

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND  
THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION  
CENTER (CATIE)**

**I. PURPOSE**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") provides a framework for cooperation between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) to facilitate exchange of information and the development of specific arrangements for cooperation in projects of mutual interest between USDA agencies and CATIE.

USDA's goal is to collaborate with CATIE to advance education, scientific research, and extension in the Western Hemisphere, as well as by contributing to the realization of CATIE's Mandate and Program of Work and Budget, as approved by CATIE's Governing Bodies. CATIE's goal is to strengthen the collaborative efforts between USDA and CATIE.

**II. BACKGROUND**

***The U.S. Department of Agriculture***

USDA's work includes: 1) supporting production agriculture; 2) ensuring a safe, affordable, nutritious, and accessible food supply; 3) caring for agricultural, forest, and range lands; 4) supporting sound development of rural communities; 5) providing economic opportunities for farm and rural residents; 6) expanding global markets for agricultural and forest products and services; and 7) working to reduce hunger in America and throughout the world.

USDA is a main point of access to resources available within the U.S. government, the U.S. land grant university system, and other research, extension and higher education institutions that are applicable to agricultural and forestry development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

***The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)***

CATIE is an international center whose core functions are education, field research, innovation for development and technical cooperation in agriculture, natural resources and the environment. The institution works through strategic alliances with producers, organizations, public and private institutions, universities, municipalities, donors, cooperators, and other partners at the local, national, and international levels. CATIE is known for its expertise and competency in leading research and extension efforts in the region in conjunction with providing high-quality educational opportunities within the field of agriculture.

CATIE's mission is to increase sustainable and inclusive human well-being in Latin America and the Caribbean while promoting education, research and outreach for the sustainable management of agriculture and conservation of natural resources. CATIE does

this by promoting the development of climate-smart territories as a tool to achieve sustainable and inclusive human well-being and the effective integration of actions in education, research and innovation for development, in alliance with multiple public and private partners.

### **III. SCOPE**

USDA and CATIE share a common interest in developing productive food and agricultural systems to meet regional needs; sharing expertise and technology; stewardship of natural resources; and improving the conditions of rural life among nations of the Western Hemisphere.

Areas of collaboration between the Participants may involve any of the subject matters covered by their respective authorities and official mandates and within the scope of their respective priorities. In particular, formal collaboration and joint action may be explored in matters pertaining to teaching, research, and extension in the fields of sustainable agricultural production, forest management and conservation, climate change, youth and community development, biodiversity, human nutrition, agro-forestry, and/or tropical agriculture. Specific arrangements for such endeavors under this MOU should be described and approved by both Participants in documents that are separate from, but aligned with, this MOU as described in section V.

Cooperation may be implemented through activities such as:

- Joint educational programming that strengthens student experiential learning, faculty teaching and program development, and extension training;
- Collaborative research programs of shared interest;
- Partnerships through extension/outreach programs that will enhance understanding of best practices and production techniques for improving sustainable agriculture production;
- Collaborative programs in breeding and conservation of genetic resources including cocoa and coffee;
- Joint activities to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge about emerging technological developments; and
- Other activities as deemed appropriate by both Participants.

Cooperation under this MOU should be aligned with CATIE's mandated duties and programmatic elements as specified in Articles 3-5 of the General By-Laws of CATIE. Prior to this MOU, the Participants entered into several agreements for implementation of specific projects related to improving agricultural production in Latin America and the

Caribbean. USDA-CATIE project agreements entered into prior to the signing of this MOU should not fall under this MOU. If prior USDA-CATIE project agreements are amended, this MOU should provide guidance for the continued implementation of such project agreements.

This MOU is neither fiscal nor a commitment of funding or financial obligation document. Nothing in this MOU authorizes or is intended to obligate the Participants to expend or exchange resources, reimburse funds, expend or exchange services, expend or exchange supplies, nor transfer or receive anything of value. Nothing in this MOU may be construed to obligate the Participants to any current or future expenditure of resources in advance of the availability of appropriations, nor does this MOU obligate the Participants to spend funds on any particular project or purpose, even if funds are available. USDA agencies and CATIE directorates or offices should administer their own activities under this MOU and are expected to utilize their legal authorities and resources in pursuing these objectives.

#### **IV. INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (HCA) AND CATIE**

The Participants recognize that in some areas of technical cooperation, CATIE's extension function is complementary to the technical cooperation services that IICA provides to its Member States. Thus, it may be relevant and effective to combine the respective capacities of USDA, CATIE, and IICA in order to enhance the results and social contributions of collaboration among these institutions. The IICA and CATIE framework for joint action enables the two institutions to define and enhance the technical, financial, legal, administrative and human capabilities of both, taking full advantage of their resources and generating opportunities for cooperation and the exchange of experiences for the benefit of their Member States. With regard to extension-related work, USDA places strong emphasis on tripartite cooperation among USDA, CATIE and IICA, as appropriate.

In the context of the priority areas defined by IICA and CATIE in their Inter-Institutional Cooperation, the Participants expect that the following will be a basis for technical cooperation under this MOU:

- preparing the Member States to address climate change and to mitigate its effects;
- strengthening agricultural innovation;
- building institutional frameworks and capabilities for the sustainable management of rural territories; and
- improving food security, particularly for small and medium-scale producers, and family agriculture.

#### **V. IMPLEMENTATION OF COOPERATIVE OR GRANT AGREEMENTS**

The performance of specific grant activities (involving funding and in-kind resources should be governed by cooperative or grant agreements to be negotiated between USDA agencies and CATIE's Directorates.

These agreements should set forth:

- a. Purpose and objectives;
- b. Means of action;
- c. Role and intention of each Participant and Key Stakeholder;
- d. Work plan and timeline;
- e. Contributions (technical, financial, human, and other resources) of each Participant;
- f. Budget, including costs of technical supervision and institutional support; and
- g. Performance indicators, evaluation plans and results reporting.

Specific cooperative agreements, grants or contracts may include the participation of other multilateral technical cooperation and financial institutions, governments, or private organizations, as appropriate.

## **VI. CONSULTATIONS**

The Participants may periodically hold consultations about their cooperation under this MOU.

## **VII. COMMUNICATION AND CONTACTS**

Any communication regarding this MOU should be exchanged among the designated contacts or delegated to appropriate staff. Communication can be by email, regular mail, or facsimile.

For purposes of this MOU, the representatives of the Participants are:

- a. For USDA  
Phil Karsting, Administrator  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C., 20250
- b. For CATIE  
Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Director General  
Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)  
Cartago, Turrialba 30501, Costa Rica

## **VIII. DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND MODIFICATION**

Cooperation under this MOU may commence from the date of signature and is expected to continue until either Participant discontinues its participation. This MOU may be modified or revised by mutual determination of the Participants in writing. Either Participant may discontinue its participation under the MOU at any time. Each Participant should endeavor

to give the other Participant at least 30 calendar days' notice of its intention to end its cooperation under this MOU, and it is anticipated that the Participants would continue to work together to conclude specific cooperative activities already in progress.

The discontinuation of cooperation under this MOU should not affect accrued obligations set out in specific cooperative agreements, grants, or contracts.

The Participants understand that this MOU is not intended to be an international agreement governed by international law.

For the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE):

Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim  
Director General, CATIE\  
Dated: 11/23/16

For the United States Department of Agriculture:

Mr. Michael T. Scuse  
Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services  
Dated: 11/23/16