

Memorandum of Understanding for Establishment of BRICS Agricultural Research Platform

The Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Food Supply Federative Republic of Brazil; the Ministry of Agriculture, the Russian federation, the Ministry of Agriculture and farmers Welfare, Republic of India; the Ministry of Agriculture. People's Republic of China, and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Republic of South Africa (hereinafter jointly referred to as the 'Participants' and the singular Participant)

Realizing the need to provide a platform where the Participants' academicians, scholars, researchers and students can work together for the cause of agriculture development to help promote understanding peace and security of the people of the BRICS Member Countries.

Desirous of establishing a platform that will advance a sense of BRICS community by bringing together the current and future generations of BRICS Member Countries in a common pursuit of agricultural excellence and prepare them for the future challenges.

Recognizing the need to intensify cooperation in the areas of agricultural research technology policy. Innovations and capacity building including technologies for small holder farming and to sustainably increase yields and farmers' income.

Realizing the need to create and share knowledge and to promote education and leadership for agricultural development in the Member Countries:

Have reached the following understanding:

1. Establishing of the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform

The participants hereby agree to establish a virtual network to be known as the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (hereinafter referred to as the BRICS-ARP). Which will be a non-profit international research platform under management and supervision of the Participants for the purposes set forth in this Memorandum and will have full academic flexibility for the attainment of its objectives.

2. Vision, Mission, Mandate and Objectives

2.1 **Vision:** ‘BRICS-ARP’ as the natural global platform for science –led agriculture-based sustainable development for addressing the issues of world hunger under-nutrition, poverty and inequality particularly between farmers’ and non-farmers’ income and enhancing agricultural trade bio-security and climate resilient agriculture.

2.2 **Mission:** To promote sustainable agricultural development and poverty alleviation through strategic cooperation in agriculture to provide food security in the BRICS member countries.

2.3 **Mandate:** To intensify cooperation in the areas of agricultural research technology, policy, innovations and capacity building technologies for smallholder farming and to sustainably increase yields and farmers’ income in the BRICS member countries.

2.4 Objectives:

- a. To enhance understanding of common challenges and opportunities through exchange of knowledge, collaborative capacity building, exchange of professionals and development of collaborative projects;
- b. To act as a platform to provide inputs for developing policies, strategies and projects for sustainability and competitive of agricultural sector in the BRICS Member Countries;
- c. To strengthen agricultural research and education to accelerate technology development and transfer through establishing networks on agriculture and allied disciplines among agricultural research, higher education and extension institutions, professional policy, planners and other stakeholders; and
- d. To facilitate collaborative studies, *inter alia*, on agricultural marketing and distribution systems harmonization of agricultural related standards promotion of agricultural trade and bio-security risks and disaster management in agriculture.

3. Nature of Co-operation

The Cooperation will focus on agricultural research, technology, policy, innovations, extension and technology transfer training and capacity building and information sharing.

4. Intellectual Property Rights

4.1 The Participants will retain their respective intellectual property rights and all other patent plant variety protection, reproduction and trademark rights with respect to all

documents which might be disclosed during fulfillment of this Memorandum in accordance with the applicable domestic laws of the BRICS Member Countries.

4.2 Use of such documents, if required will be agreed between/amongst the Participants and fixed under separate agreements, comprising obligatory provisions regarding protection of confidentiality and intellectual property.

5. Confidentiality

5.1 Each participants will treat and will ensure that its employees and partner treat as strictly confidential all information and documents related to this memorandum and the services stipulated herein of which they become aware during course of implementation of this Memorandum.

5.2 Each Participant will ensure that its employees do not disclose any such information and documents to third participants except for a prior written approval of the other BRICS Member Countries.

5.3 This obligation will be maintained for a period of 5 (five) years after expiration or termination of this Memorandum.

6. Resources

Cooperation projects and activities/services will be carried out as per the Memorandum amongst Participants in accordance with their national laws, taking into account the restriction of resources on each Participants.

7. Settlement of Disputes

7.1 Any dispute/disagreement between/ among the Participants arising out of the interpretation application or implementation of Memorandum will be settles amicably by the Participants through consultations/negotiations.

7.2 In case a Participants fails to settle the dispute through negotiations it will be referred to a duly constituted Board with one representative each to be nominated by the Member Countries.

8. Governance Structure

- 8.1 Each Participants to identify Intuition(s)/individuals(s) to act as Focal Points.
- 8.2 BRICS-ARP Coordinating Centre to be located in New Delhi, India. The Coordinating Centre will operate under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India.
- 8.3 The details of the location and contact details of the Focal Points and the Coordinating Centre will be decided and communicated by the respective Participants at the earliest.

9. Mode of Operation

- 9.1 The BRICS-ARP Coordinating Centre will dialogue and interact with the Focal Points creating conditions for formulation of proposals coherent with the vision, mission and the objectives of the BRICS-ARP.
- 9.2 Any Participants can initiate discussion and formulation of proposals that would be discussed with the Coordinating Centre to ensure transparency and participation in the government process.
- 9.3 Analysis and decisions on proposals to be implemented would be done by consensus among the Participant. A communication/facilitation process would be put in place and managed by the Coordinating Centre to ensure transparency and participations in the governance process.

9.4 Terms and Reference for the Coordinating Centre:

- To coordinate the activities of common interest in desirable member countries through respective focal points
- To develop country level consensus in BRICS Agricultural Research Platform activities.
- To create and maintain BRICS Agricultural Portal for data banking data mining and date analysis; and
- To enable expert interaction between/amongst BRICS Member Countries and also with every other country interested in the Participants activities alike.

9.5 Functions of Focal Points

- To liaise with relevant government departments/agencies/institutions/functionaries of their respective BRICS Member Countries to identify areas of interest /activity of common interest within the scope of the Memorandum;
- To facilitate implementation of the activities that would be defined to achieve the objectives outlined in the Memorandum;
- To collect relevant information on the areas identified from respective countries and pass on the Coordination Centre; and
- To facilitate government clearance for any technical/administrative actions as it would be required for implementation

9.6 Funding

- The Coordinating Centre to be established in India will be funded by India, whereas any expenditure on the Focal Point activities will be borne by the respective Member Countries.
- The focal point and /or any delegation visiting the Coordination Centre or any other Member Country in connection with the BRICS-ARP activities will meet their expenses.

10. Amendment

10.1 This MoU may be emended by consensus amongst the Participants

10.2 Any participants proposing amendment(s) will notify the other Participants through diplomatic channels.

11. Entry into Force and Termination

11.1 This MoU will be effective from the date of its signature and will remain in force indefinitely.

11.2 Any participant may at any time, notify the others through diplomatic channels of its intension to terminate this MoU.

11.3 Termination will be effective six months after the date of the notification and will not affect the completion of any ongoing program or project under this MoU unless otherwise agreed upon by the participants.

Signed at Goa on the 16th Day of October, 2016 in live originals in the English language.

For and on behalf of the
Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Food Supply of the
Federative Republic of Brazil

For and on behalf of the
Ministry of Agriculture of the
Russian Federation

For and on behalf of the
Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of the
Republic of India

For and on behalf of the
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the
Republic of South Africa