

CHAPTER 69:01

GUYANA RICE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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An Act to provide for the establishment of the Guyana Rice Producers Association and for purposes connected therewith.

1953 Ed.
c. 250

7 of 1946

[14TH SEPTEMBER, 1946]

1. This Act may be cited as the Guyana Rice Producers Association Act.

Short title.

2. In this Act—

Interpretation.
[38 of 1952
10 of 1960]

“Association” means the Guyana Rice Producers Association established under this Act;

“Committee” means a Committee established under this Act for the management of the affairs of a District Association;

“the Council” means the Council established under this Act for the management of the affairs of the Association;

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“district” means one of the districts into which Guyana is subdivided for the purposes of this Act;

“District Association” means an Association of rice producers constituted in a district for the purposes of this Act;

“Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee established under section 6;

“industry” means the rice industry of Guyana;

c. 72:01 “rice producer” has the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Rice Marketing Act;

“the regulations” means regulations made under section 9.

Establishment
of the
Association.

3. As from the 13th September, 1946, the rice producers of Guyana for the time being shall collectively be a body corporate by the name of the Guyana Rice Producers Association.

Functions of
the Associa-
tion.
[10 of 1960
6 of 1965
20 of 1969]

4. The functions of the Association shall be the performance of any of the following services:

(a) the protection, promotion and advancement of the interests of rice producers generally;

(b) the proposal of any measures including co-operative schemes of all kinds conducive to the maintenance or extension of production in the industry;

(c) making representations to the Minister concerning any matter affecting production in the industry, the operations of the Rice Marketing Board and the interests of rice producers generally; and

(d) inquiring into and reporting on any questions relating to the industry which may be referred to it by the Minister or by any body lawfully concerned with any phase of the industry, and advising on any matter connected therewith.

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5. (1) The management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Council.

Management of affairs of Association vested in a Council.
[10 of 1960
20 of 1969]

(2) The members of the Council shall be—

(a) one member of the Committee of each District Association appointed in accordance with the regulations; and

(b) four other persons elected by the members appointed under paragraph (a) at a meeting held in pursuance of the regulations.

(3) If any person appointed under paragraph (a) of the last preceding subsection ceases to be a member of the Committee of a District Association, his appointment as a member of the Council shall cease to have effect without prejudice to anything previously done by him in pursuance thereof, and the Committee of the District Association of which such person was a member shall appoint another of its members in his place.

(4) The Council shall be constituted as hereinbefore provided for a period of two years commencing with the day on which members who are appointed or elected as aforesaid take office and shall, in like manner, be reconstituted for each period of two years commencing immediately after a period for which the Council was constituted or reconstituted under this subsection.

(5) The Council shall, at its first meeting during each period for which it is so constituted or reconstituted, elect from among its members a President, a Senior Vice-President and a Junior Vice-President as officers of the Council.

(6) The Council shall have power to fill by appointment any vacancy therein (whether occasioned by death, resignation or any other cause) in respect of any member or officer of the Council for the unexpired portion of the term of office of such member or officer.

(7) The Council shall meet at least once in every three months.

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(8) The seat of a member of the Council shall become vacant if he fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Council:

Provided that the Council may grant leave of absence to any member thereof.

(9) The Council may appoint some fit and proper person to be General Secretary of the Association and such other officers and servants of the Association as may be necessary, and may pay any person so appointed such remuneration out of the funds of the Association as the Council considers adequate, and may dismiss any such person.

(10) In the event of there being any equality of votes between candidates qualifying for any office or seat at an election held under any provisions of this section, the candidate who was first in order of nomination shall be deemed to have been elected in accordance with such provisions.

Constitution
and powers of
the Executive
Committee.
[10 of 1960
6 of 1965
20 of 1969]

6. (1) There shall be established an Executive Committee of the Council consisting of five members, being the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council and two other members thereof who shall be appointed by the Council at its first meeting during each period for which it is constituted or reconstituted under the last preceding section:

Provided that if the seat of any member of the Executive Committee becomes vacant, by reason of his ceasing to be a member of the Council or resigning from the Executive Committee or otherwise, the Council shall appoint another of its members in his place.

(2) Subject to the directions and general control of the Council, the Executive Committee may, in the name and on behalf of the Council, exercise the powers, duties and functions of the Council under this Act not being a power, duty or function of the Council under section 5 exclusive of subsection (1) thereof, this section, section 7, section 9(3) or section 10(3).

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(3) The seat of a member of the Executive Committee shall become vacant if he fails to attend three consecutive meetings thereof and if the seat of the President or a Vice-President becomes vacant under this subsection he shall cease to be the President or a Vice-President of the Council, as the case may be:

Provided that the Council may grant leave of absence to any member of the Executive Committee.

