



MS HORTICULTURE

AREA IV

**Graduate School, University of Southern
Mindanao**

**AACCUP Accreditation
September 9-11, 2026**

INTERNATIONALIZATION

I. Core Faculty Engagement to International Agencies and Organization

It is the policy of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to internationalize higher education in the country in order to facilitate the development of human resource base that will be responsive to the demands of the 21st century. As a Level IV state university, the University of Southern Mindanao is mandated to pursue linkages not only in the local, regional and national levels but also in its mission to produce graduates that are internationally competitive to respond to the demands of the 21st century. As such, international linkage of the university with other academic institutions and organizations encompasses the fields of research, academic exchange (students and faculty), twinning program/sandwich programs, joint sponsorship of seminars/conferences and the like.

The core faculties of the Master of Science in Horticulture were able to engage in the different international organizations and agencies in different countries such as New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research (PFR), **New Zealand**; Global Green Growth Institute-BIMP-EAGA-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (GGGI-BKCF), **Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia**, Philippines (BIMP-EAGA) and **South Korea**; Center for ASIAN Mission for the Poor-Asia (CAMP ASIA), Seoul, **South Korea**; Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), **South Korea**; **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN FAO)**; Department for Industry, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, **Kenya**; United Nations Industrial Development Organization (**UNIDO**); International Committee of the Red Cross (**ICRC**), **Switzerland**; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (**ACIAR**), **Australia**; **Manaaki New Zealand Scholarships**; and **Massey University, New Zealand** (Table 1).

As the international collaborations and engagement of the University widens, visibility, research, development, extension and student support expands. International linkage extends the University's visibility and global impact through published news and articles in the BIMP-EAGA [website](#), [provision of equipment in the laboratory for research and development and access of stakeholders and students](#). [The forged partnerships with international organization](#) has [opened the opportunity for support with the International Academic Institution such as Hanyang University of South Korea](#). The USM through its capacity, was able to establish strong international relations that may contribute to [boost the agriculture industry](#) and enable to provide linkage opportunities to its MS students that are engaged in the Agricultural sector. It also capacitate streamline science-based research through [workshops and capacity building supported by international agencies](#). Additionally, it also offered valuable learning opportunities, empowering faculty and students to achieve global competitiveness and a professional edge.

Table 1. List of Core Faculties of the MS Horticulture Program

Faculty	Program/Project/Organizations
1. MEL CHRISSEL A. SALES, PhD	Development of Export Quality Assurance programme on Mango for the Benefit of Mango Farmer's in Midsayap and Stakeholders of the entire mango industry in Mindanao (Project) -New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research (PFR), New Zealand Technical Expert (ANNEX 1)
	Developing Land Management Options for Diverse Cacao-based System in Mindanao (Project) -Global Green Growth Institute-BIMP-EAGA-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (GGGI-BKCF), Seoul, South Project Leader (ANNEX 2)
	Sustainable Agricultural Environment Through the Organization of Durian Producers in Mindanao, Philippines (Project) Center for ASIAN Mission for the POOR ASIA (CAMP ASIA) and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), South Korea Project Technical Expert (ANNEX 3)
	<u>Sustainable, Resilient and Productive Agri-Food Systems</u> (Short-Term Training Scholarship) Manaaki New Zealand Scholarships Massey University
2. MEL CHRISSEL A. SALES (Coordinator/Presenter)	Visit of Kenya Delegates Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations -Kenya Department for Industry, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry-Kenya United Nations Industrial Development Organization Kenya (ANNEX 5)
3. MONAIRA I. SUMAEL (Assistant Coordinator)	
4. HAREM R. ROCA (Presenter)	
5. KHRIS JUNE CALLANO (Tissue Culture Laboratory Tour In-Charge)	
6. EFREN E. MAGULAMA (Project Technician)	Development of the Second Phase of a Seed Multiplication Pilot Project International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Switzerland (ANNEX 4)
7. ARDNIEL A. BALADJAY	Developing soil knowledge, information and capacity to improve the

	productivity and sustainability of key cropping systems in Philippines Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Australia (Annex 6)
OTHER LINKAGES (NATIONAL LEVEL)	
8. LORELYN JOY MILAGROSA TURNOS	Development of Appropriate Treatments to Coconut Inflorescences to improve Hybridizations Operations Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development. (Annex 7)
9. MARK AL-JAMIE JUDAN MUTULLANI	Influence of Plant Growth Regulators to Improve Hybrid Nut Production in Dwarf Coconut Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development. (Annex 8)

