

The Constitution



**Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
FAO Annex Building, 202/1 Larn Luang Road
Pomprab Sattrupai, Bangkok 10100
THAILAND**

September 2021

The Constitution

Eight Edition - September 2021

This revised version (Eight Edition) of the APAARI constitution was approved in September 2021 by the APAARI Executive Committee as per the directive and guidance of the sixteenth General Assembly Meeting held in April 2021 held virtually.

[The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) was established in 1990 at the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) and several National Agricultural Research Institutions (NARIs) and National Agricultural Research Organizations (NAROs) of the Asia-Pacific Region.]

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For copies please write to:

The Executive Secretary
Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
FAO Annex Building, 202/1 Larn Luang Road
Pomprab Sattrupai, Bangkok 10100
Thailand

Tel: +66 (2) 282 2918
Fax: +66 (2) 282 2919
E-mail: apaari@apaari.org
<http://www.apaari.org>

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**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
(APAARI)**

PREAMBLE

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) was established in 1990. The *First Edition* of APAARI's Constitution was published in December 1991. Since then, the Constitution has progressed through Sixth editions¹, mainly with minor amendments; the latest version being the *Seventh Edition* of July 2019.

Developed on the basis of a comprehensive review, this *Eighth Edition* of the Constitution makes substantial improvements and amendments that provide clarity, consistency and transparency for APAARI to respond to current and emerging challenges of agriculture and agri-food systems (AFS)² in the Asia-Pacific Region (APR). These challenges include climate change, depleting resources, hunger and malnourishment, and complex production, supply and value chains. Also included in this Edition are the necessary provisions to help enhance APAARI's management and governance so as to respond effectively towards the renewed focus on agricultural research and innovation and thereby contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. This Edition has 17 Articles and 50 Paragraphs, and 1 Annexure, covering various topics as indexed in the Contents page.

¹ *First Edition of December 1991, Second Edition of September 1994, Third Edition of February 2003, Fourth Edition of January 2009, Fifth Edition of January 2015, and Sixth Editions March 2017.*

² *In the context of this Constitution, agri-food systems cover farming of crops and livestock, fish, pastoralism and forestry/agro-forestry, their production systems, and their associated post-harvest food value chains and service industries, with a particular focus on the needs of resource-poor smallholder producers.*

Article I: INTERPRETATION

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise specifies, the following abbreviations, acronyms, expressions and terms are used:

“AFRIS” means agri-food research and innovation systems as specified in footnote 3 referred to under Paragraph 2 of Article II;

“AFS” means agri-food systems as specified in footnote 2 referred to in Preamble to this Constitution;

“AIRCA” is the Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture;

“APAARI” means the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions as named under Paragraph 1 of Article II;

“APR” is the Asia-Pacific Region;

“Association” means the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions as recognized under Paragraph 1 of Article II;

“CGIAR” is the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Executive Committee as nominated/elected under Paragraph 27 of Article X;

“CSO” is Civil Society Organization;

“Executive Committee (EC)” means the Executive Committee of APAARI composed under Paragraph 25 and established under Paragraph 26 of Article X;

“Executive Secretary (ES)” means the Executive Secretary of APAARI as appointed under Article XII;

“FO” is Farmers’ Organization;

“General Assembly (GA)” means the General Assembly of APAARI established under

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Paragraph 19 of Article VIII;

“GFAR” is the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation;

“Head Office” means the Head Office of APAARI as mentioned in Paragraph 5 of Article III;

“Host Country” means the Host Country of APAARI as named under Paragraph 5 of Article III;

“IARC” is International Agricultural Research Center;

“Member” means a representative of a member organization of APAARI on the Executive Committee as composed under Paragraph 25 of Article X;

“Member Organization” means the member organization of the APAARI General Assembly as termed under Paragraph 12 of Article VI;

“NARC” is National Agricultural Research Council;

“NARI” is National Agricultural Research Institution;

“NARO” is National Agricultural Research Organization;

“NGO” is Non-Government Organization;

“Vice-Chairperson” means the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee nominated/ elected under Paragraph 27 of Article X;

“Secretariat” means the Secretariat of APAARI as established under Paragraph 6 of Article III; and

“This Constitution” includes Annexure 1 as specified under Paragraph 13 of Article VI and rules of procedure and regulations as formulated under Article XIV.

