



## **International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement CHARTER**

Following the meeting of the G20 Agriculture Ministers in Paris the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2011, an action plan on food price volatility and agriculture was adopted by the G20 member states. Within this framework, it was decided to launch an International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement with the following main objectives:

- Cooperate in world-wide bread and durum wheat improvement research efforts in the field of genomics, genetics and agronomy, to increase food security, wheat nutritional value and safety while taking into account societal demands for sustainable and resilient agricultural production systems;
- Provide a forum to identify synergies and encourage collaborations among major nationally, regionally and internationally (public and private) funded wheat programs with the result of maximising opportunities for gaining added-value internationally;
- Facilitate open communication and exchange of germplasm, data and materials in accordance with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and facilitate exchange of ideas within the wheat research community;
- Support the development of publicly available integrated databases and platforms;
- Recommend minimum data-reporting standards and develop protocols to allow consistency for screening and analyses;
- Organize knowledge transfer and capacity building;
- Monitor and summarize progress of scientific activities;
- Establish and periodically update priorities for wheat research of global relevance;
- Communicate to national and international funding agencies as well as to agricultural ministries the needs of the wheat research community of participating nations.

The International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement, shortened as the “Wheat Initiative”, was launched on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 in Paris, with a meeting bringing together more than 120 scientists and representatives from 73 public and private organisations from 24 different countries.

The Members have reached the following understanding that defines the purpose, scope and organization of the Wheat Initiative to ensure successful and fruitful efforts to meet the challenges of food security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## 1 Definitions

<b>Charter</b>	Means the present Charter
<b>Committee</b>	Means any committee of the Wheat Initiative, i.e. the Institutions' Coordination Committee, the Research Committee, the Scientific Board and the Expert Working Groups.
<b>Institution</b>	Means a Member being either the official representative of its country, such as a ministry, a funding agency or a public research institute; or being an international research centre, such as a centre of the CGIAR Consortium. Each participating country will be represented in the Wheat Initiative by only one Institution.
<b>Knowledge</b>	Means all the information, reports, scientific papers and other outputs, whether or not they can be protected, arising from the work performed in the Wheat Initiative, as well as copyrights or rights pertaining to such information.
<b>Managing Institution</b>	Means the Institution to which the International Scientific Coordinator is attached and which manages under her/his control the budget of the Wheat Initiative.
<b>Member</b>	Means a signatory of the Charter.
<b>Private Member</b>	Means a Member not being an Institution but a member of the industry or of the civil society such as a seed company and its affiliates, a growers or farmers association, etc. interested in participating to the Wheat Initiative.
<b>Subcontractor</b>	Means a contractor being a third party who is engaged on a pure work order basis for the sole purpose of performing some of any Member's tasks or part thereof, on such Member's behalf for monetary consideration pursuant to a subcontracting agreement.

## 2 Principles of Governance of the Wheat Initiative

The Wheat Initiative is governed by the following principles:

- Synergy through collaboration;
- Transparency;
- Sharing;
- Inclusivity;
- Engagement.

## 3 Purpose of the Charter

The purpose of the Charter is to set forth the basic principles concerning:

- Benefits and responsibilities of the Members over the Wheat Initiative
- Organisation of the management of the Wheat Initiative
- Use and control of the Wheat Initiative's budget
- Transformation of the Wheat Initiative recommendations into operational actions

## 4 Scope and financial resources of the Wheat Initiative

### 4.1 Scope of the Wheat Initiative

The purpose of the Wheat Initiative is to coordinate wheat research programmes at the international level in order to avoid duplication of research efforts, increase economic efficiencies and add value to the existing national or international public and private initiatives. Linkages between developed and developing countries' wheat research, such as those with the CGIAR Consortium WHEAT programme, will be encouraged to optimise sustainable global benefits. This will ensure that wheat research and improvement programmes are conducted in a complementary and mutually reinforcing fashion to increase food security, nutritional value and safety in a rapidly changing environment, while taking into account societal demands for sustainable and resilient agricultural production systems.

### 4.2 Financial resources

Each Member, starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, will contribute annually to the budget of the Wheat Initiative in the form of a membership fee.

At the beginning of each year, the Secretariat will send an invoice in the name of the Managing Institution to each Member to collect their subscription.

