



**Guidelines for Partnership in the
International Rice Informatics Consortium (IRIC)**

(Effective: November 2014)

Approved by the IRIC Advisory Committee



3 **Rationale**

4 1. Information about rice genotypic and phenotypic diversity is at the core of modern
5 approaches for rice improvement. Accelerating genetic gains in rice breeding will require full
6 exploitation of the genetic diversity of rice and utilizing it in efficient, product-oriented
7 breeding pipelines that address future needs.

8 2. The most comprehensive information on the genome diversity can be obtained from the
9 DNA sequence. Progress in sequencing technologies makes it possible to sequence thousands
10 of rice varieties and cultivars. The problem of data analysis and interpretation, however,
11 remains the bottleneck in utilizing this information in rice improvement.

12 Phenotyping data have increasingly become the most valuable and expensive part of gene
13 discovery and trait development for crop improvement. It requires a lot of time, labor and
14 expertise to collect phenotyping data. The scope of phenotyping can be very broad and can
15 cover hundreds of different traits. New high-throughput phenotyping technologies can
16 significantly increase the scope, speed and data density of phenotyping. A combination of
17 genotyping and phenotyping data will lead to discoveries of many novel trait-loci
18 associations. Available sequence data will provide an opportunity to predict causative gene
19 variations which, after validation, can be the targets in breeding introgression or genetic
20 engineering experiments.

21 3. Many causative mutations are expected to be within promoter or other regulatory motifs
22 rather than in the coding region of genes. Publicly available data from thousands of gene
23 expression experiments should help in understanding the mechanism of gene-trait
24 associations as well as in reconstructing gene networks.

25 4. Making effective use of these technological advances for crop improvement requires
26 coordinated efforts by numerous public and private sector entities, including collaboration in
27 data analysis and data sharing. We propose to establish an International Rice Informatics
28 Consortium (IRIC) to build and maintain a global web portal to store, analyze and visualize
29 available genotypic, phenotypic, expression and other rice data. This portal will be beneficial
30 to a wide range of public and private sector research groups involved in plant research.

31 5. A sustainable support mechanism is needed for the initial development and continued
32 operation and improvement of the IRIC portal, thus enhancing the understanding of rice
33 diversity, discovering genetic structures of modern cultivars, and finding new gene-trait
34 associations. IRRI is initiating IRIC development and is a coordinator and a legal entity of
35 IRIC. Major strengths of IRRI and its contributions to IRIC include:

- 36 a. The world's largest rice seed collection is held in trust by IRRI.
- 37 b. Pursuing high-throughput phenotyping projects
- 38 c. Genotyping and sequencing data for thousands of rice lines produced together with
39 existing partners
- 40 d. Providing standard unique identifiers for rice germplasm
- 41 e. Worldwide research collaboration with public and private sector partners.

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44 **IRIC objectives**

45 The goal of the IRIC is to provide information and computational tools to facilitate rice
46 improvement via discovery of new gene-trait associations and accelerated breeding. Hosted by
47 IRRI, the IRIC has three major objectives:

- 48 1. Organize available genotyping, phenotyping, expression and other available data for rice
49 germplasm into a linked, consistent and reliable source of information for the global research
50 community.
- 51 2. Provide user-friendly access to browse, search and analyze the data through a single portal.
- 52 3. Support information sharing, public awareness and capacity building.

53 **Membership**

- 54 • Any public sector organization, non-profit or for-profit non-governmental organization, or
55 private company can become a member of the IRIC (*Annex 1*).
- 56 • The IRIC has two membership categories: 1) private sector membership, and 2) public sector
57 membership.

58 *Public Sector* members are defined as any not-for-profit institutions that are
59 primarily supported by public funds (e.g., government-funded national research
60 institutions, public universities, international or regional research centers).

61 *Private Sector* members are defined as any for-profit organizations or companies
62 that have commercial activities related to crop R&D and/or selling of seeds and other
63 products and services, including business entities under public organizations.