Article II: NAME AND CHARACTER

1. The name of this Association shall be “Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions”, hereinafter referred to as “APAARI” or “the Association”.
2. APAARI is an Asia-Pacific regional membership-based, non-profit, apolitical, multi-stakeholder organization. It shall function with an overall objective to promote and strengthen agriculture and agri-food research and innovation systems (AFRIS)³ through collaborations, partnerships and networking, capacity development and advocacy for sustainable agricultural development in the Asia-Pacific Region.
3. APAARI shall have a logo designed and approved by the General Assembly. The General Assembly may change the logo through amendment/resolution as provided under Article XVI.
4. APAARI shall be appropriately recognized as a regional organization for strengthening agri-food research and innovation systems in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Article III: OFFICE AND SECRETARIAT

5. APAARI shall have its Head Office in Bangkok, Thailand (Host Country of APAARI).
6. The Association shall have a Secretariat to perform its technical, managerial and administrative functions. The Secretariat shall be located at APAARI’s Head Office.
7. The Asia-Pacific Region shall have three sub-regions for effective operations and governance of APAARI. These sub-regions shall be: i) South Asia and West Asia, ii) Southeast Asia and East Asia, and iii) the Pacific.
8. The General Assembly may establish sub-regional offices in any of its member countries on an as-needed basis to carry out any of the functions of APAARI, for a period determined by the General Assembly.

³ *In the context of APAARI, agri-food research and innovation systems are comprised of interconnected and interdependent components, such as NARIs, NAROs, NARCs, IARCs, CGIAR centers, AIRCA member institutions, advanced research institutes, agricultural universities, higher education institutions, extension, CSOs, NGOs, FOs, the private sector, development organizations (national, regional, global and intergovernmental), women, youth, farmers and rural communities, including those involved in agri-food production systems and their associated post-harvest food value chains and service industries.*

Article IV: OBJECTIVES

9. The specific objectives of APAARI shall be to:
 - i. Strengthen agri-food research and innovation systems for more effective knowledge management and information exchange in order to make agriculture and agri-food systems more knowledge-intensive in the APR;
 - ii. Develop and strengthen strategic partnerships, cross-linkages and networking for technical and scientific cooperation among a) agri-food research and innovation systems in the region, and b) national, sub-regional, regional and global multi-sector research and development organizations/agencies;
 - iii. Assist in the assessment and prioritization of agricultural research and development needs in individual countries, sub-regions, and the APR;
 - iv. Contribute to the development of institutional arrangements, organizational capacities; including but not limited to technical, scientific and managerial competencies of AFRIS for effective planning, management and delivery of research and innovations;
 - v. Contribute to the improved understanding and awareness of the role and importance of, and investment in AFRIS for improving AFS and socio-economic development in the APR;
 - vi. Assist in facilitating appropriate and fair representation of women and youth in AFRIS and their participation in policy and decision making in agri-food systems; and
 - vii. Manage, develop, and govern APAARI with a high level of transparency and accountability in order to achieve sustained strengthening of AFRIS in the APR.

Article V: FUNCTIONS

10. The functions of APAARI shall be:
 - i. Convene General Assembly of APAARI and establish and operate Executive Committee to deliberate and decide on APAARI management, governance, work programme, progress, finances, policies, strategies and other related matters;

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- ii. Develop, implement, monitor and report on vision, strategy, operational plans and collective activities of APAARI;
- iii. Initiate, collaborate and/or coordinate technical and scientific projects/programmes, and necessary research and innovation activities among APAARI members, AFRIS and their partner organizations, at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels;
- iv. Organize, co-host and/or sponsor scientific, technical, policy-related conferences, workshops, dialogues, meetings, seminars, webinars, online discussions and such other events in pursuit of the Association's objectives;
- v. Organize, participate and support institutional, organizational and human resource capacity development activities, including training programmes, staff exchange, mentoring, attachments, secondment and any other as necessary;
- vi. Develop, manage and implement knowledge management/ exchange and necessary tools, processes and information and communication technologies (ICTs), including websites, databases, social media tools, technical and scientific publications, standards and any other as necessary;
- vii. Mobilize, generate, and manage necessary financial, human and partnership resources for effective management and governance of APAARI; and
- viii. Provide priority support in small-island and mountainous countries of the APR for developing competencies, capacities and resources to agri-food research and innovation systems.

Article VI: MEMBERSHIP

11. Membership of APAARI shall be open to organizations/institutions engaged in, responsible for, and promoting agricultural research and innovation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

12. Membership of APAARI may be sought by submitting an application to the Executive Secretary and as approved by the Executive Committee. Once approved such organization shall be termed as Member Organization.