II. Strengthening Faculty and Student Competencies Through International Learning and Engagements

The international linkage, networking and engagements provide learning through exposing them provides faculty and students opportunities to the students pursuing MS in Horticulture with meaningful international learning opportunities through educational visits, cultural immersion, benchmarking activities, and engagements with global innovation ecosystems. A notable example is the [Educational Visit and Cultural Innovation Immersion Program in Singapore](#) (Table 2), where USM faculty, researchers, students, and alumni were exposed to Singapore's governance, business, entrepreneurship, innovation, and cultural ecosystems in Singapore.



Dr. Milagrosa, core faculty of MS Horticulture program, together with MS Horticulture and selected USM students participated in Educational Visit and Cultural Innovation Immersion Program in Singapore

The engagement enabled participants to gain global perspectives, broaden their research and innovation outlook, and appreciate how collaboration, discipline, and efficient systems contribute to national development. More importantly, the experience encouraged participants to translate international best practices into locally relevant research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and community development initiatives, particularly in agriculture and other priority sectors. Additionally, the international linkage forged by the core faculty of MS Horticulture provided valuable exposure to [innovative approaches, technologies, policies, and practices in sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient food systems](#). It broadened her understanding of how science, innovation, environmental sustainability, food production, and institutional collaboration can be integrated to address emerging challenges in agriculture. The engagement also facilitated professional interaction and knowledge exchange with international experts and fellow practitioners from the Asia-Pacific region, strengthening her global perspective on agricultural development.

III. INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure the continuity and sustainability of its international linkages, the core faculty members of the **MS Horticulture Program** have actively sustained engagement with international development organizations and strategic partner institutions through research collaboration, technical exchange, knowledge sharing, and joint project development. These engagements have provided opportunities for the faculty to translate research-generated knowledge and field-based innovations into larger-scale development initiatives addressing pressing agricultural challenges in

Mindanao. A significant manifestation of this sustained engagement is the emerging partnership among the University of Southern Mindanao (USM), the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). In January 2025, [USM, MinDA, and UNIDO initiated discussions on a potential collaborative project](#) focused on strengthening Mindanao's fruit and vegetable industries, particularly through improved production and marketing, reduction of food losses, climate-change resilience, food security, and sustainable agricultural practices. USM expressed its commitment to participate in the proposed initiative and identified its research, extension, laboratory, food processing, and high-value processing capabilities as institutional strengths that could support the partnership. The partnership was further advanced in July 2025 when UNIDO presented a proposed project to enhance the [climate resilience of fruit and vegetable farmers in Mindanao](#), with USM identified as a partner. The proposed intervention encompasses extension services, farmer and fisherfolk capacity building, community-based weather forecasting, policy development, technology transfer, and innovation.

Table 2. MS Horticulture Faculty and Students Experiential Learning through International Network Initiatives

MS Students and Core Faculty Engagements	Activities
Lorelyn Joy N. Turnos PhD (Faculty)	Educational Visit and Cultural Innovation Immersion Program in Singapore
Vengie V. Mencias (MS Student)	
John Paul A. Cabangal (MS Student)	
Apple Grace Miles (MS Student)	
John Rey Alejo (MS Student)	
Max Dave Agudos (MS Student)	
Elinor Fernandez (MS Student)	
Mel Chrisel A. Sales (Faculty)	Sustainable, Resilient and Productive Agri-Food Systems Massey University New Zealand

