- to participate in discussions related to the rights and duties of the Foundation, and on the position hold within the Foundation;
- to write any complaint to the appropriate structures of the Foundation about the decisions taken over a member;
- to voluntarily withdraw his/her membership;
- all members have equal rights.

4.6 Duties of the members

The duties of the members are:

- to implement the present charter;
- to follow instructions from the managing bodies;
- to assist all organs and its structures in conducting their activities;
- to prevent and avoid any moral and financial damage to the Foundation;
- to behave according to his/her professional codes and human ethics;
- to pay membership fees in time.

4.7 A member can hold one position only during at a given time.

4.8 A member of the Foundation carries the responsibilities of the body in which s/he is elected. A member can represent the bodies in which s/he is selected and speak in the name of the Foundation after approval by the bodies of the Foundation.

4.9 The membership is excluded in the following cases:

- by his/her own will and wish;

- by a written order issued by the governing board;
- in case of death;

4.10 The governing board can exclude a membership in following cases:

- when acting against the charter of the Foundation;
- damaging the reputation of the Foundation;
- recurrently refusing to conduct assignments instructed by the governing board;
- to neglect participating in activities of the Foundation;
- when not paying membership fees without explanations during three months.

## **5. Organization and Structure of the Foundation**

The Foundation has the following bodies: the general assemble or conference comprising all members, the governing board comprising at least three persons, the director and deputy-director of the Foundation, and the financial manager. Other bodies can be created on demand and are sub-ordinate to the aforementioned bodies.

5.1 The superior organ of the Foundation is the Conference.

5.2 The conference holds a meeting once in each year. The first act will be the election of the chairman of the conference by the participants of the conference. This decision is taken at single majority. If this is not possible, the chairman of the board will chair the conference. The chairman of the conference signs the protocol and decisions taken at the conference. The conference is valid when at least 51% of all registered members are present. An extra-ordinary conference will be conducted upon a written request of at least 1/3 (one third) of all registered members. The written request has to be submitted to the governing board who will then organize an extra-ordinary conference.

5.3 During the conference each member represents one vote only.

5.4 Decisions are accepted at 51% majority of the members. Modifications in the charter are decisive at 2/3 (two/third) majority of the members of the Foundation.

5.5 The conference has the following rights:

- to overrule any decision taken by the governing board;
- to confirm and change the charter;
- to take decisions to reorganize the Foundation, including its cessation;
- to identify the main directions of the Foundation's activities, to submit them for execution;
- to elect the director and deputy director, members of the governing board, the chairman and its deputy, the financial manager, and the editor of the internal press for a period of one year. The elections can be open or closed;
- to discuss and approve all financial statements of the Foundation;
- to confirm all regulations of all executive organs of the Foundation;

- to execute all other tasks specified in the charter of the Foundation;

5.6 The conference is organized by the governing board. The members of the Foundation must be invited to, and informed about the date, time, location, and agenda of the conference at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

5.7 The governing board

- consists of at least three persons elected by the conference;
- elects its chairman, deputies and secretaries among its members;
- meets at least once in a three months;
- can make decisions in attendance of 2/3 (two/third) of its members;
- solves current tasks;
- continuously monitors the activities of the Foundation and their progress;
- formulates the Foundations' policy;
- decides on the acceptance of candidate members.

5.8 The Director of the Foundation

- represents the Foundation, concludes agreements and contracts, and gives letter of attorney;
- leads and manages the Foundation and its staff;
- is responsible for administration and financial accounting;
- employs and dismiss employees of the Foundation;
- reports at the conference.

5.9 Deputy director of the Foundation

- executes all orders and tasks given by the director of the Foundation;
- replaces the director in his/her absence due to illness, holiday or mission.

5.10 Financial manager

- controls the financial activities of the Foundation;
- reports on book keeping and statistics according to the Foundation rules and reports at the conference.

5.11 The organs that elect a member into a certain position can also dismiss that member from that position.

## **6 Finance and Property of the Foundation**

6.1 The Foundation is oriented towards the provision of services and does not aim to make profits.

6.2 Financial resources of the Foundation are the following:

- membership fees;
- donations from different physical/private and legal donors;
- charities and voluntary given money and property;
- grants and property given by different organizations;
- salaries, reimbursements, and fees for the services provided by the Foundation;
- profits from meetings and publications;
- all other resources resulting from activities permitted by the law of Uzbekistan

6.3 Financial resources of the Foundation must be spent to fulfill the duties of the charter and the Foundation.

6.4 Financial resources obtained for implementing a specific purpose can be spent only to implement these objectives.

6.5 The list of property of the Foundation includes: buildings, their inventory, technical equipment and machines, money and valuable papers and necessary properties needed to conduct the activities as specified in the charter.

6.6 The Foundation has the right to rent and purchase property and inventory and to lease and rent these.

6.7 The Foundation can establish enterprises by following the legislation of Uzbekistan.

## **7. The order of modification and making additions to the Charter**

7.1 The modifications, amendments, additions to the charter can be made only by the decree of the conference. The modified charter must be registered again.

## **8. Cessation of the Foundation**

8.1 The activities of the Foundation can be ceased in the following cases:

- by the decision of the conference;
- by a decision of the court;
- any other possibility according to the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

8.2 “A cessation committee” has to be established prior to the cessation of the Foundation. The committee will become the main managing and ruling organ of the Foundation from the moment of its establishment. The committee is responsible for preparing “the cessation balance”.

8.3 The financial benefits from the sale of property of the Foundation will be included into the budget to pay on-going activities, to fulfill all open financial obligations and pay debts. Remaining funds will be donated to humanitarian, non-commercial, and non-profit organizations.

8.4. The activities of the Foundation cease after it has been registered out from Governmental registration.