13. The Member Organizations shall be classified in the following four main categories; i) Country Core Member Organizations, ii) Associate Member Organizations, iii) Affiliate Member Organizations, and iv) Reciprocal Member Organizations. Details of these categories/sub-categories and annual membership subscriptions shall be as

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specified in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of Annexure 1 - APAARI Membership Categories and Subscriptions.

14. The contents of Annexure 1 are evolving, progressive and adaptable in nature. These contents may be modified and/or updated and approved, from time to time, by the Executive Committee. Such updated version of Annexure 1 shall be provided along with this Constitution.

15. Annual membership subscription shall fall due in January every year.

16. On failure of a member organization to pay its membership subscription consecutively for three years, the APAARI Executive Committee may decide to discontinue such membership.

17. Any member organization, desiring to withdraw its membership from the Association, shall notify the Executive Secretary in writing. Such withdrawal shall take effect three months from the date of receipt of the notice by the Executive Secretary.

Article VII: FUNDS

18. APAARI shall seek and receive funds from various sources to carry out its functions. Such sources may comprise of:

- i. Membership subscriptions received from APAARI member organizations;
- ii. Grants and donations from governments, national, regional or international organizations, donor/aid organizations/agencies, philanthropic bodies, development banks, and the private sector;
- iii. Contributions from partners/collaborators and sponsors in APAARI organized meetings, events, networks, and projects;
- iv. Proceeds from the sale of publications issued, goods tendered, consultancy services provided by APAARI;
- v. Fees collected from participants of technical meetings, training programmes, etc. organized and/or managed by APAARI;
- vi. Interest incomes and returns from reserve funds/deposits and royalties from intellectual properties; and
- vii. Other suitable sources as approved from time to time by the Executive Committee.

Article VIII: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19. There shall be a General Assembly of APAARI, wherein each member organization shall be represented by one delegate.
20. The General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years. The meeting of the General Assembly shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, as assisted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee.
21. Each member organization under Membership Category I (Country Core Member Organizations) and Category II (Associate Member Organizations) shall have one vote at the General Assembly meetings. Member organizations under Category III (Affiliate Member Organizations) and Category IV (Reciprocal Member Organizations) shall not have voting right at the General Assembly meetings.
22. The Chairperson shall allow adequate time for mutual consultation among members prior to voting on any issue/matter. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
23. All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote (more than 50% of votes in favour), except for those relating to amendment of the Constitution, and dissolution of the Association, wherein the decision shall take place as under Article XVI and Article XVII.

Article IX: DUTIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24. To fulfill the objectives of APAARI, the General Assembly shall perform the following roles and responsibilities:
 - i. Consider and endorse biennial work plan, income expenditure plan, strategic plan, audited financial statements, progress and performance reports, human resource development report as presented by the Executive Committee;
 - ii. Consider and approve policies, directives, rules of procedures, and regulations made in accordance with this Constitution;
 - iii. Nominate/elect the Executive Committee, appoint any specific purpose committee(s), appoint any member of the Assembly to serve on such specific purpose committee, delegate any required authority to the Executive Committee, and exercise other powers/duties as conferred upon the General Assembly under this Constitution;

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- iv. Consider and approve recommendations of the Executive Committee for effective functioning and governance of APAARI; and
- v. As and when needed, consider and approve amendments to the Constitution for enhancing the performance and effectiveness of APAARI.

Article X: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

25. The Association shall have an Executive Committee, composed of the following fourteen (14) members:

- i. Six (6) members representing the Category I (Country Core Member Organizations) of which two (2) shall be from the South Asia and West Asia sub-region, two (2) from the South-East Asia and East Asia sub-region, and two (2) from the Pacific sub-region. One of these six members shall be the out-going Chairperson, who will continue as a member for the new term; to ensure continuity and needed guidance to the new Executive Committee;
- ii. A member representing the member organization from the host country of APAARI;
- iii. A member representing the higher education sector (agricultural universities and institutions);
- iv. A member representing the CGIAR - as represented by one of the CGIAR Center Directors General;
- v. A member representing the AIRCA – as represented by one of the AIRCA member institutions;
- vi. A member representing the private sector organizations;
- vii. A member representing donor/funding agencies/organizations;
- viii. A member who is the incumbent Executive Secretary of the GFAR; and
- ix. The incumbent Executive Secretary of APAARI as an *ex-officio* member.

