

VCB-N MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The VCB-N currently comprises members from 6 countries including Bangladesh, India, China, Vietnam, Laos and Indonesia. The network targets to strengthen itself with new members coming from the existing 6 member-countries and beyond as it aims to become a strong regional network in Asia and the Pacific Region (APR) with core business on Value Chain and Market Systems Development.

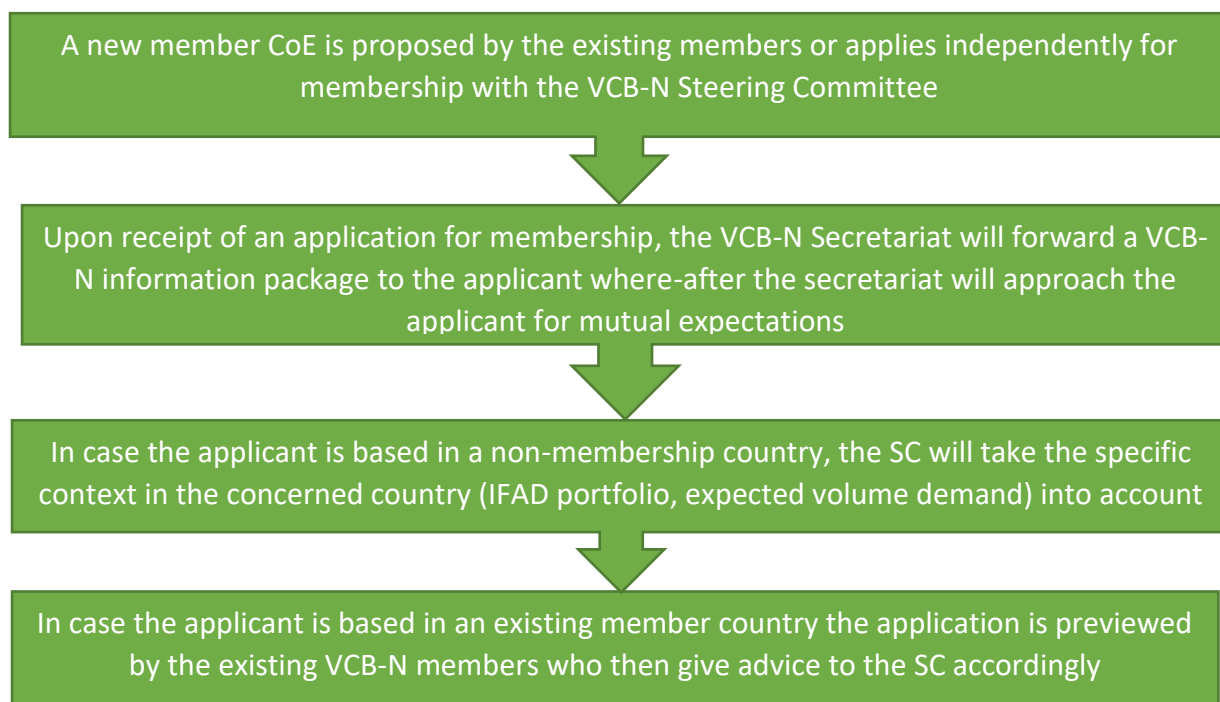
Application for membership to the VCB-N is open to agencies (public agencies, private companies, civil society organizations/NGOs, farmer organizations, universities, research institutes) and individual consultants that have a mandate for service delivery in the field of VCD/MSD and that commit to the charter of the VCB-N including financial and in-kind contributions. New members from existing countries or new countries in APR can be nominated by existing members or independently put forward an application for membership. The application form is attached in Appendix 1 or can be downloaded from the VCB-N website (vcbnetwork.org). The form includes the submission of 2 references which will be contacted before a final approval of the membership can be made. The references are preferably from (current or former) clients of the applicant.

Applications are to be submitted to the Secretariat and reviewed by the VCB-N Steering Committee (SC) where decisions for approval of new memberships will be made. Upon receiving a membership application, additional information about VCB-N including the VCB-N Charter will be provided to applicants. In case mutual expectations of the both parties have met, a Membership Agreement will be signed.

After approval by the VCB-N SC, membership is formalized by signing the VCB-N Membership Agreement and activated upon the payment of the VCB-N Annual Membership fee.

The application process is described in the figure below:

Figure 1: Process flow for application membership VCB-N



The SC assesses the application including verifying references. If the application is assessed as positive, the applicant is invited to sign the VCB-N Membership Agreement

Upon signing of the Membership Agreement, a request for payment of the VCB-N annual membership fee is sent to the aspirant member

Upon payment of the Annual Membership Fee, the membership is formalized and effective

CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP VCB-N

Criteria and conditions for new members are in essence similar to those of existing members.

Criteria for membership include:

- The applicant should be legally based in an existing or newly adopted membership country.
- The applicant should have a mandate and (solid) existing track record in service delivery to external clients in the field of value chain / market system development or other relevant and connected thematical fields. Services may include training, advisory / consultancy, research and/or implementation support services.
- The applicant commits fully to the VCB-N Charter and Business Plan including financial and in-kind member contributions and obligations to the VCB-N.
- References of clients report a positive performance by the applicant
- The applicant commits to and fully supports future quality benchmarking and assurance endeavors by the VCB-N
- The applicant signs and commits to live up with the VCB-N Membership Agreement.