Table 3. Faculty and Student Engagement to International Agencies/Organization

World Coffee Research (California, USA)	Enhancing Productivity of Robusta Coffee through Organic-Based Fertilization for Increased Profitability
Charoen Pokphand Foods (Thailand)	OJT/Apprenticeship Program in the fields of agriculture, veterinary medicine, home ecology and food sciences, business development economics and management
Bixter (Denmark)	Traineeship Program in the field of agriculture
Global Green Growth Institute (Korea International	Developing Land Management Options for Diverse Cacao-based System in Mindanao

Cooperation Agency)	
Maejo University (Thailand)	Research collaboration, academic exchange (students and faculty), twinning program/sandwich programs, joint sponsorship of seminars/conferences
Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)	Research collaboration, academic exchange (students and faculty), twinning program/sandwich programs, joint sponsorship of seminars/conferences especially in the field of Halal Science
Daegu Health College (South Korea)	Information exchange in the field of bio-health, research collaboration, academic exchange (students and faculty)
Faculty of Agriculture Khon Kaen University (Thailand)	Research collaboration, academic exchange (students and faculty), joint publication, joint sponsorship of seminars/conferences/trainings
Universitas Gadjadara	Research collaboration, academic exchange (students and faculty), joint publication, joint sponsorship of seminars/conferences/trainings
Adjeenkya D Y Patil University, Pune, India	Research collaboration, academic exchange (students and faculty), joint publication, joint sponsorship of seminars/conferences/trainings, credit transfer, etc
Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo (Indonesia)	Research collaboration, academic exchange (students and faculty), joint publication, joint sponsorship of seminars/conferences/trainings
Sultan Shyarif Kasim State Islamic University of Riau (Indonesia)	Research collaboration, academic exchange (students and faculty), joint publication, joint sponsorship of seminars/conferences/trainings

SOCCSKSARGEN Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (SOXAARRDEC)	Based at the University of Southern Mindanao (USM), SOXAARRDEC is an organization composed of 20 member agencies in the SOCCSKSARGEN Region promoting research and development in agriculture, aquatic and natural resources. It envisions responsive, culturally sensitive, and sustainable Research, Development, Extension innovations in the region with the mission of engaging minds to effect positive change in the lives of people in the Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources (AANR)
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	sector through Research & Development, Technology Transfer, Science Communication and ICT initiatives in the SOCCSKSARGEN Region. It has nine priority commodities where the Consortium Member Institutions (CMI) are working, namely: rice, corn, cacao, banana, coffee, rubber, ruminants and poultry, tilapia and tuna. Faculty members of the PhD program are active in research and development involving their graduate students with their short-term researches.
SOCCSKSARGEN (SOX) Industry, Energy, Emerging Technology and Development Consortium (SOXIEERDC)	The Consortium shall create a mechanism for proper coordination, programming, development, and utilization of resources for related R&D works; foster inter-agency collaboration and participation between and among the academe, local / national government agencies, and private sector / industry; promote adoption and utilization of R&D output; formulate an R&D Agenda for sectors that will be identified by the Consortium; and generate funding to conduct R&D activities.
Region 12 State Universities and Colleges	Capacity building, Collaboration on research, development and extension, Addressing regional sustainable development goals (SDGs), enhancement of niches of each SUC to address needs and gaps
MINSUPALA – IRDC (Mindanao, Sulu, Palawan-Innovative Research and Development Consortium)	The University of Southern Mindanao joins a consortium of agencies formed to coordinate regional innovative research and development priorities anchored on the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028. The newly created consortium, named MINSUPALA – IRDC (Innovative Research and Development Consortium), consists of state universities and colleges (SUCs) from Mindanao, Sulu, and Palawan. It was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding held at the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Regional Office, Koronadal City on July 20, 2023. The consortium aims to promote innovative research and development for sustainable and inclusive development of communities in the MINSUPALA region, provide an avenue for joint planning, monitoring, evaluation, and sharing of R&D resources through collaborative interventions among its members,

