

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT RESEARCH FOR IMPROVED CULTIVATION OF LANDS AND PRODUCTION AND EVOLUTION OF IMPROVED VARIETIES OF RICE, AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Aminu Mani Ashiru*

[ ] Commencement

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:

### PART I - INSTITUTION

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19

1. There shall be established an institute to be called the Nigerian Rice Research Institute (in this Bill referred to as "the Institute") which shall be a body corporate under that name, with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name, subject to the provision of this Bill.

Establishment of the Nigerian Rice Research Institute

2. The Head Office of the Institute shall be Mani.

Head Office

3. The functions of the Institute shall be to:

Functions of the Institute

(a) to undertake, promote and encourage scientific research aimed at improving the quality and yield of rice;

(b) to initiate programmes aimed at controlling pests and diseases of rice;

(c) establish research centres and sub-stations in different regions of Nigeria for carrying out research on different problems of rice;

(d) establish project areas for demonstration of new varieties of rice developed by the Institute and training of farmers for the cultivation of these varieties of rice;

(e) publish annual reports, monographs, bulletins and such other literatures relating to rice research and the activities of the Institute;

- 1 (f) establish a laboratory and a library in the Institute;
- 2 (g) train extension officers and progressive farmers in modern  
3 improved techniques of rice production;
- 4 (h) to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase,  
5 inspection, grading, sealing and certification and sale of rice;
- 6 (i) to establish or encourage the establishment of industrial processing  
7 factories for the processing of rice into marketable product;
- 8 (j) acquire and hold any interest in the business of any person carrying  
9 on functions (whether in Nigeria or outside Nigeria) similar or related to the  
10 objects of the Board and may dispose of such interest;
- 11 (k) provide seedlings, credit and other facilities to rice farmers to  
12 plant new farms or rehabilitate old ones or redeem pledged farms, as the case  
13 may be;
- 14 (l) do and perform all other activities which may be necessary for the  
15 achievement of the objects of the Institute.

16 PART II - GOVERNING COUNCIL

Governing Board  
of the Institute,  
etc.

- 17 4.-(1) The government of the Institute and the direction of its affairs  
18 shall vest in the Board of Governors of the Institute (in this Bill referred to as  
19 "the Board").
- 20 (2) The Board shall consist of:
- 21 (a) the Director General, ex-officio, who shall also be the Chairman of  
22 the Board;
- 23 (b) two eminent scientists, from outside the Institute, one in any social  
24 science and the other in the field pertaining to the speciality of the Institute, to  
25 be nominated by the Minister;
- 26 (c) the Directors of the Institute, ex-officio;
- 27 (d) two representatives, one from among the farmers and the other  
28 from among the Non-Government Organisations (NGO's) performing  
29 functions similar to those of the Institute, to be nominated by the Minister; and  
30 (e) two representatives, one from the Ministry of agriculture and the

1 other from the Ministry of finance, not below the rank of Deputy Secretary,  
2 to be nominated by the respective Ministry.

3 (3) Subject to subsection (4) of this section, a person appointed as a  
4 member of the Board (not being an ex-officio member) shall hold office for  
5 four years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further period of  
6 three years.

7 (4) The President may terminate the appointment of a member of  
8 the Board (not being an ex-officio member) if satisfied that it is not in the  
9 interest of the Institute that the person concerned should continue in office.

10 (5) Provided that such members may resign their membership in  
11 writing addressed to the Chairman.

12 (6) A person shall cease to be a member, if he:

13 (a) dies;

14 (b) remains absent, without permission of the Chairman, from  
15 three consecutive meetings of the Board;

16 (c) is declared by a competent court to be of unsound mind; or

17 (d) is an undischarged insolvent; or

18 (e) has been, on conviction for a criminal offence involving moral  
19 turpitude, sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than three  
20 months or to a fine not less than fifty thousand naira and unless a period of  
21 two years has elapsed since his release or realisation of the fine, as the case  
22 may be, a person so sentenced shall not be eligible to be a member.

23 5.-(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board shall be  
24 responsible for the general superintendence, direction and control of the  
25 affairs of the Institute and shall exercise all the powers of the Institute not  
26 otherwise provided for by this Bill.

Functions of the  
Board

27 (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub- section (1), the  
28 Board shall:

29 (a) take decisions on questions of policy relating to the  
30 administration and working of the Institute;

- 1 (b) institute courses of study at the Institute;
- 2 (c) institute and appoint persons to academic as well as other posts in  
3 the Institute;
- 4 (d) consider and pass resolutions on the annual report, the annual  
5 accounts and the budget estimates of the Institute for the next financial year as  
6 it thinks fit and submit them to the Minister together with a statement of its  
7 developments plans; and
- 8 (e) exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may  
9 be conferred or imposed upon it by this Bill.
- 10 (3) The Board shall have the power to appoint such committees as it  
11 considers necessary for the exercise of its powers and the performance of its  
12 duties under this Bill.
- 13 **6.-(1)** The meetings of the Board shall be convened by the Secretary  
14 of the Board, in consultation with the Chairman, at least once in a quarter of the  
15 year but meetings may be convened as frequently as may be necessary.
- 16 (2) At least fourteen days' notice shall be given for convening a  
17 meeting of the Board and such notice shall be sent under the signature of the  
18 Secretary of the Board stating the date on, and the time and place at, which the  
19 meeting shall be held.
- 20 (3) Emergency meetings may be convened on twenty-four hours'  
21 notice.
- 22 (4) The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Board; and if  
23 for any reason he is unable to preside over a meeting, a member elected by the  
24 members present shall preside over that meeting.
- 25 (5) Four members shall form a quorum of a meeting.
- 26 (6) All matters at a meeting shall be decided by majority votes of the  
27 members present.
- 28 (7) Each member of the Board shall have one vote, and in the event of  
29 equality of votes, the Chairman or the member presiding over the meeting shall  
30 have a casting vote.

