



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



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This **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)** entered into on the 27 Day of August 2021 between:

AFRICAN-ASIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (hereinafter referred to as "**AARDO**"), a rural centric inter-governmental autonomous organization located at 2, State Guest Houses Complex, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 021, India and represented by **Secretary General, AARDO** and shall include its lawful representatives and permitted assignees;

AND

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS (hereinafter referred to as "**IITM**"), an academic and research institute constituted by the Government of India located at Chennai 600 036 and represented by the **Director** (hereinafter referred to as "**IITM**") and shall include its lawful representatives and permitted assignees;

AARDO and IITM shall hereinafter referred to singularly as "the Party" and collectively as "the Parties".

WHEREAS

African-Asian Rural Development Organization, New Delhi is mandated to develop understanding among members for better appreciation of each other's problems and to explore, collectively, opportunities for coordination of efforts for the welfare and eradication of thirst, hunger, illiteracy, disease and poverty amongst rural people in the African-Asian region. The Organization comprises thirty three (33) members, which

include thirty one (31) countries namely, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco , Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tunisia and Zambia from Africa, and Bangladesh, R.O. China (Taiwan), India, Iraq, Jordan, R.O. Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria and Yemen from Asia, as the full members; and, Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC), R.O. Korea and The Agricultural Bank of Sudan (ABS), Sudan as Associate Members.

IITM, established under the Institutes of Technology Act 1961, has been recognized as an Institute of Eminence by the Government of India. It has been regularly working on creating technology-based solutions for sustainable development. One of IITM's initiatives, is to enable discussions and interaction Webinars through SIDDHI (Self-reliant India: Discussions and Dialogues for Humane Innovations). that engages with experts to understand and advance, inclusive, equitable and sustainable development with technological interventions. The Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) at IITM provides science and technology interventions in rural areas. The IITM Research Park, where the brightest minds and leading innovators collaborate to develop scalable and unique technology-based solutions. Further, the Rural Technology and Business Incubator (RTBI), registered not-for-profit society, established in Oct 2006, missions to incubate start-ups with focus to impact rural underserved societal segments and leveraging ICT (Information and Communication Technologies).

CONSIDERING the mutual interest in the fields of agriculture and rural development in AARDO Member Countries, both the Organizations agree to cooperate and collaborate with each other with a view to achieving their common objectives, in particular with regard to address the challenges through technological innovations, solutions and interventions and capacity enhancement to benefit and strengthen rural communities;

HAVING IN MIND the fact that both the Organizations have common mandate,



DESIROUS of establishing cordial ties, strengthening cooperation and initiating collaboration between the two Organizations for the benefit of rural communities, farmers, executives, functionaries and policy makers of the Member Countries in Africa and Asia.

CONSIDERING their common interest in addressing the challenges facing the Member Countries through cooperation and collaboration in the areas of agriculture and rural development.

RECOGNIZING the need for enhancing the self-reliance, economic resilience and social well-being of the people through sustainable livelihoods, quality of life and healthy environment in the Member Countries;

CONVINCED that the development and strengthening of their cooperation would be of mutual benefit to bring about better coordination and efficient implementation of respective resolutions.

AARDO and IITM hereby agree to cooperate in capacity building & knowledge and dissemination, diffusion and transfer of appropriate/adaptable & affordable technologies for agricultural and rural development in the Member Countries in accordance with the terms of this Agreement as below:

Now, therefore, for good and valuable consideration, both the Parties hereby agree into the following:

Article I

1. Objectives of Cooperation: The objectives of cooperation of this Agreement shall be:

1.1. Collaboration for knowledge partnership through exchange of knowledge & experiences, capacity enhancement and technological interventions in the fields of agricultural and rural development and transfer of technology.

1.2. To act as a Forum to facilitate exchange of views and ideas for continuing dialogues on South-South and Triangular model of Cooperation for agricultural and rural development.

Article II

2. Areas of Cooperation:

2.1. Both the Parties shall cooperate with each other through their appropriate organs to realize the mutual interests in the field of agriculture and rural development in the following main areas:

Technological interventions in the areas of fisheries, energy, livestock, sericulture, aquaculture, transportation, sustainable agriculture, rural settlement, food processing & value-addition, water & waste management, diffusion and transfer models/channels for effective adoption of innovative, affordable and appropriate technologies, etc.