	collaborate with the national and regional Government through DBM XII and consortium member SUCs in maximizing the utilization of research results to support regional development, and source other funds for the use in the implementation of R&D. Through the consortium, member institutions will be provided opportunities to enhance their research and extension capabilities, participate in the consortium's key activities, access technical support and endorsement to develop and package R&D proposals for possible funding from DBM through DBM Region XII, and utilize recommended relevant R&D management tools. The IRDC will be hosted by DBM Region XII being the proponent of the organic program proposal submitted to the DBM National Office. Joining USM in the new consortium are Sultan Kudarat State University, Mindanao State University Maguindanao, Mindanao State University General Santos City, Cotabato State University, Adiong Memorial Polytechnic State College, South Cotabato State College, and Cotabato Foundation College of Science and Technology. The MOU signing was attended by SUC Presidents, DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman, and DBM Regional Director Akmad J. Usman.
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I. Membership of the University of Southern Mindanao to different consortia

Name of Consortium	Parties Involved	Nature of Linkage	Funds	Benefits
SOCCSKSARGEN Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (SOXAARRDEC)	With 20 Consortium Member Institutions (CMIs) namely: USM, SKSU, CFCST, CotSU, SCSC, MIST, SEAIT, VMC MC, Inc, DA RFO 12, DA-PRRI, DA-ATI, DA-PhilRice-MES, NEDA, DOST-PCAARRD, DOST XII,	Research & Development, Science Communication, Tech	Each CMI contributes Php 65,000 with USM (base agency) contributing Php 320,000, SKSU contributing Php160,000 and DOST-PCAARRD with funding of 5 million for 3 years.	Capacity Building, Collaboration on Technology Transfer, Research Partnerships, Policy crafting, IEC Materials Production, sharing of resources

SOCCSKSARGEN Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (SOXIERRDEC)				Capacity Building, Collaboration on Technology Transfer, Research Partnerships, Policy crafting, IEC Materials Production, sharing of resources, sharing of expertise, sharing of resources persons
Region 12 Future's Thinking Consortium				Capacity Building, Research Partnerships, Policy crafting, IEC Materials Production, sharing of resources, sharing of expertise, sharing of experts as resources persons

MINSUPALA-IRD Consortium			Five million allocation for each SUC member	Through the consortium, member institutions will be provided opportunities to enhance their research and extension capabilities, participate in the consortium's key activities, access technical support and endorsement to develop and package R&D proposals for possible funding from DBM through DBM Region XII, and utilize recommended relevant R&D management tools.
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II. International Engagement Highlights

1. Development of Export Quality Assurance programme on Mango for the Benefit of Mango Farmer's in Midsayap and Stakeholders of the entire mango industry in Mindanao

-New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research (PFR), New Zealand



Figure 1. Project Planning with PFR with Dr. Mel Chrisel Sales (core faculty-MS Horticulture)



Figure 2. Meeting with PFR and Mango Farmer's stakeholders.



Figure 3. Site visit and Bench marking in Mango's Farm in Midsayap.

2. Developing Land Management Options for Diverse Cacao-based System in Mindanao. -Global Green Growth Institute-BIMP-EAGA-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (GGGI-BKCF), Seoul, South Korea

Project Leader



Figure 4. Monitoring and Evaluation of the project of GGGI-BKCF personnel.



Figure 5. The project organized an event, the Mindanao Farmers' Summit.



Figure 6. Site visit of Funding Agency at the Soil Science Laboratory.

3. Sustainable Agricultural Environment Through the Organization of Durian Producers in Mindanao, Philippines

Center for ASIAN Mission for the POOR ASIA (CAMP ASIA), Seoul, South Korea
Project Technical Expert



Figure 7. Project Launching with Funding Agency personnel.



Figure 8. Planning and Evaluation of the Project's Objective with CAMP ASIA personnel.



Figure 9. Meeting and Planning with the Funding Agency Head.