- 64 • Financial contributions under the consortium structure will depend on the membership
65 category, based on principles of (i) being simple, fair and transparent, (ii) honoring the
66 different public and private sector roles and interests, and, (iii) providing a sustainable level
67 of support for the wider range of IRIC functions.
- 68 • The annual membership contribution for public sector member is voluntary.
- 69 • The annual membership contribution for private sector member is USD20,000
- 70 • Members are encouraged to make additional voluntary contributions to the IRIC or support
71 bilateral public-private research projects among IRIC members.
- 72 • *Annex 1* describes the procedure for becoming an IRIC member. Members generally agree to
73 minimum membership duration of **five** years. All private sector membership contributions
74 will be paid to IRRI under a Letter of Agreement.
- 75 • By becoming a member of IRIC, the Public or Private Sector Member accepts general rules
76 on intellectual property rights.

77 **Governance and use of IRIC funds**

- 78 • The Director General of IRRI appoints an IRIC Coordinator who shall be a member of the
79 full-time staff of IRRI, with an assistant to manage IRIC activities.

- 80 • The IRIC will have an Advisory Committee (AC) composed of representatives from private
81 sector members, public sector members and IRRI. Members of the AC shall be elected or re-
82 elected by the IRIC members and appointed by IRRI DG for a term of three years. The IRIC
83 Coordinator at IRRI will serve as additional ex-officio member and secretary to the AC.
- 84 • AC will meet once a year, preferably during an annual IRIC meeting. Additional meetings of
85 the AC should take place on a quarterly basis *via* internet.
- 86 • The functions of the Advisory Committee shall be as follows:
- 87 1. Screen applications for membership and decide on acceptance of membership;
- 88 2. Review the annual IRIC work plan and budget, and regularly review and recommend
89 changes of the IRIC Guidelines, including formulating intellectual property, data
90 access and other operational policies for fulfilling the goals of the IRIC;
- 91 3. Propose new, joint research projects or training activities to the wider IRIC
92 community;
- 93 4. Establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the operations and impact of the IRIC;
- 94 5. Review and approve the annual IRIC budget;
- 95 6. Represent IRIC to the wider genomics research community, issue media releases and
96 other information for the public.
- 97 • The IRIC members shall meet annually to:
- 98 a. Review the most recent research results and discuss research priorities;
- 99 b. Provide the most recent information to its members on new data and tools available or
100 under development;
- 101 c. Recommend new IRIC activities related to rice informatics and training.
- 102 • All IRIC members should support their participation in the IRIC annual meeting at their own
103 cost. In exceptional cases, IRIC may provide limited travel support to participants from
104 public sector institutions in developing countries.
- 105 • As the lead center of the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP), IRRI in consultation with
106 the IRIC members will propose general research directions and prioritization for rice
107 informatics R&D. All IRIC members are encouraged to contribute suggestions regarding
108 IRIC research prioritization and activities.
- 109 • Membership funds and other income will form the basic support for IRIC. These
110 contributions will be utilized by IRRI exclusively for sustaining a well-managed IRIC portal
111 and its activities, including staff costs, software, hardware and other services. Depending on
112 the annual income available, IRIC funds may also be used to support specific research
113 activities by the IRIC community and for the organization of the annual meeting. IRRI will
114 submit an annual budget and financial statement for approval by the IRIC Advisory
115 Committee. A statement of expenditures for the Consortium fund will also be sent to the
116 members of the IRIC on April 1st each year.

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118 **Benefits for IRIC members and rice researchers**

- 119 • Researches will benefit from accelerated access to rice information including a
120 comprehensive characterization of germplasm. IRIC will facilitate collaboration between
121 consortium members and provide uniform guidelines for data access and sharing. Members
122 are encouraged to contribute their own data or tools (with clearly defined access rights), thus
123 enriching the globally available data and tools.
- 124 • IRRI welcomes Members, whether Public or Private Sector, to contribute information to the
125 IRIC global web portal, which will become international public goods in accordance with
126 the Charter of IRRI and the principles of the CGIAR Consortium
- 127 • The IRIC will provide a sustainable funding mechanism for organizing, analyzing and
128 visualizing rice sequencing, genotyping, phenotyping, gene expression and other
129 information. Accelerated research progress will be obtained by fully using the resources of
130 the global rice genomics community, resulting in a wider range of rice germplasm and
131 phenotyped traits. The IRIC will significantly enhance capacity for rice product delivery,
132 while providing services and support to the private sector that will benefit the general public.
- 133 • The IRIC will provide assistance in DNA/protein sequence analysis, interpretation of the
134 expression data, phenotypic data analysis.
- 135 • Progress in IRIC development will be monitored annually through a brief annual report,
136 highlighting major research findings with details of data and tools developed in that year.
137 Copies of the report will be available to all Consortium members by April 1st of the following
138 year.
- 139 • An annual IRIC report will include: 1) new datasets integrated into IRIC database, 2) results
140 of this data analysis, 3) results of testing publicly available software, and 4) new
141 computational tools. The report will be released to the IRIC members in conjunction with the
142 annual IRIC meeting. All public sector members of the IRIC are encouraged to contribute
143 such information to the annual report. More frequent data releases will be announced
144 regularly through the IRIC portal.
- 145 • IRIC membership enables accelerated access to information on sequence, genotyping,
146 phenotyping and other data, results of this data analysis, and newly developed computational
147 tools.
- 148 • The Public and Private Sector Members will be invited to participate, at their own expense,
149 in the annual IRIC meetings, seminars, and other activities, along with other national
150 research and extension systems (NARES) and R&D institutions. Members and non-members
151 may continue to seek advice from IRIC scientists at any time.
- 152 • IRRI may provide, or assist in providing training to research staff of Public and Private
153 Sector Members at the latter's expense, based on an agreed-upon work plan and time frame,
154 and subject to availability of time allocated to and funded by the Consortium.
- 155 • Depending on available funds, the IRIC will provide support to major events such as
156 international or regional scientific workshops on rice informatics.

