Issued by: Minister of Rural Affairs
Type of the document: Regulation
Type of the text: original text-full text
Date of entry into force of the version: 01.01.2023
Date of expiry of the version:
Publication note: SG I, 27.09.2022, 1

Statutes of the Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge

Adopted on 23.09.2022 No. 50

The Regulation is established on the basis of § 43 (5) of the Government of the Republic Act and § 13 (1) point 3 of the Research and Development Organization Act.

Chapter 1 General Provisions

§ 1. Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge

(1) Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge (hereinafter the Centre) is a state managed research and development institution operating under the governance of the Ministry of Rural Affairs (hereinafter the Ministry).

(2) The English name of the Centre is *Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge*.

§ 2. The seal and symbols of the Centre

(1) The Centre has a circle-shaped seal with a diameter of 35 millimeters, with an image of a small coat of arms in the Centre. On the upper edge of the circle are the words "Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge."

(2) The Centre has its own logo, which can be used on the Centre's document form and other printed matter and souvenirs of the Centre. The use of the Centre's logo and document form is stipulated in the Centre's administrative procedure.

§ 3. Reporting requirement

The Centre has a reporting requirement to the minister responsible for the field (hereinafter the minister), who directs and coordinates the Centre's activities and exercises official supervision over its activities.

§ 4. Location of the Centre

The postal address of the Centre is J. Aamisepa 1, Jõgeva small town, 48309 Jõgeva County. The location and postal address of the structural unit located elsewhere in the Centre are indicated in the statutes of the structural unit.

Chapter 2 Field of activity and tasks

§ 5. Field of activity of the Centre

The field of activity of the Centre is:

1) research, monitoring, assessment, and analysis in the field of agriculture, rural life, and rural economy, including laboratory analyses;

2) variety breeding and field trials of agricultural crops;

3) knowledge transfer, extension, and innovation services in the field of agriculture and rural life;

4) activities necessary for the implementation of the common agricultural policy of the European Union.

§ 6. Tasks of the Centre

The Centre:

1) conducts applied and basic research in its field of activity and organizes monitoring;

2) breeds varieties of agricultural crops and carries out conservation breeding, and among other things, retaining standard samples of varieties;

3) conducts distinctiveness, uniformity and stability, value for cultivation or use, post-control, and other field tests;

4) produces and distributes seeds of agricultural crops;

5) preserves and carries research on the genetic resources of plants and microorganisms;

6) performs the tasks of the contact authority of the Farm Accountancy Data Network of the European Commission and manages the data network;

7) collects and processes data necessary for the implementation of the common agricultural policy measures of the European Union and submits them to the Ministry;

8) keeps records of the gross margin by main agricultural crops and animal species at different harvest and productivity levels;

9) performs the tasks of the national reference laboratory, official laboratory, and quarantine station;

10) performs laboratory tests of seeds, plant pests, fertilizer, soil, plant material, fodder, and other material;

11) conducts a survey and monitoring of the environmental impact of land use;

12) conducts agro-technological and soil studies and soil monitoring, including monitoring the lime consumption of agricultural land;

13) conducts spatial data analyzes in its field of activity and participates in the development and establishment of map application services in its field of activity;

14) carries out evaluation activities, monitoring, and research of the common agricultural policy of the European Union and disseminates their results and fulfills the tasks of the national network for the common agricultural policy of the European Union;

15) coordinates and develops knowledge transfer, extension services, and innovation support services in the field of agriculture and rural economy;

16) organizes training in its field of activity;

17) performs other tasks assigned to it by the Research Council of the Centre or the Ministry.

Chapter 3 Management

§ 7. Head of the Centre

(1) The Centre is managed and represented by a director.

(2) The director is selected through a public competition conducted by the Research Council of the Centre. Based on the result of the public competition, the minister signs an employment contract with the person selected as director for up to five years.

§ 8. Director

(1) The director bears responsibility for the general state and development of the Centre and for the legal and appropriate use of financial resources within the limits of competence provided in the statutes.

