**AfroAgEng**

**Pan African Society for Agricultural Engineering**

# CONSTITUTION

**Adopted at the General Assembly of 22 October 2025,**

**At the 7th PASAE Conference in Marriot Hotel, Fes, Morocco**

**Pan African Society for Agricultural Engineering**

# HISTORICAL NOTE

**Interim Constitution adopted in 2016**

**First Constitution adopted at the 2nd PASAE Conference**
**in Rabat, Morocco, on September, 2019.**

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**Changes to the Constitution and Editorial Updates recommended by Council on 22 October 2025 for Approval of the General Assembly of 22 October 2025,**
**At the 7th PASAE Conference in Marriot Hotel, Fes, Morocco**

**Clean Copy Approved for Publication by the Executive Committee,**
**May 2026**

## 1. Preamble

The concept of a Pan African Society of Agricultural Engineers (PASAE), referred to hereafter as AfroAgEng was first discussed at the 7th CIGR International Technical Symposium "Innovating the Food Value Chain" held at Stellenbosch University in South Africa from 25 to 29 November 2012. A concept note was compiled and distributed by Prof. Umezuruike Linus Opara for discussion. Following discussion, the following interim committee was established to establish AfroAgEng prior to the formation of Council.

Prof. Umezuruike Linus Opara (President)

Prof. Jeff Smithers (Secretary-General)

Prof. Babatunde A. Adewumi

Dr. Mahasin H.M.A. Ahmed

Prof. Geoffrey C. Mrema

## 2. Mission

The Mission of AfroAgEng is to promote and advance the profession of Agricultural Engineering in Africa. The Society also seeks to become a key knowledge partner and visible policy advocate on the role of engineering and technology in the transformation and industrialisation of agriculture in Africa towards Agenda 2063 and beyond – the Africa we want.

Agricultural productivity in Africa remains the lowest in the world, but recent concerns about food security, water security, rapidly expanding global population, rising food prices and unsustainable resource utilisation have focused world-wide interest on the role of agricultural production in Africa in feeding Africa and the world. Most of the world's uncultivated agricultural land is in Africa, yet the capacity to harness this resource remains limited due partly to very low application of innovative technologies which are necessary for improved and sustainable food production. Postharvest loss remains high in Africa due to inadequate infrastructure, limited agro-processing and other value addition activities, and the lack of favourable policies. These challenges present unique opportunities for Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers in Africa and around the world to form a critical mass of educators, researchers and industries to create the required leadership to drive the change needed to transform African agriculture. AfroAgEng aims to stimulate, promote and shape the education, research, policy and practice of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in Africa.

## 3. Objectives

The objectives of AfroAgEng include the following:

(i) Raise awareness and influence policy and strategy about the critical role of engineering and technological innovations in agriculture and related bio-based industries in Africa.

(ii) Facilitate and promote communication and collaboration between national professional Agricultural Engineering institutes and societies.

(iii) Promote quality assurance and academic mobility among Agricultural Engineering programmes on the African continent.

(iv) Facilitate the exchange and sharing of information on the different aspects of Agricultural and Bioresources engineering.

(v) Assist individual members to develop their professional knowledge, skills and network through information exchange.

(vi) Promote and support a network of young agricultural engineers as the pipeline for future leadership in the discipline and profession.

(vii) Promote collaboration between the academic discipline, professional practice and industries serving agriculture

(viii) Represent the profession at continental and global levels.

(ix) Participate in the affairs and promote the activities of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR) in Africa.

## 4. Membership

a) Membership of AfroAgEng is open to all engineers and other professionals interested in the discipline and practice of engineering in agriculture, food, water, environment and related industries. This includes scientists, academics, researchers, industry practitioners including input suppliers, farmers, postharvest operators, processors, and manufacturers, consultants, policy experts and students.

b) A formal qualification in Agricultural Engineering or any other academic discipline is not required and we welcome international membership. Application for all categories of membership listed below (excluding Honorary categories) are welcome from all involved in the application of engineering and technology in agriculture and the environment.

### 4.1. Categories

The following membership categories are available:

*(i) Student membership*
A certificate of membership will be issued and will receive all communication from AfroAgEng.

*(ii) Individual membership – Voting member*
A certificate of membership will be issued and will receive all communication from AfroAgEng.

*(iii) Regional and National Professional Agricultural Engineering Institute/society membership – Voting member*
A certificate of membership will be issued and will receive all communication from AfroAgEng and may place an advertisement for events in the newsletters and PASAE publications where this is allowed.

*(iv) Educational, Research and Technology Transfer institute / department membership*
A certificate of membership will be issued. Institutes / departments will receive all communication from AfroAgEng and may place an advertisement in newsletters.

*(v) Corporate Firm membership*
A certificate of membership will be issued. Companies will receive all communication from AfroAgEng and may place an advertisement in newsletters.

*(vi) Life membership*
A certificate of life membership will be awarded to those who have paid-up for life.

*(vii) Fellow membership*
To recognize and honour members who have made exceptional contributions to Agricultural Engineering.
A certificate of fellowship of PASAE will be presented at a ceremony as prescribed by Council during a PASAE Conference.