The amount of annual contributions will be as follows:

- For Institutions:
  - Based in G20 members States and/or OECD member States: 10,000€
  - International Agricultural Research Centres: 5,000 €
  - Others (non-G20 and non-OECD member States and non-International Agricultural Research Centres): 2,000 €
- For Private Members:
  - With an annual turnover (including all the companies of the group) larger than 500 million €: 20,000 €
  - Between 50 up to 500 million €: 10,000 €
  - Under 50 million €: 5,000 €

Subject to the approval of the Institutions' Coordination Committee, the annual contribution of an Institution may be waived in the case of in-kind contributions, with the exception of the Secretariat salaries, providing the cost of such in-kind contributions amounts to at least the annual membership fee.

Any Member may, at its own discretion and subject to its relevant domestic laws and regulations, voluntarily contribute extra funds, personnel and/or other resources to support the Wheat Initiative activities.

The financial resources of the Wheat Initiative will be managed by the Managing Institution, under the direct control and direction of the International Scientific Coordinator who will account for the use of funds to the Institutions' Coordination Committee. In case of a change of Managing Institution, the remaining budget of the Wheat Initiative will be transferred to the new Managing Institution within two months.

In order to ensure sufficient funding of the Wheat Initiative during the launch phase, Institut national de la recherche agronomique, (INRA, France), Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, (BBSRC, UK) and Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maize y Trigo, (CIMMYT/WHEAT, Mexico) will provide additional in-kind and financial contributions for the work of the Wheat Initiative during the first

three years until 31 December 2014. This support is in respect of the salary and associated indirect costs of the International Scientific Coordinator and other direct support staff from INRA, BBSRC and/or CIMMYT. These costs will not be deducted from the contributions defined above.

The total amount of these extra contributions will be defined freely between these Members in order to ensure a smooth establishment of the Wheat Initiative.

## **5 Institutions' Coordination Committee**

### **5.1 Role and responsibilities**

The Institutions' Coordination Committee is the forum in which the Wheat Initiative's participating countries and key international organisations follow the Wheat Initiative's operations and discuss and decide how to take further the recommendations and proposals made by the Research Committee and the Expert Working Groups, which advise it.

Its role is to:

- Review and approve annual or multi-annual Wheat Initiative Secretariat, Scientific Board and Expert Working Group work plans (objectives & activities).
- Review and endorse Research Committee and Expert Working Groups recommendations and promote their implementation at national, regional or international level.
- Exchange information on national and transnational funding programmes.
- Coordinate public research funding of the Members' countries to add value to national or regional investments.
- Approve the annual budget of the Wheat Initiative and its execution.
- Propose to the Scientific Board the formation and timely conclusion of Expert Working Groups in the Institutions' Coordination Committee's area of competence.
- Approves new Members and decides on the exclusion of Members upon proposal of the Scientific Board

### **5.2 Composition**

The Institutions' Coordination Committee brings together representatives of ministries, research funding agencies or research organisations of participating countries and representatives of the International Agricultural Research Centres. It is composed of one representative from each member country and one per CGIAR Consortium participating centre.

The Institutions are free to change their representative in the Institutions' Coordination Committee, provided prior notification is given to the International Scientific Coordinator. Nonetheless, in order to ensure the successful fulfilment of the missions of the Wheat Initiative, the Institutions will aim as much as possible for continuity in their representation. However, in case of temporary unavailability, a member of the Institution's Coordination Committee may send an alternative with a proxy.

The members of the Institutions' Coordination Committee may invite an internal or external expert as a guest to assist them in their representation to the Wheat Initiative, such as a representative of their national funding agency/ public research organisation.

Representatives of the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and of the European Union will be invited as observers on an agenda basis, as well as charitable and other transnational funding organisations.

The Research Committee Chairperson, the Scientific Board and the Secretariat will be invited to the Institutions' Coordination Committee.

### 5.3 Chairperson and Co-Chairperson

The members of the Institutions' Coordination Committee will elect a Chairperson and a Co-Chairperson from amongst their number, no later than the day of their second meeting. They will serve for three years, renewable once.

The Chairperson will chair the meetings and will also represent the Institutions' Coordination Committee in the other Committees of the Wheat Initiative.

The Co-Chairperson will stand in when the Chairperson is unavailable.

