

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE
AND RELATED FIELDS BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

The Department of Agriculture of the United States of America (USDA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (MARD), hereinafter referred to as the Parties:

Recognizing the importance of cooperation in science and technology in promoting agricultural development;

Referring to the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam signed on November 17, 2000;

Desiring to pursue cooperative programs and exchanges in agriculture and related fields in conformity with the laws of their respective countries, and to strengthen relations between them through joint activities in accordance with this Memorandum of Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the Memorandum;

Agree as follows:

**ARTICLE I
PURPOSE OF COOPERATION**

This Memorandum has as its program goals the following: 1) to increase contact and collaboration among agricultural scientists and institutions of agricultural research, development, and higher learning between the two countries; 2) to provide agricultural

researchers and institutions with opportunities to exchange information, ideas, skills, and techniques; 3) to enhance opportunities to collaborate in solving problems of common interest relating to agriculture; 4) to utilize special agricultural and development facilities for agricultural research; and 5) to develop mutually beneficial training programs.

ARTICLE II AREAS AND SCOPE OF COOPERATION

Selected priority areas for cooperation include, but are not limited to: animal and plant health; quarantine standards; food safety standards; integrated pest management (IPM) systems; biotechnology/microbiology; commercialization of new technologies; risk assessment; collection, preservation and characterization of animal, plant, and microbial germplasm; human nutrition; sustainable agricultural production systems; plant science; soil conservation and erosion control; energy in agriculture; agricultural engineering; cooperatives and other agriculture-related fields as mutually agreed to by the Parties.

The USDA will assist MARD in carrying out key scientific and technological research on agriculture to gain access to new technologies, especially new varieties of crops and animals, biotechnology and agricultural product technologies.

To generate broad interest and increased activities, the Parties shall, by mutual agreement, involve other interested government agencies, the scientific and business communities, and private sectors of both countries in cooperative programs and exchanges in the implementation of this Memorandum.

The Parties shall encourage and facilitate direct contacts between these groups to work toward long-term cooperation in programs of research, extension and training, and to identify potential joint ventures for commercialization of new technologies.

ARTICLE III JOINT COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee, headed by designated officials from both Parties, shall be formed to provide guidance, facilitate cooperation, and review progress of activities under the

Memorandum. The Joint Committee shall have three (3) members representing the agricultural community of each country, who will serve for three (3) years. Joint Committee members for the United States will be designated by the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of USDA. Joint Committee members for Vietnam will be designated by the Director General of the International Cooperation Department of MARD. The Joint Committee shall meet at least once every two (2) years, alternately in the United States and Vietnam, as mutually agreed by the Parties.

Each Party shall designate a Program Coordinator responsible for coordinating and monitoring the activities carried out under this Memorandum. The Program Coordinators shall be permanent members of the Joint Committee. During interim years, the respective Program Coordinators shall meet periodically, at times and places as they may mutually agree, to review and adjust Agricultural Linkage Program (ALP) priorities and coordinate administrative details of the program.

ARTICLE IV IMPLEMENTATION

An ALP shall be established by the Joint Committee described in this Memorandum, which will serve as the vehicle for implementing collaborative activities. All such cooperative activities shall be mutually agreed to by the Parties and shall be described in and subject to individual plans of work delineating arrangements between participants that are specific for each activity.

In general, cooperation will be effected by mutual agreement of the Parties, through exchange of materials and information; exchange of scientists, specialists, and trainees; organization of symposia and conferences, agricultural trade fairs and exhibitions; and joint publication of studies and reports.

The Parties shall pursue cooperative programs which will be explored and mutually agreed upon after consultation between representatives of both countries, and which will be implemented in conformity with the laws and national policies of both countries.

**ARTICLE V
FINANCING**

Each Party shall be responsible for the cost of its own participation, including any appropriate insurance, subject to the availability of funds. Expenses related to the activities carried out under this Memorandum shall conform to the aforementioned individual plans of work, and each country shall comply with its domestic laws and regulations.

**ARTICLE VI
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

The allocation and protection of intellectual property created or furnished in the course of cooperative activities under this Memorandum shall be governed by the provisions in Annex A of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam signed on November 17, 2000.

**ARTICLE VII
COORDINATING OFFICES**

Under this Memorandum, the designated coordinating offices will be the Foreign Agricultural Service, International Cooperation and Development Division (ICD) of USDA for the United States, and the International Cooperation Department (ICD) of MARD for Vietnam.

**ARTICLE VIII
OTHER AGREEMENTS**

Nothing in this Memorandum shall be interpreted to prejudice or modify any existing understandings or agreements between the Parties.

**ARTICLE IX
RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS**

Disagreements that may arise in the interpretation or application of this Memorandum will be resolved by mutual consent of the Parties.

**ARTICLE X
ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENTS, VALIDITY AND TERMINATION**

This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force for five (5) years, unless terminated earlier by either Party upon six (6) months' written notice to the other Party. The termination of this Memorandum shall not affect the validity or duration of ongoing programs and activities that are initiated prior to such termination.

This Memorandum may be amended or extended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

Done at Washington, D.C., in duplicate, this twenty-first day of June, 2005, in the English and Vietnamese languages, each text being equally authentic.

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE OF
THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA:**



**Mike Johanns
Secretary**

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT OF THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
OF VIETNAM:**



**Cao Đức Phát
Minister**