- 157 • In addition to the benefits associated with being a member of the IRIC, members may also
158 develop additional bilateral or multilateral research agreements with IRRI or other IRIC
159 members in specific areas of mutual interest for collaboration.

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162 **General conditions**

- 163 • IRRI does not warrant or guarantee the correctness of any information shared in the IRIC
164 global web portal. IRRI accepts no responsibility or liability for, and the Public or Private
165 Sector Member renounces all rights to claim, damages, of whatsoever nature arising from or
166 incidental to the Member's use of any information received from IRRI. The Member further
167 agrees to defend and hold IRRI harmless from any and all loss, claim, damage, or liability,
168 directly or indirectly, from or to any third party arising from or incidental to the use of such
169 information.

- 170 • Membership to IRIC will be covered with a Letter of Agreement (*Annex 5*). In the event of
171 any dispute/s related to the implementation and interpretation of any particular term or
172 condition of this Letter of Agreement, settlement of this dispute will be sought first through
173 discussion and negotiation between the parties. The parties will make every reasonable
174 attempt to resolve in an amicable manner all disputes concerning the implementation or
175 interpretation of this Agreement. Any controversy, claim, or dispute arising out of, or
176 relating to, this Agreement that is not settled through the aforementioned discussion and
177 negotiation shall be finally resolved through arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules of
178 Arbitration.

179 **Contact for further information and membership (<http://iric.irri.org>)**

IRIC Coordinator/IRRI
DAPO Box 7777
Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel: +63-2-580-5600, ext.
Fax: +63-2-580-5699
email: iric@irri.org

IRIC Assistant Coordinator/IRRI
DAPO Box 7777
Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel: +63-2-580-5600, ext.
Fax: +63-2-580-5699
email: iric@irri.org

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181 **Annex 1: Become an IRIC Member**

182 Any public organization (*defined as a not-for-profit institution supported by public funds*) or
183 nonprofit or for-profit nongovernmental organization, or private company with demonstrated
184 activities in crop research can become a member of the IRIC.

- 185 1. An interested organization sends an inquiry to the IRIC secretariat at IRRI for
186 membership information;
- 187 2. IRIC sends a copy of the IRIC Guidelines and membership information (*Annex 2*) sheet
188 to the inquiring party for review and filling of the necessary information.
- 189 3. After receiving the membership application form from the interested party, IRIC sends it
190 to the IRIC Advisory Committee (AC) for assessment and recommendation;
- 191 4. AC Members are given a period of up to two (2) weeks to provide their opinions on the
192 information received. Absence of opinion/objection on the part of the Advisory
193 Committee will be an assumption of concurrence with the membership application.
- 194 5. After AC members' review/recommendation, the IRIC Coordinator will prepare a Letter
195 of Agreement (LOA) between IRRI and the prospect Private or Public member, and send
196 it to the applying organization for signature;
- 197 6. Two (2) signed copies of the LOA should be mailed by courier to IRRI within a period of
198 four (4) weeks; otherwise the membership application will be cancelled;
- 199 7. The fully executed LOA will be sent by e-copy to the new member followed by one (1)
200 copy of the original document by courier or by mail. Another copy of the signed LOA
201 will be kept by the IRRI;
- 202 8. For a private organization member, an invoice with the necessary bank details will be
203 sent to the member for payment of the annual IRIC membership fee.
- 204 9. IRIC website log-in details will be assigned to the contact persons of the new member or
205 to whom the new member prefers the log-in details to be assigned to.
- 206 10. The new member will be included in all communication pertaining to IRIC, matters
207 concerning every member and their organizations.
- 208 11. New members will be entitled to the benefits of being an IRIC member as stated in the
209 guidelines.
- 210 12. All incumbent members shall be informed of the recognition of the new IRIC member.
- 211 13. Membership should be renewed at the beginning of each year. Membership payment to
212 IRRI is due on or before **April 1** of each year or one (1) month after a new member's
213 organization has received the signed LOA. Membership benefits will be suspended if the
214 membership fee is overdue.