26. The members shall be nominated/elected by the General Assembly in its biennial meeting from the respective groups of member organizations. A member organization shall not have more than one representative on the Executive Committee.

27. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall be

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nominated/elected from the seven Executive Committee members [as under Paragraph 25 (i) and (ii)], by the Country Core Member Organizations present at the General Assembly Meeting.

28. In case any of the member seat(s) on the Executive Committee remains vacant during the General Assembly meeting, such member seat(s) shall be nominated/filled-in by the Executive Committee.

29. The Executive Secretary of APAARI shall be appointed in accordance with Article XII of this Constitution.

30. The Executive Committee may co-opt/ invite, as a special member/an observer on the Executive Committee, any such individual with specific expertise, skills, interest and experience.

31. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and members of the Executive Committee (other than the member representing member organization of the host country, the Executive Secretary of GFAR and the APAARI Executive Secretary), shall hold office for two years, which can be renewed up to twice through approval of the General Assembly Meeting.

32. If any member seat, including that of the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, of the Executive Committee, falls vacant, such seat shall be filled-in for remaining tenure by the Executive Committee in consultation with the member organization to which the original member belonged.

Article XI: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

33. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice every year and such meetings shall be convened by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairperson.

34. The Executive Committee shall oversee the affairs of APAARI in accordance with this Constitution, and policies and directives adopted/given by the General Assembly. The specific duties of the Executive Committee shall be to:

- i. Review and approve biennial work plan, income and expenditure plan, audited financial statements, projects and collective actions of APAARI
- ii. Plan and develop policies, strategies, directives, rules of procedures, and regulations for approval by the General Assembly;
- iii. Suggest and approve the necessary standards of management to enhance functioning, performance and governance of APAARI;

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- iv. Propose to the General Assembly the composition of the Executive Committee, delegation of required authority to the Executive Committee, and suggest any other powers/duties of the General Assembly as conferred upon under this Constitution;
 - v. Form and appoint sub-committee(s) of the Executive Committee to deal with specific purpose(s);
 - vi. Appoint APAARI Executive Secretary and periodically assess and review his/her performance; and
 - vii. Design, endorse and propose amendments to the Constitution for approval by the General Assembly, as and when needed.
35. The Executive Committee members shall participate in any specific purpose committee(s), as formed from time to time, by the Executive Committee and/or by the General Assembly.
36. The Executive Committee members, as and when required, shall represent APAARI at internal and external meetings, forums and events in fulfilling the objectives of APAARI.

Article XII: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

37. APAARI shall have an Executive Secretary as Chief Executive Officer of APAARI. The APAARI Secretariat shall be headed by the Executive Secretary.
38. The Executive Committee shall appoint the Executive Secretary for a tenure of three (3) years. The person appointed should have suitable qualifications, experience and acknowledged leadership in agricultural research, innovation and development. He/she will be supported by an optimal number of technical and administrative staff in the Secretariat.
39. The performance of the Executive Secretary shall be periodically assessed and reviewed by the Executive Committee and if found satisfactory and acceptable; the appointment of the Executive Secretary may be renewed once for a further term of three (3) years.

Article XIII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

40. The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the General Assembly and the

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Executive Committee; and represent, as and when required, the Association at internal and external meetings, forums, and events in fulfilling the objectives of APAARI.

41. The Vice-Chairperson shall perform all duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson, and such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Chairperson.

42. The Executive Secretary shall be the chief of the Secretariat of APAARI and shall be responsible for the affairs of the Association. Under the general guidance of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly, the Executive Secretary shall perform the following duties:

- i. Plan and organize the General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings, prepare the proceedings, arrange their publication and distribution, follow up on decisions taken and matters arising, and maintain records of the reports and proceedings of all meetings of the Association;
- ii. Prepare the Association's work plan and budget, monitor the progress of activities, propose new projects/programmes in collaboration with national, regional and international organizations, and ensure coordination of activities among the member organizations of APAARI;
- iii. Mobilize and manage the financial resources of APAARI, in particular (but not limited to), collect annual membership subscriptions and receive any other financial contributions, make payments/utilize funds in accordance with approved income expenditure plan/budget, maintain full accounts, and submit audited financial statements for endorsement to the Executive Committee/ General Assembly during their respective meetings;
- iv. Oversee overall delivery on a) APAARI programmes/projects, b) design of policies, strategies and biennial operational plans, c) partnership meetings/conferences/dialogues/training events/activities, d) human resource development and management, and e) public relationship;
- v. Publish the APAARI Newsletter, event proceedings and technical and policy reports;
- vi. Line manage all the staff of APAARI, conduct their annual performance appraisal, and ensure new recruitments or replacements as and when desired/approved by the Executive Committee; and
- vii. Undertake any additional duties as entrusted by the Executive Committee in pursuit of the APAARI's objectives.