*(viii) Honorary membership*
To recognize exceptional contributions to Agricultural Engineering by Non-members found worthy by Council.

All members who are in good standing will receive a membership certificate each year. This does not apply to Life Members who will receive a single certificate in their first year as life members.

**4.1.1 Joint Membership of PASAE and National Agricultural Engineering Professional Bodies (AE-PBs)**

Provision is made as detailed below for PASAE and National AE-PEBs to enter into a joint membership agreement as detailed below:

a) Joint membership shall be governed by the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered into by PASAE and the respective national AE-PB, consistent with Art 4.1 (iii) of this Constitution. All existing members of the national AE-PB shall automatically become members of PASAE. The same condition applies to new members of AE-PBs as they are admitted.

b) Under this category, the national AE-PB shall remit 10% of its annual membership fee income to PASAE, unless otherwise stated in the MoU as agreed, in local currency (equivalence in USD) to PASAE, and the payment shall be receipted accordingly.

c) Paid-up members of AE-PBs shall annually be eligible for individual PASAE membership benefits, including:

- Issuance of Membership certificate upon first payment.
- Continent-wide networking.
- Reduced fees for PASAE-endorsed conferences, workshops, and professional development programmes as applicable to all individual members of PASAE.

d) AE-PBs shall retain the right to nominate a representative to serve on the PASAE Council.

e) Without prejudice to the provisions in 4.1.1(a-d) above, individual membership of PASAE shall remain available for Individuals or professionals without national AE-PEB affiliation or from related disciplines.

**4.1.2 Criteria for Elevation to Fellowship of PASAE**

The criteria for nomination to the honorary grade of "Fellow of PASAE", to be proposed by at least two members of Council, shall include the following:

- Significant contributions to the field of Agricultural Engineering through research, innovation, and/ or practice.
- Leadership roles within PASAE in addition to such roles in other cognate organizations.
- Evidence of mentorship and support for junior members or students.
- Significant service to the Agricultural Engineering community through volunteer work, conference organization, or other such recognized professional activities.

**4.2. Fees**

Council shall review membership fees annually.

**5. Council**

a) The Council for AfroAgEng will be chaired by the President and will be responsible for meeting the aims and objectives of the society and for the operation of the society. The council shall comprise of the following positions:
   i. President
   ii. Secretary-General
   iii. One representative from each Regional and National Agricultural Engineering Society who are members of AfroAgEng
   iv. Three additional members, nominated and elected by the General Body, and
   v. Three Ex-Officio Members, namely
      - Immediate Past President

- The most senior Past President, and the most senior Past Secretary-General.

vi. In addition to the above, the Presidents of all active Regional and National Agricultural Engineering Societies who are not members of AfroAgEng will may be invited to serve on Council.

b) All members of Council will have equal voting rights, and the President will have a casting vote when votes are equal.
c) The Council will meet at least twice every year. The quorum for a meeting shall not be less than one-third of the Council Members.
d) The Council is responsible for the management of the financial affairs for AfroAgEng and for the appointment of an Auditor to undertake annual audits of the society.
e) The Council shall produce an annual report for distribution to members and which shall include a summary of activities undertaken by the Council over the past year, activities planned for the coming year and the audited financial statements.
f) The term of Council membership is two years and is renewable.
g) The President may be re-elected for a second term, but cannot serve more than two consecutive terms, i.e. cannot serve as President for more than four years.
h) The Secretary- General will be responsible for calling for nominations for Council members and all members will be eligible to vote.
i) Council shall consider and approve nominations submitted for Honorary and Fellow membership grades and for special awards and prizes.

## 6. General Assembly (GA)

a) The General Assembly shall comprise of all current voting members of the AfroAgEng.
b) The General Assembly shall nominate and elect the members of the Council every two years.
c) The General Assembly shall meet once every year (Annual General Meeting, AGM) during the Annual Conference.

## 7. Activities

Activities undertaken by AfroAgEng should include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) Facilitate a continental Agricultural Engineering conference at least once in two years by collaborating with national Agricultural Engineering conferences on a rotational basis.
(ii) Arrange and/or assist ad hoc symposia, lectures or discussions at national or regional level.
(iii) Publish newsletters to make known its activities and those of its members as well as other matters of importance.
(iv) Maintain an up-to-date website for AfroAgEng.
(v) Give appropriate recognition to persons who have rendered exceptional service over a long period of time, in the interests of education and research and industry in Agricultural Engineering.

## 8. Technical Sections

Council to establish Technical Sections when requested to do so and when a sufficient number of members warrant the establishment of the sections.

## 9. Secretariat

The Secretary-General will be responsible for the establishment and management of a Secretariat, whose responsibilities will include the following:

(i) communication with members,
(ii) invoicing members and fee collection,
(iii) website administration,
(iv) record keeping and administration, and
(v) management and control of finances,
(vi) compile and circulate periodic AfroAgEng newsletters.

Income generated by AfroAgEng can be used to support the activities of the Secretariat.

## 10. Changes to Constitution

Changes to the Constitution shall be made only with the approval of at least two-thirds of the GA Members who have voted by electronic ballot.