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216 **Annex 2**

217 **International Rice Informatics Consortium Membership Application Form**

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Organization Name:			
Year of Membership			
Membership Category (please select one – copy ✓, paste to the selected box))			
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Private organization</u> (USD \$20,000/year)		<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Public organization</u> (Voluntary Contribution, USD):	
Primary Contact Person			
Name:		Title:	
Address:			
Telephone:		Fax:	
email:			
Secondary Contact Person			
Name:		Title:	
Address:			
Telephone:		Fax:	
email:			
Brief Self-Introduction of the Applicant’s Organization and Possible Contribution to the IRIC			

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220 **Annex 3.**

221 **Brief descriptions of data and tools to be initially available for IRIC members**
222 **in 2014/2015**

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224 The datasets listed below will be organized into an initial, curated IRIC database with proper
225 constrains and indices. The access to this data will be provided *via* a user-friendly web portal
226 enabling basic search, browsing and simple trait-phenotype association analysis. More
227 genotyping and phenotyping data obtained through research conducted by IRIC members will be
228 added as they become available, subject to conditions imposed by the owners of the data.

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230 **IRRI Genebank genetic stocks for trait discovery research**

231 ~4500 lines with standard unique name and origins

232 Purified seed of all lines can be requested *via* IRRI Standard Material Transfer Agreement
233 (SMTA), subject to standard handling and shipping charges.

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235 **Genotypic data**

236 ~10M SNPs from about ~3000 rice genomes (BGI/ CAAS/IRRI)

237 ~700K SNP chip for ~1800 lines (Cornell/IRRI)

238 ~44K SNP chip for ~400 lines (Cornell/IRRI)

239 All SNPs will be mapped into annotated genome assemblies:

240 1. Os-Nipponbare-Reference-IRGSP-1.0 assembly with MSU7/RAP annotations

241 2. BGI assembly of indica 93-11. Annotation to be determined or provided

242

243 **Phenotypic data**

244 ~60 morphological traits observed for genetic stock lines from the IRRI Genebank

245 ~30 traits for ~400 lines genotyped with 44K SNPs

246 ~60 traits for ~350 indica lines genotyped with 700K chip

247 grain quality traits ~1600 lines genotyped with 700K chip for

248 ~25 traits for ~300 tropical japonica and ~250 aus lines genotyped with 700K chip

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250 **Gene expression data**

251 Basic developmental and selected stress experiments from NIAS, Japan

252 RNA-Seq data from C4 consortium

253

254 **Annex 4. Access to data, germplasm, tools, and other IP**

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256 **1. Main aims and principles**

- 257 1) IRIC portal will provide access to data and software to accelerate the development and
258 dissemination of new tools and knowledge consistent with the CGIAR policies on
259 intellectual assets and open access;
- 260 2) Conserve and provide access to seeds of the genetic stocks that were used to collect data
261 in the portal, to facilitate the further coordinated collection and analysis of data on the
262 same materials;
- 263 3) Take a demand-driven approach for rice informatics research, to focus on products that
264 the IRIC members want;
- 265 4) Ensure compliance through a system of tracking access;
- 266 5) Recover R&D and handling costs through a transparent mechanism that is consistent with
267 general business practice, to provide sufficient support for the core activities of IRIC.