(2) Director:

1) manages the work of the Centre and organizes the activities of the Centre and the performance of the tasks within their competence, either themselves or through the deputy director;

2) coordinates, directs, and controls the work of the employee directly subordinate to them and the structural unit;

3) establishes the statutes of the structural unit of the Centre, the composition of the staff, document management procedures, and other documents regulating the work organization of the Centre;

4) submits the structure of the Centre to the Research Council of the Centre for approval and the approved structure to the minister for approval;

5) submits proposals to the Centre's Research Council regarding the directions of the Centre's activities and the development plan;

6) submits a report to the Centre's Research Council on the implementation of the Centre's action plan;

7) is responsible for the accurate and expedient execution of the legislation governing the Centre's activities and reports to the minister;

8) submits a proposal to the minister on the Centre's income and expenditure budget and supervises its accurate and expedient execution;

9) issues directives and orders for the management and organization of the Centre's activities;

10) announces a competition to fill academic staff positions;

11) forms, if necessary, a permanent or temporary committee, council, and working group with advisory rights and determines its tasks and working procedure;

12) signs an employment contract with the employees and terminates it and approves the job description;

13) represents the Centre, enters into contracts on behalf of the Centre, and makes transactions for the performance of the tasks set forth in these statutes, except in the field specified in subsections 4 and 6 of § 9;

14) establishes the fee charged for paid services and the basis and procedure for its determination;

15) ensures the implementation of the Centre's internal audit system;

16) organizes the prudent use of the state property entrusted to the Centre in accordance with the State Assets Act;

17) disposes of the financial resources allocated for the performance of tasks and ensures their targeted and expedient use, except in the field specified in subsections 4 and 6 of § 9;

18) is responsible for complying with the legislation governing the Centre's activities, except in the field specified in subsections 4 and 6 of § 9.

(3) The director is replaced by the deputy director in charge of innovation and entrepreneurship.

§ 9. Deputy Director

(1) The Centre has three deputy directors.

(2) The deputy director of the field of innovation and entrepreneurship manages the activities of the Centre in the field of agricultural and rural knowledge transfer, extension services, and activities supporting innovation.

(3) The deputy director of the field of research manages the activities of the Centre in the field of plant breeding, plant protection, plant biotechnology, agricultural research and seed production, packaging, and marketing.

(4) Deputy Director of the field of research:

1) ensures the fulfillment of the tasks of the Centre within the field of plant breeding and seed production, packaging, and marketing and the comprehensive development of this field;

2) is responsible for the accurate and expedient execution of the legislation regulating the activities of the Centre within the field of plant breeding and seed production, packaging, and marketing, for achieving the goals set for the field and for developing the field;

3) represents the Centre, concludes contracts, and makes transactions on behalf of the Centre in order to perform tasks within the field of plant breeding and seed production, packaging, and marketing;

4) disposes of the financial resources allocated for the performance of tasks within the field of plant breeding and seed production, packaging, and marketing and ensures their targeted and expedient use.

(5) The deputy director of laboratories and test centers manages the activities of the Centre in the field of registration, economics, post-control, and other field tests and laboratory testing of seeds, plant pests, fertilizer, soil, plant material, fodder, and other material.

(6) Deputy director of laboratories and test centers:

1) ensures the fulfillment of the tasks of the Centre within the field of field tests for registration, economic, post-control and control of various preservation, certification of seeds and seed potatoes, control of various preservation, and laboratory testing related to economic experiments and comprehensive development of this field;

2) is responsible for performing field trials for registration, economic, post-control and variety preservation verification, seed and seed potato certification, variety preservation verification, and laboratory testing related to economic experiments within the field of accurate and expedient execution of the legislation governing the activities of the Centre, achievement of the goals set for the field and development of the field;

3) represents the Centre, enters into contracts on behalf of the Centre, and makes transactions for registration, economic, follow-up, and control of variety preservation within the field of conducting

field tests, certification of seeds and seed potatoes, verification of variety preservation, and laboratory testing related to economic experiments;

4) disposes of the financial resources allocated for the performance of tasks within the field of registration, economic, post- control and variety preservation verification, seed and seed potato certification, variety preservation verification, and financial resources allocated for the performance of tasks within the field of laboratory testing related to economic experiments and ensures their targeted and expedient use.

(7) The detailed duties, rights, and responsibilities of the deputy director are stipulated in the job description.

(8) The director signs an employment contract with the deputy director. The director signs an employment contract with the deputy director of the field of research and laboratories and test centers if it is coordinated with the minister.

Chapter 4 Research Council

§ 10. Research Council of the Centre

(1) A research council of at least five members is formed to resolve issues related to the Centre's activities within the scope of the tasks specified in the statutes, the composition of which is approved by the minister upon the proposal of the director.

(2) The members of the Research Council shall elect the head and deputy head of the Research Council from among themselves.