### 5.4 Frequency of Meetings

The Institutions' Coordination Committee will meet:

- At least once a year, in principle at the request of the Chairperson, or at any other time when necessary, at the request of at least one third of its members or at the request of the Scientific Board, at times and places to be determined by the Institutions' Coordination Committee. Meetings will be convened by the Chairperson with a prior notice of at least one month and with an agenda and any documentation required for dealing with items on the agenda;
- The annual meeting will take place physically, but extraordinary meetings may take place via teleconference;
- The Institutions' Coordination Committee may issue decisions and/or advice on urgent matters after written consultations of its members, including electronic means of communication (such as exchange of emails or use of a web collaborative platform). The responses to the written consultations will be done within one month and the rules of 5.5 will also apply *mutatis mutandis* (i.e. the total number of responses within this delay will form the quorum). For very urgent matters, the delay for response may be reduced to two weeks. These decisions or advice will be annexed in the minutes of the next meeting.

### 5.5 Quorum and Decision-Making

The Institutions' Coordination Committee takes its decisions consensually. However, for specific topics and in the case where the fate of a proposal is discussed and the decision is not unanimous, the Chairperson may ask for a vote, where the decision will be adopted by a simple majority, except in the cases below:

- Two thirds majority:
  - Participation of new Members (either public or private) to the Wheat Initiative upon proposal of the Scientific Board.
  - Exclusion of Members (either public or private) to the Wheat Initiative upon proposal of the Scientific Board
  - Modification or termination of the Charter provisions.

The Institutions' Coordination Committee shall be deemed to be rightly met if two thirds of its members are present or represented. A member of the Institutions' Coordination Committee may give a proxy to another member; however one cannot accept more than three proxies at a time.

## **6 Research Committee**

### **6.1 Role and responsibilities**

The Research Committee is responsible for the development of the vision and strategy of the Wheat Initiative and for the monitoring of implementation.

The Research Committee:

- Contributes to and approves strategic documents such as vision papers and research agendas and their updates;
- Suggests coordination and collaboration in specific areas of research to the Scientific Board;
- Proposes to the Scientific Board the formation and timely conclusion of Expert Working Groups in the Research Committee's area of competence;
- Reviews the outputs from the Expert Working Groups;
- Provides updates on national research efforts relevant to the Wheat Initiative;
- Discusses the annual budget of the Wheat Initiative and provides advice on priorities to the Institutions' Coordination Committee;
- Suggests new areas of activities for the Wheat Initiative.

### **6.2 Composition**

The Research Committee is composed of two representatives from each Member of the Wheat Initiative.

The Members are free to appoint their representatives, being or not members of their personnel. However, due to the specific tasks of this Committee, the appointment of leading scientists is highly recommended. The representatives are expected to represent the collective view of the wheat public research community of their country or of the Private Member they represent. The members of the Research Committee will be appointed for a renewable three years period. In case of temporary unavailability, a member of the Research Committee may send another person from their country/Institution or Private Member with a proxy.

The Institutions' Coordination Committee Chairperson, the Scientific Board and the Secretariat will be regular guests of the Research Committee.

### **6.3 Chairperson and Co-Chairperson**

The members of the Research Committee will elect one of them as Chairperson and another one as Co-Chairperson of the Research Committee no later than the day of their second meeting. (S)he will be nominated for three years renewable once.

The Chairperson will chair the meetings and will also represent the Research Committee in the other Committees of the Wheat Initiative.

The Co-Chairperson will stand in when the Chairperson is unavailable.



## 6.4 Frequency of Meetings

The Research Committee will meet:

- At least once a year, in principle at the request of its Chairperson, or at any other time when necessary at the request of the majority of its members or at the request of the Scientific Board. Meetings will be convened by the Chairperson with a prior notice of at least one month and with an agenda and any documentation required for dealing with items on the agenda;
- The annual meeting will take place physically, at times and places to be determined by the Research Committee, but extraordinary meetings may take place via teleconference;
- The Research Committee may issue decisions and/or advice on urgent matters after written consultation of its members, including electronic means of communication (such as exchange of emails or use of a web collaborative platform). Responses to written consultations will be done within one month and the rules of 6.5 will also apply *mutatis mutandis* (i.e. the total number of responses within this delay will form the quorum). For very urgent matters, the delay for response may be reduced to two weeks. These decisions or advice will be annexed in the minutes of the next meeting.

## 6.5 Quorum and Decision-Making

The Research Committee takes its decisions consensually. However, for specific topics and in the case where the fate of a proposal is discussed and does not make unanimity, the Chairperson may ask for a vote, where the decision will be adopted at the simple majority.

The Research Committee will be deemed to be rightly met if two thirds of its vote-holders are present or represented. A member of the Research Committee may give a proxy to another member; however one individual cannot accept more than three proxies at a time.