2.2. For the purpose of implementing the co-operation in respect of any areas stated in Article 2.1 above, the Parties shall enter into **a legally binding and definitive agreement** subject to the terms and conditions as mutually agreed upon by the Parties including clauses on "confidentiality", "suspension", "protection of intellectual property rights" and "**settlement of disputes**" before entering into any specific programme.

Article III

3. Instruments and Form of Cooperation:

Both the Parties agree to consider and use the following instruments:

- i) Organization of Human Resource Development, Capacity Enhancement, Education & Training programmes;

- ii) Organization of international, regional and On-The-Spot (OTS)/in-country training programmes/workshops to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Member Countries in sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- iii) Organization of Workshops/Seminars/Conferences/Roundtables for various levels of participation and different levels of coverage such as International/Regional/National levels;
- iv) Joint Implementation of Technology-based Development Pilot Projects by utilizing each other's human, technical and financial resources, subject to modalities, towards achieving common goals;
- v) Conducting research for action research studies of specific or common interest;
- vi) Exchange of subject experts/specialists for sharing of knowledge, expertise and experiences;
- vii) Exchange of scholars/students/volunteers to assist in adoption of technology solutions and implementation of joint tech-based development pilot projects, training of grassroots functionaries/beneficiaries, and learning from varied experiences;
- viii) Exchange programmes and internships for students with universities and institutes in the Member Countries;
- ix) Technical support in project formulations and consultancy in the area of policy formulation;
- x) Strengthening institutional networking for enhanced collaboration in the fields of agriculture and rural development; and
- xi) Any other form agreed to by the Parties.

Article IV

4 Implementation

AARDO and IIT Madras shall, subject to mutual agreement on case-to-case basis, undertake joint activities and cooperate in the implementation of specific programmes/projects in the fields of agriculture and rural development.

Article V

5. Financial Arrangement:

- 5.1 This Memorandum of Understanding shall not automatically give rise to any financial obligation by one Party to other, unless otherwise agreed upon by both the Parties in writing.
- 5.2 Each Party shall bear its own cost and expenses in relation to this Memorandum of Understanding unless otherwise agreed between the Parties in writing;
- 5.3 The Parties shall discuss on the sharing of costs before each activity/engagement

Article VI

6. Duration & Termination of the Agreement:

- 6.1 This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of signing and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. This Memorandum of Understanding can be further extended as may be agreed in writing by the Parties.
- 6.2 This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Party giving written notice to the other at least six (6) months prior to the proposed date of termination.

Article VII

7. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

- 7.1 The protection of intellectual property rights shall be enforced in conformity with the respective national legislations and laws prevailing in the concerned countries, rules and regulations of both the Parties;

7.2 Notwithstanding anything in Article 7.1 above, the intellectual property rights in respect of any technological development, and any products and services development, carried out:

(a) Jointly by the Parties or research results obtained through the joint activity/effort of the parties will be jointly owned by the Parties in accordance with the terms to be mutually agreed upon; and

(b) Solely and separately by the Party or the research results obtained through the sole and separate efforts of the Party will solely be owned by the Party concerned.

Article VIII

8. Settlement of Disputes:

Any difference or dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation and/or implementation and/or application of any of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through mutual consultation and/or negotiations between the Parties at (New Delhi/Chennai)

Article IX

9. Revision and Amendment:

This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of both the Organizations, through an exchange of Notes between the Organizations.

Article X

10. Amendment

Further the term of this MoU may be amended with the approval of both Parties, by means of exchange of letters.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES HEREINFOR MENTIONED HAVE AFFIXED
THEIR SIGNATURE on the day, month and year mentioned below

Signed on 27 August 2021:

For and on behalf of
African-Asian Rural Development
Organization (AARDO)



Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh
Secretary General



For and on behalf of
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)



Professor Bhaskar Ramamurthi
Director

निदेशक / Director
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मद्रास
Indian Institute of Technology Madras

Annexure 1

Scholarship for M.S (by research) Programme

Scholarship for M.S (by research) Programme

WHEREAS AARDO and IIT Madras (hereinafter referred to as "both parties") are committed to work towards poverty reduction and have joined hands to make concerted efforts through participation by young eligible students/officers from AARDO member countries in the " M.S (by research) Programme (hereinafter referred to as "Programme"), being organized at IIT Madras to build-up their capacity and nurture them as global leaders to play a pivotal role in rural development including combating poverty and working for the betterment of the poor.