268 **2. Access to germplasm**

- 269 1) Germplasm samples will be provided by IRRI to IRIC members as per IRRI and CGIAR
270 guidelines and with a standard material transfer agreement (SMTA), including shipping
271 and handling charges to be paid by private sector members and public sector members
272 from developed countries;
- 273 2) Members wishing to upload data on their own genetic stocks should deposit samples of
274 their genetic stocks in the IRRI genebank with an SMTA, to be made available to other
275 IRIC members;
- 276 3) Access to populations of specialized genetic stocks that have been developed through a
277 crossing regime to facilitate gene discovery may be further differentiated, subject to
278 additional specific time-bound restrictions imposed by the creators of the populations.

279 **3. Access to data**

- 280 1) In general, IRIC is following free, open access practice for data and developed tools;
- 281 2) Access to some data, however, may be differentiated and be a subject to additional
282 specific time-bound restrictions imposed by the owners of the data, provided these are
283 consistent with the CGIAR policy on intellectual assets;
- 284 3) Responsibility for data quality rests primarily with the original owners;
- 285 4) IRRI retains the right to remove data that it has reasonable cause to believe is of
286 unacceptable quality.

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288 **4. Access to tools**

289 1) Access to tools under development will be restricted to members for the period of
290 development;

291 2) Stable versions of the tools will be made publicly available and open access;

292 3) Access to tools under development may be further differentiated, subject to additional
293 specific time-bound restrictions imposed by the developers of the tools, provided these
294 are consistent with the CGIAR policy on intellectual assets and its open access policy;

295 Guidelines for access to data, germplasm, tools, and other IP will be periodically reviewed and
296 improved by the Advisory Committee, with final approval by all members during annual
297 meetings.

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299 **Annex 5. LOA membership templates**

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Letter of Agreement for Membership

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In the

303

International Rice Informatics Consortium (IRIC)

304

For a Private Sector Member

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The **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**, a non-profit autonomous

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international organization, hereinafter referred to as “**IRRI**”, and **The Company**,

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hereinafter referred to as “**The Private Sector Member**”, have agreed as follows:

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1. The Private Sector Member becomes a member in the **International Rice Informatics Consortium (IRIC)**, by paying the annual membership contribution (hereinafter referred to as “**the Grant**”) of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (USD 20,000)** under the Terms and Conditions indicated in the guidelines annexed to, and made an integral part of, this Letter of Agreement as Attachment A (“**the Guidelines**”).

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2. The detailed terms and conditions for consortium membership, access to rice information, and other aspects of membership, are also provided in the Guidelines.

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3. IRRI will not endorse any product from the Private Sector Member. Likewise, the Private Sector Member is not allowed to use IRRI’s name or logo in marketing its products.

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4. IRRI welcomes the Private Sector Member to contribute information to the IRIC global web portal, which will become international public goods in accordance with the Charter of IRRI and the principles of the CGIAR consortium.

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5. By becoming a member of IRIC, the Private Sector Member accepts general rules on intellectual property (IP) rights. Background IP that belongs 100% to one Party will remain 100% the property of that same Party.

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6. IRRI does not warrant or guarantee the correctness of any information shared in the IRIC global web portal. IRRI accepts no responsibility or liability for, and the

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335 Private Sector Member renounces all rights to claim, damages, of whatsoever
336 nature arising from or incidental to the Private Sector Member's use of any
337 material received from IRRI. The Private Sector Member further agrees to
338 defend and hold IRRI harmless from any and all loss, claim, damage, or liability,
339 directly or indirectly, from or to any third party arising from or incidental to the
340 use of such information.

341
342 7. IRRI may provide, or assist in providing, training to research staff of the Private
343 Sector Member at the latter's expense, based on an agreed-upon workplan and
344 time frame.

345
346 8. Progress in IRIC development will be monitored annually through a brief annual
347 report, highlighting major research findings with details of data and tools
348 developed in that year. Copies of the report will be available to all Consortium
349 members by April of the following year. An audited statement of expenditures
350 for the Consortium fund will also be sent to the members of the IRIC in April
351 each year.

352
353 9. The Private Sector Member will be invited to participate, at its own expense, in
354 the annual IRIC meetings, seminars, and other activities, along with other
355 national research and extension systems (NARES) and R&D institutions.
356 Members and non-members may continue to interact with IRRI bioinformatics
357 scientists at any time.

358
359 10. The Private Sector member is encouraged to make voluntary contributions to
360 IRIC.