# 7 Scientific Board

## 7.1 Role and responsibilities

The Scientific Board:

- Provides strategic leadership of the Initiative as a whole and develops vision, strategy and priority setting;
- Approves final documents before dissemination;
- Identifies new partners for the Wheat Initiative and proposes their joining to the Institutions' Coordination Committee;
- Reports to the Institutions' Coordination Committee with respect to workplans and budgets;
- Translates the discussions and recommendations of the Research Committee into decisions and actions;
- Upon decision of the Institutions' Coordination Committee or of the Research Committee to create Experts Working Groups in their area of competence, or after identification of complementary needs, it invites experts in the field to write a proposal to create these Expert Working Groups;
- Ensures that a biannual International Wheat Research Congress is held; and,

- Appoints the International Scientific Coordinator, after endorsement of a candidate by the Institutions' Coordination Committee.

## 7.2 Composition

The Scientific Board is composed of nine members:

- Eight elected by the Research Committee either from the Research Committee's members or from the wheat international research community, with at least one representative from the Private Members, covering as much as possible the thematic and geographic areas of the Wheat Initiative; and
- The International Scientific Coordinator.

At the start of the Wheat Initiative, an interim Scientific Board will be constituted of:

- S. Baenziger (University of Nebraska, USA),
- H. Braun (Centro internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo, (CIMMYT), Mexico),
- C. Feuillet (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, (INRA), France),
- V. Korzun (KWS LOCHOW GMBH),
- P. Langridge (Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, (ACPF), Australia),
- G. Moore (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, (BBSRC), United Kingdom),
- C. Pozniak (University of Saskatoon, Canada),
- R.K. Sharma (Directorate of Wheat Research, (DWR), India).

The 8 Scientific Board members will be elected at the first or second meeting of the Research Committee. Their mandate will start at the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the following year.

The Secretariat will be regular guests of the Scientific Board. The Chairpersons of the Institutions' Coordination Committee and of the Research Committee will be invited as observers.

## 7.3 Election and Renewal of Scientific Board Members

The members of the Scientific Board will be appointed for a one-time renewable three-year period starting 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the year following their election. A member of the Scientific Board cannot be renewed for a third time, although they will be allowed to stand again three years later.

In order to maintain the Scientific Board continuity after its election by the Research Committee, its eight members will be renewed in part every year, as follows:

- First year: election or renewal of two members of the Scientific Board – chosen either by themselves or chosen randomly by the International Scientific Coordinator
- Second year: election or renewal of three members from the remaining and not yet renewed persons – chosen either by themselves or chosen randomly by the International Scientific Coordinator
- Third year: election or renewal of three members from the remaining and not yet renewed persons
- From the fourth year, the election/renewal will follow the same rules on a three-year period: two members the first year and then three members each of the following two years.



If during its mandate a Scientific Board member resigns, (s)he will be replaced by a person elected by the Research Committee for the remaining mandate's term.

#### **7.4 Chairperson and Co-chairperson**

The members of the Scientific Board will elect one of them as Chairperson and another one as Co-Chairperson of the Scientific Board no later than the day of their first meeting. (S)he will be nominated for three years renewable once. The International Scientific Coordinator cannot be elected as Chairperson or Co-Chairperson.

The Chairperson will chair the meetings and will also represent the Research Committee in the other Committees of the Wheat Initiative.

The Co-Chairperson will stand in when the Chairperson is unavailable.

#### **7.5 Frequency of Meetings**

The Scientific Board will meet at least twice a year, in principle at the request of the Chairperson, or at any other time when necessary at the request of the majority of its members. Meetings will be convened by the Chairperson with a prior notice of at least one month and with an agenda and any documentation required for dealing with items on the agenda.

Scientific Board meetings will take place physically, at times and places to be determined by the International Scientific Coordinator, or via teleconference.

The Scientific Board may issue decisions and/or advice on urgent matters after written consultation of its members, including electronic means of communication (such as exchange of emails or use of a web collaborative platform). The responses to the written consultations will be done within one month and the rules of 7.6 will also apply *mutatis mutandis* (i.e. the total number of responses within this delay will form the quorum). For very urgent matters, the delay for response may be reduced to two weeks. These decisions or advices will be annexed in the minutes of the next meeting.

#### **7.6 Quorum and Decision-Making**

Quorum for meetings will be deemed to be met if two-thirds of the Scientific Board members are present or represented by proxy. A member of the Scientific Board may give a proxy to another member; however one Scientific Board member cannot accept more than one proxy at a time.