Meetings of the  
Board



Power to accept gifts	1	<b>9.</b> -(1) The Institute may accept gifts of land, money or other property
	2	upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or
	3	organisation making the gifts.
	4	(2) The Institute shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by
	5	the person or organisation making the gift to the acceptance thereof are
	6	inconsistent with the functions of the Institute.
Borrowing power	7	<b>10.</b> -(1) The Institute may, with the consent of the Minister or in
	8	accordance with the general guidelines approved by the President, borrow by
	9	way of loan or overdraft from any source any moneys required by the Institute
	10	for meeting its obligations and discharging its functions under this Bill.
	11	(2) The Institute may, subject to the provisions of this Bill and the
	12	conditions of any trust created in respect of any property, invest all or any of its
	13	funds with the like consent or general authority.
	14	(3) The Board may invest any surplus funds of the Institute in such
	15	securities as may be approved by the President.
Annual estimates accounts and audit	16	<b>11.</b> -(1) The Board shall cause to be prepared not later than 30 June in
	17	each year an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Institute during the
	18	next succeeding year and when prepared they shall be submitted to the
	19	Minister.
	20	(2) The Board shall cause to be kept proper accounts of the Institute
	21	and proper records in relation thereto and when certified by the Board such
	22	accounts shall be audited as provided in subsection (3) of this section.
	23	(3) The accounts of the Institute shall be audited as soon as may be
	24	after the end of each year.
Annual report	25	<b>12.</b> The Board shall, not later than 30 September in each year, submit
	26	to the Minister a report on the activities of the Institute and its administration
	27	during the immediately preceding year and shall include in such report the
	28	audited accounts of the Institute.
	29	PART IV - MISCELLANEOUS
Staff regulations	30	<b>13.</b> -(1) The Board may, subject to the provisions of this Bill, make

1 staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the  
2 employees of the Institute and without prejudice to the generality of the  
3 foregoing, such regulations may provide for:

4 (a) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control (including  
5 dismissal) of employees of the Institute; and

6 (b) appeals by such employees against dismissal or other  
7 disciplinary measure, and until such regulations are made, any instrument  
8 relating to the conditions of service of officers in the civil service of the  
9 Federation shall be applicable, with such modifications as may be  
10 necessary, to the employees of the Institute.

11 (2) Staff regulations made under subsection (1) or this section,  
12 shall not have effect until approved by the Minister and when so approved  
13 they need not be published in the Federal Gazette but the Board shall cause  
14 them to be brought to the notice of all affected persons in such manner as it  
15 may, from time to time, determine.

16 **14.** No suit shall be commenced against the Institute before the  
17 expiration of a period of one month after written notice of intention to  
18 commence the suit shall have been served upon the Institute by the intending  
19 plaintiff or his agent; and the notice shall clearly and explicitly state:

Procedure in  
respect of suits  
against the  
Institute

20 (a) the cause of action;

21 (b) the particulars of the claim;

22 (c) the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and

23 (d) the relief which he claims.

24 **15.** The notice referred to in section 18 of this Bill and any  
25 summons, notice or other document required or authorised to be served  
26 upon the Institute under the provisions of this Bill or any other enactment or  
27 law may be served by delivering the same to the chairman or the Director  
28 General of the Institute, or by sending it by registered post addressed to the  
29 Director General of the Institute.

Services of  
documents

Restriction on execution against the property of the Institute	1 2 3 4 5	<p><b>16.</b> In any action or suit against the Institute, no execution or attachment or process in the nature thereof shall be issued against the Institute, but any sums of money which may, by the judgment of the court, be awarded against the Institute shall subject to any directions given by the Institute, be paid from the general reserve fund of the Institute.</p>
Power to give directions	6 7 8 9	<p><b>17.</b> The Minister may give the Board directions of a general character or relating generally to particular matters (but not to any individual or case) with regard to the exercise by the Board of its functions under this Bill, and it shall be the duty of the Board to comply with such directions.</p>
Interpretation	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	<p><b>18.</b> In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:</p> <p>"Board" means the Board of Governors of the Institute constituted as provided in section 2(1) of this Bill;</p> <p>"Chairman" means the chairman of the Board;</p> <p>"Director" means the Director of the Institute;</p> <p>"Institute" means the Nigerian Rice Research Institute established by section 1 of this Bill;</p> <p>"member" means any member of the Board and includes the chairman;</p> <p>"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for Agriculture and Rural Development;</p> <p>"President" mean the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.</p>
Short title	21 22	<p><b>19.</b> This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Rice Research Institute Bill, 2018.</p>

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to make provision for a training organization to be known as the Nigerian Rice Research Institute, to provide for its organization, control and operation, and for connected purposes.