§ 11. Tasks of the Research Council

(1) The Research Council:

1) conducts a public competition to fill the position of director and deputy director of the Centre;

2) gives guidelines on the activities of the Centre;

3) approves the Centre's development plan;

4) gives an assessment of the implementation of the Centre's action plan;

5) approves the structure of the Centre;

6) establishes the names of the positions of the Centre's academic staff, the conditions and procedures for their performance;

7) establishes the requirements for the Centre's academic staff.

(2) A member of the Research Council has the right to request and receive information from the director or deputy director on all issues concerning the Centre's activities.

§ 12. Rules of procedure of the Research Council

(1) The working form of the Research Council is a meeting.

(2) Meetings of the Research Council are held as needed, but not less often than once a quarter.

(3) The meeting is called by the head of the Research Council or the deputy head replacing them.

(4) The meeting of the Research Council shall be convened as an emergency if requested by a third of the members of the Research Council or the director.

(5) The members of the Research Council must be notified of the meeting and its agenda at least one week in advance.

(6) The meeting of the Research Council has decision-making power if more than half of the members of the Research Council participate in it, including the head or the deputy's head replacing them.

(7) The Research Council adopts decisions in public voting with a simple majority of the members participating in the meeting. In the event of an equal division of votes, the vote of the head of the Research Council or the deputy's head replacing them is decisive.

(8) The decision of the Research Council is adopted if more than half of the members of the Research Council who participated in the meeting vote for it. A member does not have the right to refuse to vote or remain neutral.

(9) The meeting of the Research Council shall be recorded in minutes. The minutes are signed by the head of the Research Council or the deputy head replacing them and the secretary.

§ 13. Adopting decisions of the Research Council without convening a meeting

(1) The Research Council has the right to adopt a decision without convening a meeting if the head of the Research Council or the deputy head replacing them sends a draft of the decision together with the accompanying information to all the members of the Research Council, setting a deadline within which the member of the Research Council must present their written position.

(2) The decision of the Research Council is adopted by a simple majority of the members of the Research Council participating in the decision.

(3) In order to adopt a decision of the Research Council without convening a meeting, at least 75 percent of the members of the Research Council must participate in the decision.

(4) A record of the vote shall be prepared for the voting results, which shall be signed by the head of the Research Council or the deputy's head replacing them and the secretary.

(5) The record of the vote is sent immediately to all members of the Research Council and the director.

Chapter 5 Property and Financing

§ 14. Property and Financing of the Centre

(1) Possession, use, and disposal of the property in possession of the Centre shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure provided for in legislation.

(2) The activities of the Centre are financed from the state budget, income from paid services related to core activities, funds allocated for the implementation of programs and projects, and other receipts.

(3) Income received from intellectual property is used for the research and development activities specified in § 6.

Chapter 6 Reporting and Supervision

§ 15. Reporting and supervision

(1) The Centre keeps financial and statistical records in accordance with the procedure established in legislation.

(2) The intended use of the funds allocated to the Centre from the state budget and the compliance of the Centre's activities with the objectives arising from the statutes are checked in accordance with the procedure provided by legislation.

Chapter 7 Reorganization of the Centre and termination of activities

§ 16. Reorganization of the Centre and termination of activities

The activities of the Centre are reorganized or terminated by the Government of the Republic at the proposal of the Ministry after hearing the opinion of the Research and Development Council.

Chapter 8 Implementing Provisions

§ 17. Repeal of the Regulations

With the reorganization of the Estonian Crop Research Institute and the Agricultural Research Centre, the following regulations of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Rural Affairs are declared invalid:

1) Regulation No. 42 of the Minister of Agriculture of June 4, 2013, "Statutes of the Estonian Crop Research Institute";

2) Regulation No. 72 of the Minister of Rural Affairs of November 8, 2017, "Statutes of the Agricultural Research Centre."

§ 18. Entry into force of the Regulation

(1) The Regulation enters into force on January 1, 2023.

(2) Clause 7 of § 6 of the Regulation enters into force on January 1, 2024.

(3) The resolution of the pending cases of the Estonian Crop Research Institute and the Agricultural Research Centre will be transferred to the Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge. The Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge may continue to use the name of the Agricultural Research Centre, the Estonian Plant Breeding Institute, the Estonian Crop Research Institute, and the Jõgeva Plant Breeding Institute if it is unavoidably necessary for the variety's popularity and for marketing the produced and packaged seed or plant propagating material or in other activities.

Urmas Kruuse

Minister of Rural Affairs

Marko Gorban

Secretary-General