The Scientific Board takes its decisions consensually. However, in the case where the fate of a proposal is discussed and the Board does not reach a unanimous decision, the Chairperson may ask for a vote where the decision will be adopted at the simple majority of the present or represented.

## **8 Expert Working Groups**

### **8.1 Role**

Expert Working Groups are Committees that are created by the Institutions' Coordination Committee for matters of governance or funding, or by the Research Committee or the Scientific Board for technical and research matters.

Expert Working Groups deliver state of the art, gap analysis and recommendations addressing the specific research or organisational areas for which they were created.

Expert Working Groups last for the duration of the tasks for which they were created. They are ended by of the Committee that decided the need for their creation.

## **8.2 Composition**

Expert Working Groups are constituted with persons fit for the tasks to be performed within them, and elect their Chairperson and co-Chairperson.

## **8.3 Meetings**

Each Expert Working Group will meet as required, in principle at the request of its Chairperson, or at any other time when necessary at the request of the majority of its members or at the request of the Committee by which it was created. Meetings will be convened by the Chairperson with a prior notice of at least one month and with an agenda and any documentation required for dealing with items on the agenda.

Meetings may take place physically, at times and places to be determined by the Chairperson, or via teleconference.

## **8.4 Activities Report and Work Management**

Each Expert Working Group will report its activities to the Scientific Board in a standard format at least once a year for dissemination to the Research Committee and the Institutions' Coordination Committee.

There is neither quorum nor voting rules for Expert Working Groups. Dissenting opinions must be properly addressed and reported.

The daily work of the Expert Working Groups could be managed through a collaborative internet platform provided by the Secretariat to facilitate the exchange of ideas and the drafting and revision of position papers.

# **9 International Scientific Coordinator**

## **9.1 Role and responsibilities**

The International Scientific Coordinator is in charge of the day-to-day management of the Wheat Initiative, which includes:

- Participating to the development of the Wheat Initiative vision and strategy, including:
  - Production of drafts, management of consultations
  - Preparation of policy papers
- Invitation of new Members
- Representing the Wheat Initiative before third parties, in all kind of forums
- Implementation of actions agreed by the governance bodies
- Development of a communications strategy
- Managing and coordinating the Secretariat functions.

## **9.2 Appointment of the International Scientific Coordinator**

The International Scientific Coordinator is appointed by the Scientific Board, after endorsement by the Institutions' Coordination Committee. Any Institution can propose a candidate. (S)he is appointed for a renewable 4 year period.

When the appointment/renewing of the International Scientific Coordinator's mandate is to be on the agenda of the next Scientific Board meeting, information will be provided

to the Institutions' Coordination Committee, whose members have to indicate to the Scientific Board at least three months before that meeting if they want to present a candidate for this position. One month before that meeting the candidates will have to send to the Scientific Board their cover letter and resume for that position, which will be circulated together with the agenda of the next meeting by the Interim Scientific Coordinator. The Scientific Board will select the best applicant and will propose it to the Institutions' Coordination Committee for endorsement.

The members of the Institutions' Coordination Committee will be free to propose as International Scientific Coordinator a person being of their personnel, or another recognised expert of their country.

The Wheat Initiative budget will be managed by the International Scientific Coordinator's supporting Institution which will therefore be the Managing Institution. Therefore the Managing Institution will be receiving and managing the Wheat Initiative's budget on behalf of all the Members and under the direction of the International Scientific Coordinator.

If the International Scientific Coordinator resigns, the Chair of the Scientific Board and the Managing Institution will discuss arrangements to ensure the continuity of the Wheat Initiative activities. The Scientific Board will thereafter, at its choice, either name another person proposed by the Managing Institution as International Scientific Coordinator for the remaining term, or launch the usual procedure of appointment as above-described.

In all cases, the renewal or appointment of an International Scientific Coordinator must be done at least three months before the term of the actual International Scientific Coordinator's mandate or three months after its resignation.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, until the end of 2015, the Members have decided that the International Scientific Coordinator will be H el ene Lucas and the Managing Institution will be the French Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique.

## **10 Secretariat**

The Secretariat is a team composed of the required personnel to assist the International Scientific Coordinator to properly perform its tasks and is expected to be composed of at least one or two persons. The Secretariat is managed by the International Scientific Coordinator who is therefore responsible of the good performance of its tasks.