(4) Any two members of the Executive Committee may, by a minute under their hands addressed to the General Secretary of the Association, require him to submit for the consideration and decision of the Council any matters relating to the business of the Association.

7. (1) The Council shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, subdivide Guyana into districts for the purposes of this Act, and the rice producers in each of the districts so created shall constitute a District Association and be the members thereof.

Constitution
of District
Associations.
[10 of 1960]

(2) The Council may, subject to the approval of the Minister, at any time and from time to time alter the boundaries of any district or make a new subdivision of Guyana into districts and the rice producers in each of the districts so created shall constitute a District Association and be the members thereof.

(3) The management of the affairs of a District Association shall be vested in a Committee consisting of seven members being—

- (a) a Chairman;
- (b) a Vice-Chairman; and
- (c) five other members of the District Association.

(4) Subject to this Act, a Committee shall be elected for each District Association by members thereof in every alternate year and the members of a Committee shall hold office until the election of another Committee for the District Association.

(5) A Committee shall meet at least once in every month.

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(6) The seat of a member of the Committee shall become vacant if he fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee:

Provided that the Committee may grant leave of absence to any member thereof.

(7) A Committee shall have power to fill by appointment any vacancy therein (whether occasioned by death, resignation or any other cause) in respect of any member or officer thereof for the unexpired portion of his term of office.

Functions of
Committee.
[20 of 1969]

8. A Committee may with respect to its own district perform any of the functions of the Association under section 4(b) and (c), but the decision of a Committee on any measure to be proposed under paragraph (b) or any representation to be made under paragraph (c) shall be communicated through and by the Council.

Power to make
regulations.
[10 of 1960
4 of 1972]

9. (1) The Minister may make regulations generally for the purpose of giving effect to this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by subsection (1), the Minister may in particular make regulations for the following purposes:

(a) regulating the registration of members of a District Association;

(b) providing the mode of electing members of the Council or of a Committee;

(c) fixing the quorum and prescribing the times of and the procedure at meetings of the Council, the Executive Committee, a District Association and a Committee;

(d) prescribing the duties of the officers of the Council and of the officers of a Committee;

(e) prescribing the duties of the General Secretary of the Association and of the Field Representative of a Committee;

(f) prescribing the records, books and accounts which shall be kept by the Council or a Committee; and

(g) prescribing the mode of authentication of any document by the Council, the Executive Committee, a District

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Association or a Committee and of service of documents on the Council, the Executive Committee, a District Association or a Committee.

10. (1) The funds of the Association shall consist of money paid by rice producers to the District Associations of which they are members as registration fees prescribed by the regulations.

Finance and
accounts.
[10 of 1960
11 of 1967
20 of 1969]

(2) The said registration fees shall be paid to the Committee of each District Association and the Committee shall cause same to be deposited to the credit of the Association in such account, opened under the provisions of subsection (7) at such bank as may be approved by the Council.

(3) The funds of the Association shall be appropriated to the purposes of this Act, and subject to the provisions thereof the Council and every Committee may pay and defray all expenses lawfully incurred by them out of any money granted or allocated to or received by them.

(4) The reasonable travelling and subsistence expenses incurred by members of the Council in attending meetings of the Council or the Executive Committee, or by any officer or servant of the Association appointed by the Council in visiting in the performance of his duties areas outside the City of Georgetown, shall be paid by the Council out of its funds.

(5) The reasonable travelling expenses incurred by the members of a Committee in attending meetings thereof shall be paid by the Committee out of its funds.

(6) The Council shall have power to open and operate a current or savings account with any bank in Guyana and any cheque or other order for the payment of money shall be signed by any officer of the Council and countersigned by the General Secretary.

(7) The Council shall keep such books and accounts as may be necessary to record its receipts and payments and shall, on or before the 31st March in each year, cause its books and accounts in so far as they

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c. 89:01 relate to its transactions to the 31st December in the preceding year to be audited by an auditor qualified under section 121 of the Companies Act and published in at least one newspaper.

Transitional provisions.

11. (1) The members of the first Council and its officers shall be appointed by the Minister, and they shall remain in office and perform all the functions of the Council until the Council has been elected in manner provided by section 5(3).

(2) Until Guyana shall be subdivided into districts as provided by section 7(1), the Council appointed pursuant to subsection (1) shall create such and so many districts as it may think fit, and the rice producers in each such district shall collectively constitute a District Association and be the members thereof.

(3) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Council appointed pursuant to subsection (1), appoint the Committee for the management of the affairs of each District Association constituted under subsection (2) and every such Committee shall remain in office and shall perform all the functions of a Committee until a Committee has been elected under section 7.