Article XIV: RULES AND REGULATIONS

43. General rules of procedure, financial management procedures, and regulations shall be prepared, modified and proposed by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly.

44. Modifications to the rules, procedures, and regulations shall be adopted by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes at any meeting of the General Assembly.

Article XV: QUORUM

45. The quorum shall be fifty per cent (50%) of the member organizations with voting rights at any General Assembly meeting and fifty per cent (50%) of the members at any Executive Committee meeting.

Article XVI: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

46. Amendment of the Constitution shall be considered only at a meeting of the General Assembly.

47. No proposal for the amendment of the Constitution shall be included in the agenda of any General Assembly meeting unless notice thereof has been dispatched by the Executive Secretary to members at least 60 days before the opening of the meeting.

48. Amendment of the Constitution shall only be considered by the General Assembly if such agenda and the content of the amendment are supported by and have a prior endorsement of the Executive Committee by a simple majority of (more than 50%) of the votes.

49. The Association may amend this Constitution by a two-third majority (66% or more) of the votes cast, provided that such majority is more than half (more than 50%) of the countries from which the country core membership of APAARI is drawn.

Article XVII: DISSOLUTION

50. The Association can only be dissolved by a resolution approved at a General Assembly meeting. The procedure to be followed for the dissolution of the Association shall be the same as detailed in paragraphs 46 to 49 of Article XVI.

Annexure 1. APAARI Membership Categories and Subscriptions
(Effective from July 2019)

Schedule 1. Categories and Sub-Categories of APAARI Membership

Membership Category/ Sub-Category	Organizations/Countries/Territories
Category I (Country Core Member Organizations)	Government (apex) national organizations like NARIs, NAROs, NARCs, national departments/ministries of agriculture and extension from the countries/territories of the region.
- Sub-Category I (A) Countries*	Large, developed or developing economies, such as Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines.
- Sub-Category I (B) Countries*	Small to middle sized and/or developing economies, such as Bangladesh, Brunei, DPR Korea, Fiji, Iran, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, and Sri Lanka.
- Sub-Category I (C) Countries*	Small sized and less developed economies, such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Guam, Lao PDR, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Niue, Palau, Republic of Kiribati, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Solomon Island, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, and Tuvalu. Vanuatu, and Vietnam.
Category II (Associate Member Organizations)	Higher education sector (agricultural universities and institutions), IARCs, CGIAR centers, AIRCA member institutions, sub-regional, regional and global research and development organizations, the private sector associations, and donor/funding organizations.
Category III (Affiliate Member Organizations)	Sub-categories specified as below.
- Sub-Category III (A)	Higher education sector (agricultural universities and institutions).
- Sub-Category III (B)	CSOs such as NGOs, FOs, women’s organizations, and youth organizations from the region.
Category IV (Reciprocal Member Organizations)	Regional and global agricultural research and development fora/bodies akin to APAARI, and inter-governmental research development agencies.

** List of countries as per categories in the APR given here includes such countries that are either current members or potential members of APAARI. This list is evolving.*

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Schedule 2. APAARI Membership Subscription per Member Organization

Membership Category/Sub-Category	Membership Subscription (USD/Annum)
Category I (Country Core Member Organizations)	As given under sub-categories
- Sub-Category I (A)	10,000
- Sub-Category I (B)	6,000
- Sub-Category I (C)	3,000
Category II (Associate Member Organizations)	5,000
Category III (Affiliate Member Organizations)	As given under sub-categories
- Sub-Category III (A)	1,500
- Sub-Category III (B)	1,000
Category IV (Reciprocal Member Organizations)	Without any subscription (Mutually waived).

Note to Annexure 1: The contents of Annexure 1 (Schedule 1 and Schedule 2) are evolving, progressive and adaptable in nature. These contents may be modified and/or updated and approved, from time to time, by the Executive Committee. Such updated version of Annexure 1 shall be provided along with this Constitution.



Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions

4th Floor, FAO Annex Building 202/1
Larn Luang Road Pomprab Sattrupai
District Bangkok 10100, Thailand
Phone: +632-282 2918
E-mail: apaari@apaari.org
Website: www.apaari.org



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