The Secretariat is composed of personnel appointed or outsourced by the International Scientific Coordinator and of permanent or non-permanent personnel of the Members provided as in-kind contribution. The costs of the Secretariat will be paid on the Wheat Initiative's budget only for those incurred by the Managing Institution (including the costs of Subcontractor(s) involved in the Secretariat activities).

The focus of the Secretariat is administrative. Its role includes in particular to:

- Organise meetings, provide secretariat services and related support for the different Committees
- Prepare and execute the budget after approval by the Institutions' Coordination Committee
- Implement the communications' strategy, including:

- The establishment, population and management of the Wheat Initiative website
- Producing a newsletter to inform and update the Members and the research community
- Ensure the administrative continuity of the Wheat Initiative

## **11 Organisation of Committees' meetings and minutes**

### **11.1 Organization of meetings and related expenses**

The meetings of the Committees may be materially organised, following a Committee's Chairperson request, by the Secretariat, after prior arrangement with the International Scientific Coordinator.

The International Scientific Coordinator will, in the framework of the budget preparation and execution, annually fix the rules regarding the Wheat Initiative's meetings costs in order to ensure a wise and efficient use of the budget.

### **11.2 Minutes of meetings**

Within one month after each meeting of a Committee, its Chairperson will draft a meeting report and send it to its respective members. The members of the Committee will then have one month to give their comments. Thereafter the Chairperson will send the final version of the report to the members of the Committee and to the International Scientific Coordinator.

The Chairperson may ask the International Scientific Coordinator to provide Secretariat support for the drafting and circulation of the minutes.

## **12 Confidentiality**

Because of the nature of the Wheat Initiative which is before all an open forum where Institutions, Private Members and the whole scientific community are wishing to speak freely and exchange information without suffering any constraints, all the information exchanged between the Members in the framework of the activities of the Wheat Initiative, and notably during the Committees' meetings will be deemed not to be confidential.

Nevertheless, if some Members are wishing to exchange confidential information in the framework of the activities of the Wheat Initiative they will have to sign, at their initiative, specific confidentiality agreements.

## **13 Publication**

The Knowledge generated in the performance of the Wheat Initiative, including notably all the reports and papers drafted by or for the Committees are aimed to be publicly available.

However the Wheat Initiative will not publish a report or a paper produced by a Committee as long as it is not in its final and approved form.

External communication made on behalf of the Wheat Initiative will be approved by the Scientific Board.

## **14 Intellectual property**

All Knowledge produced within the performance of the Wheat Initiative – which will mainly consist of coordination activities – is deemed to be published or be freely available.

For the avoidance of doubt, all matters related to intellectual property arising from research and development collaborative activities between some or all of the Members involved in the Wheat Initiative are outside of the scope of this Charter and will be addressed in the agreements or other instruments covering these activities and signed by the concerned Members.

## **15 Commencement, Modification, Cessation and Withdrawal**

The provisions of this Charter will commence on the first signature of a Member appearing on the signature pages of this Charter

Additional entities wishing to become Members will duly complete the New Members Form as set out in Annex 1.

The provisions of this Charter may be modified or ceased in their entirety by a decision of two thirds majority of the Institutions Coordinating Committee.

Any Member may withdraw from this Charter by giving written notice to the International Scientific Coordinator 90 days prior to its anticipated withdrawal.

Notification of a Member's withdrawal from the Charter will be communicated to the other Members by the International Scientific Coordinator, and updated on the Wheat Initiative website on receipt of formal notification of a Member's withdrawal.

## **16 Legal Disclaimer**

Participation in the Wheat Initiative is on a voluntary basis. This charter is not legally binding and places no legal obligation on the Members.

## **17 Interpretation and Application**

The members will settle any differences in the interpretation or application of the Charter amicably through consultation or negotiation.

## Annex 1 – New Members Form

### Accession of a new Member to the Wheat Initiative

Charter, version [..., YYYY-MM-DD]

[OFFICIAL NAME OF THE NEW MEMBER]

Hereby consents to become a Member of the Wheat Initiative identified above as [an Institution /a Private Member].

[OFFICIAL NAME OF THE MANAGING INSTITUTION]

Hereby certifies that the Wheat Initiative, through its Institutions' Coordination Committee has accepted in the meeting held on [date] the accession of [the name of the new Member] to the Wheat Initiative starting from the [date].

This document has been done in 2 originals to be duly signed by the undersigned authorised representatives.

[Date and Place]

[INSERT NAME OF THE NEW Member]

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Title(s)

[Date and Place]

[INSERT NAME OF THE MANAGING INSTITUTION]

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Title(s)