Preamble

We pledge to work for the inclusion, achievement, and advancement of all people in the agricultural sciences and natural resource sciences and related fields in a positive manner among ethnic minorities. We will initiate and participate in agricultural and environmental activities and programs to ensure that ethnic minorities will be involved with these disciplines. These activities and programs will be initiated both within and outside the academic community.

Article I
Section 1: The name of this organization shall be Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS)-Ohio State University. The national society of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources Related Sciences (hereafter MANRRS) is the governing body MANRRS-Ohio State University. MANRRS-Ohio State University will abide by all the rules and regulations in accordance with the national constitution.

Section 2 - Purpose

The objectives and purposes of this society shall be to:

1. Increase the number of minority students studying the agricultural sciences and related fields at undergraduate and graduate levels;

2. Encourage scholarly achievement, advancement, and excellence among members;

3. Develop leadership qualities in students; and

4. Aid in the recruitment and placement of minorities in professional positions in the agricultural sciences and related fields.

Section 3 – Non-Discrimination Policy: This organization and its members shall be free from discrimination against any individual(s) on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status or any other basis in accordance with Student Organization Registration and Funding Guidelines.

Article II – Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership

Section II.a. Membership shall consist of active, associate, and honorary
Section II.b. Registered undergraduate, graduate students and currently employed faculty and staff shall be admitted as active members.

Section II.c. Agricultural and natural resources sciences shall include all those disciplines usually included in degree programs of study offered by colleges, schools and departments of agriculture, veterinary science, and medicine, and/or natural resources in the nation’s institutions of higher learning. Related fields shall be those disciplines associated with agricultural and natural resource sciences which are offered in other administrative units of the nation’s institutions of higher learning. The Executive Committee of the society shall be the final arbiter on questions about the inclusion of specific disciplines in the society’s membership categories.

Section II.d. (Amount of) organizational dues shall be determined annually, during the first business meeting of the autumn quarter. The due date for annual dues will be December 1. A late payment penalty may be assessed if dues not paid by aforementioned date depending on circumstance.

Article III – Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers

Section III.a. If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization’s constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization’s advisor.

III.b. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization’s advisor.

III.c. In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), the executive board, in consultation with the organization’s advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

Article IV Officers

The elected positions of the organization shall be:

a) President
b) Vice-President
c) Secretary
d) Treasurer
Article V Election

Section IV.a Officers shall be elected annually at the first business meeting during spring quarter. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot.

Section IV.b Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot, with the term of the office for regularly elected members to be for one year. The term of office for officers elected between elections, shall end at the next regular election. Term of office begins at the end of the meeting at which an officer is elected.

Section IV.c The term of the office for regularly elected members shall be for one year. Term of the office begins at the end of the meeting at which an officer is elected.

Section IV.d If there is no slate running for office, positions may be temporarily filled. Under this non-traditional structure, active members will be invited to fill the available positions. The advisor, co-advisor, and former holder of the empty officer role may suggest an active member to temporarily fill the position. Following a discussion on the duties of the officer, the member may accept or decline the offer to temporarily fill the position. If the offer is accepted, the position will be held until another member challenges the position, whereby normal election protocols shall be followed.

Article VI

Committees & Standing Committees
There shall be 4 (four) committees formed annually. These shall be:

a) Program/Hospitality
b) Publicity
c) Financial
d) Membership
e) Elections

Section 1. The Program/Hospitality Committee shall plan professional and academic monthly programs for the organization, social activities, and arrange welcome of members (including refreshments, room set-up & clean-up).

Section 2. The Publicity Committee shall engage in and actively promote awareness of the organization, utilizing all newsletters, magazines, and other public forums to announce and publicize programs and activities of the organization.
Section 3. The Financial Committee shall be composed of the Treasurer and other members and shall develop a budget annually.

Section 4. The Membership Committee shall be composed of the Secretary and other members of the organization. This committee shall solicit membership to the organization; provide reasonable notice prior to all regularly scheduled and special meetings.

Section 5. Elections Committee (ad hoc) shall be a special committee composed of three members. This committee shall exist for two meetings and shall solicit nominations, determine voting procedures, and tally votes.

Section 6. The President shall appoint one member to serve as a representative on the CFAES Student Council. The representative shall serve a one-year term.

Article VII
Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside over meetings, serve as the official spokesperson, make the arrangements for meetings, and serve as ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President when the President is unable to preside.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall serve as chairperson for the financial committee and be responsible for maintaining all financial records, collecting, and distributing funds, and preparing financial reports. The Treasurer shall serve on the Financial Committee.

Section 4. The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence and recording of minutes at meetings. The Secretary shall serve on the Membership Committee.

Section 5. The Historian shall be responsible for maintaining records of the organization’s activities and events.

Article VIII
Voting

Section 1. Voting membership is limited to currently enrolled Ohio State students. Other parties such as alumni, professionals, faculty etc. are encouraged to become active members but do so as non-voting honorary or associate members.

Section 2. For all elections and conduct of business, a majority shall consist of fifty (50) percent plus 1 of those voting.
Article IX Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held bi-monthly. An annual calendar will be established before the end of October of each year. Special meetings may be called at the request of the President or the Executive Board. All active members shall be given adequate notice prior to all regular and special meetings.

Article X By-laws and Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any organizational meeting. Any proposed amendments shall be presented to members and advisors one month before amendment vote.

Section 2. The majority needed to approve amendments to this constitution shall be that specified in the constitution,