361
362 11. In the event of any dispute/s related to the implementation and interpretation of
363 any particular term or condition of this Letter of Agreement, settlement of this
364 dispute will be sought first through discussion and negotiation between the
365 parties. The parties will make every reasonable attempt to resolve in an amicable
366 manner all disputes concerning the implementation or interpretation of this
367 Agreement. Any controversy, claim, or dispute arising out of, or relating to, this
368 Agreement that is not settled through the aforementioned discussion and

369 negotiation shall be finally resolved through arbitration under the UNCITRAL
370 Rules of Arbitration.

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373 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties, through their respective representatives, have
374 signed this Letter of Agreement on the dates stated below.

375

376 **International Rice Research Institute**
377 (IRRI):

The Company
(_____):

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380 **Ms. Corinta Q. Guerta**
381 Director for External Relations

Officer of the Company
Designation

382

383 Date: _____

Date: _____

384 Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines

Place: _____

385

386 **Letter of Agreement for Membership**
387 **In the**
388 **International Rice Informatics Consortium (IRIC)**
389 **For a Public Sector Member**
390

391 The **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**, a non-profit autonomous
392 international organization, hereinafter referred to as “**IRRI**”, and **The Institute**,
393 hereinafter referred to as “**The Public Sector Member**”, have agreed as follows:
394

- 395 1. The Public Sector Member accepts membership in the **International Rice**
396 **Informatics Consortium (IRIC)** under the Terms and Conditions indicated in the
397 guidelines annexed to, and made an integral part of, this Letter of Agreement as
398 Attachment A (“**the Guidelines**”). The detailed terms and conditions for
399 consortium membership, access to rice information, and other aspects of
400 membership, are also provided in the Guidelines.
- 401 2. IRRI welcomes the Public Sector Member to contribute information to the IRIC
402 global web portal, which will become international public goods in accordance
403 with the Charter of IRRI and the principles of the CGIAR Consortium.
- 404 3. By becoming a member of IRIC, the Public Sector Member accepts general rules
405 on intellectual property (IP) rights. Background IP that belongs 100% to one
406 Party will remain 100% the property of that same Party.
- 407 4. The Public Sector Member is encouraged to make voluntary contributions to
408 IRIC. The contribution will form part of a Consortium fund that is managed by
409 IRRI, and is intended to provide financial support to information exchange and
410 other research activities related to rice informatics.
- 411 5. IRRI does not warrant or guarantee the correctness of any information shared in
412 the IRIC global web portal. IRRI accepts no responsibility or liability for, and the
413 Public Sector Member renounces all rights to claim, damages, of whatsoever
414 nature arising from or incidental to the Public Sector Member’s use of any
415 information received from IRRI. The Public Sector Member further agrees to
416 defend and hold IRRI harmless from any and all loss, claim, damage, or liability,
417 directly or indirectly, from or to any third party arising from or incidental to the
418 use of such information.
- 419 6. IRRI may provide, or assist in providing, training to research staff of the Public
420 Sector Member at the latter’s expense, based on an agreed-upon work plan and
421 timeframe.

- 422 7. Progress in IRIC development will be monitored annually through a brief annual
423 report, highlighting major research findings with details of data and tools
424 developed in that year. Copies of the report will be available to all Consortium
425 members by April of the following year. An audited statement of expenditures
426 for the Consortium fund will also be sent to the members of the IRIC in April
427 each year.
- 428 8. The Public Sector Member will be invited to participate, at its own expense, in
429 the annual IRIC meetings, seminars, and other activities, along with other
430 national research and extension systems (NARES) and R&D institutions.
- 431 9. In the event of any dispute/s related to the implementation and interpretation of
432 any particular term or condition of this Letter of Agreement, settlement of this
433 dispute will be sought first through discussion and negotiation between the
434 parties. The parties will make every reasonable attempt to resolve in an amicable
435 manner all disputes concerning the implementation or interpretation of this
436 Agreement. Any controversy, claim, or dispute arising out of, or relating to, this
437 Agreement that is not settled through the aforementioned discussion and
438 negotiation shall be finally resolved through arbitration under the UNCITRAL
439 Rules of Arbitration.

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441

442 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties, through their respective representatives, have
443 signed this Letter of Agreement on the dates stated below.

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448

International Rice Research Institute
(IRRI):

The Institute
(____):

449 **Ms. Corinta Q. Guerta**
450 Director for External Relations

Officer of the Institute
Designation

451

452 Date: _____
453 Place: Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines

Date: _____
Place: _____

454