WHEREAS both parties have felt the need of AARDO member countries for buildingup capacities of dynamic young eligible students/officers and nurturing them as global leaders to play a pivotal role in combating poverty and working for the betterment of the poor through the Programme at IIT Madras.

THEREFORE both parties have agreed to cement the collaborative approach for the participation of AARDO sponsored candidates to the M.S (by research) Programme at IIT Madras for the next five (05) years for the larger benefit of AARDO member countries. However, the programme continuation will be determined annually based on the performance of the programme and budgetary considerations.

SECTION I "DEFINITIONS"

This Annexure shall be known and read as the "Scholarship for M.S (by research) programme" between IIT Madras and AARDO for the participation in the Programme by eligible students/officers from African-Asian member countries.

SECTION II "ORGANIZATION OF THE PROGRAMME"

The Programme shall be open for participation by AARDO member countries at IIT Madras every year with effect from January 2022.

The duration of the Programme shall be of up to two years as determined by IIT Madras. An extension may be possible at the consideration of IIT Madras.

AARDO may nominate candidates to IIT Madras and the selection of up to 3 suitable students/officers for the Programme shall be made as per selection criteria of IIT Madras under intimation to AARDO. The number of selected candidates may exceed 3 on the mutual agreement of IIT Madras and AARDO. All applicants to the M.S (Research) programme will follow the same norms for selection and academic requirements as per rules and procedures instituted by IIT Madras.

SECTION III "EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME"

Both parties shall undertake separate evaluation on the conclusion of the Programme and share their findings with each other for further improvement.

Both parties shall make their best efforts to raise awareness among the member countries about the usefulness and achievements of this joint Programme.

SECTION IV "LIABILITES OF AARDO"

AARDO may nominate candidates every year to the Programme organized by IIT Madras

AARDO shall request its member countries to forward particulars of suitable candidates who meet the prescribed eligibility criteria for admission directly on-line to IIT Madras under intimation to AARDO.

AARDO shall follow-up the nominations with IIT Madras for their acceptance.

AARDO shall provide both ways air tickets to its selected participants to travel to Chennai, India and back to their respective countries while IIT Madras shall waive the international student tuition fee and provide them with a fellowship equivalent to the MS (by research) stipend given to IITM students as a living allowance for two years. However, other expenses incurred during the travel and before aid at IIT Madras shall be borne by the students/officers and/or his/her respective country government.



SECTION V "LIABILITIES OF IIT MADRAS"

IIT Madras shall arrange to intimate AARDO Secretariat about the schedule of the Program preferably six (06) months in advance enabling AARDO to invite/arrange suitable nominations from its member countries. For the first year the Parties will discuss and set out the schedule on a mutually agreeable basis.

IIT Madras shall intimate the AARDO Secretariat the changes/amendments, if any, in the timetable of its Programme, preferably three (03) months prior to the commencement of the Programme enabling AARDO to make relevant arrangements accordingly.

IIT Madras shall receive nominations of the candidates in duly filled-in prescribed proforma from AARDO as per schedule. After due consideration, IIT Madras shall, in due time, notify AARDO of the accepted candidates. IIT Madras will advise and assist students/officers for visa purposes.

The fellowship granted to AARDO participants of the Programme by IIT Madras will waive the international student tuition fee and provide them with a fellowship equivalent to the MS (by research) stipend given to domestic students/officers as a living allowance for two years. However, extended funding may be considered by IIT Madras on a case-to-case basis. The student must attend classes in IIT Madras in person to receive the fellowship.

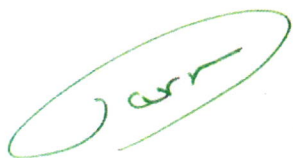
Students/officers would be required to open an Indian bank account on arrival at IIT Madras and intimate the details to receive the fellowship.

Students/officers shall cover the cost of course material, board & lodging, local transportations, medical insurance with monthly living expenses for the duration of the program at IIT Madras. Students/officers will cover all costs including tuition for an extension beyond two years. This is also subject to the student complying with the rules and regulations of IIT Madras and all applicable laws including in relation to the visa requirements.

The students/officers must satisfactorily complete the program in adherence to the rules and regulations stipulated by IIT Madras to obtain the degree

Done and signed on the 27 August 2021

For and on behalf of
African-Asian Rural Development
Organization (AARDO)



Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh
Secretary General



For and on behalf of
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)



Professor Bhaskar Ramamurthi

Director निदेशक / Director

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