4. Visits of Kenya Delegates- FAO-Kenya, Department for Industry, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry-Kenya, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, **Kenya.**



Figure 10. Presentation of Project Accomplishments to Kenya Delegates.



Figure 11. Presentation and open Forum of Presenters and Kenya Delegates.



Figure 12. Photo opportunity of USM presenter and Personnel to UNIDO, MiNDA and Kenya delegates.



Figure 13. Appreciation and Giving of Token to Kenya Delegates.



Figure 14. Courtesy visit of Kenya Delegates in the Office of the President of USM.



Figure 15. Site visit in Banana tissue culture laboratory.

5. Development of the Second Phase of a Seed Multiplication Pilot Project,
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Switzerland.



Figure 16. Donation of Corn Seed Lab Equipment From ICRC.



Figure 17. Approbation of Donation of Lab Equipment for USM from ICRC.

6. Developing soil knowledge, information and capacity to improve the productivity and sustainability of key cropping systems in Philippines, **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Australia.**

USM Attends Workshop for ACIAR-PCAARRD Funded Projects

Home > News > USM Attends Workshop for ACIAR-PCAARRD Funded Projects

Published by  Loynei Frias Sumalinog at  March 18, 2025



Figure 18. Project Personnel Workshop for ACIAR-PCAARRD.

ANNEXES

Annex 1

Order for Services

Schedule

The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited a Crown Research Institute established under the Crown Research Institutes Act 1992 ("PFR")

Mel Chisel Sales ("Research Provider")

PFR Contact:	Phil Elmer	Phone: T: +64 7 959 4548 M: +64 21 0844 2625
Physical Address:	Bisley Road, Hamilton 3214, New Zealand	Email: Philip.Elmer@plantandfood.co.nz
Postal Address:	Private Bag 3230, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand	

Research Provider Contact:	Mel Chisel Sales	Phone: +63966 725 8218
Physical Address:	University of Southern Mindanao – USM Abellera St., Poblacion, Kabacan, North Cotabato (Besides Iglesia ni Cristo)	Email: mcasales@usm.edu.ph
Postal Address:	University of Southern Mindanao – USM USMARD-Central Laboratory, Crops Research Bldg., USM, Kabacan, Cotabato 9407, Philippines	

The Research Provider agrees to carry out the Services in accordance with the attached Terms and Conditions.

Services: See Schedule - Potential project activity to be undertaken by Dr. Mel Chisel Sales (estimated 10 days i.e. PhP18,000 (aprox NZD))

Commencement Date: November 1st 2023

Completion Date: October 31st 2024 (can be extended by mutual agreement via email exchange)

Executed on the later of the two dates written below.

Signed by The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited  Name: Declan Graham Position: Business Manager Date: 31/10/2024	Signed by Mel Chrissel Sales  Name: Mel Chrissel A. Sales Position: Assistant Professor IV Date:
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Schedule

Potential project activity to be undertaken by Dr Mel Chrissel Sales

Primary tasks are described in detail below

1. Liaise with the spray contractor at Mayor Rolly's mango farm and the PFR scientists and reach agreement on timing of first flower induction spray and plant protection products for insect and pathogen control.
2. Conduct a site inspection and provide a block map to the Mango team similar to the theoretical block maps in Appendix 1 and 2.
3. Within each orange and green sub-block label 10 monitor trees (yellow tree tags supplied by PFR) as in Appendix 1 and 2.
 - a. 5 plots are labelled with 'A' to signify (all fruit on the tree are to be bagged with the new mango bags from Taiwan.
 - b. 5 plots are labelled with a 'B' to signify that they are bagged with conventional newspaper bags used in the region for local and export mangos.
4. Contractor spray evaluation to be carried out with local horticultural advisory support provided by Tami.
 - a. Dr Mel Sales will oversee normal contract spraying practice and undertake calibration checks as per revised PFR protocols using water sensitive papers (WSPs), supplied by PFR
 - b. Undertake a step-wise approach that shows how improvements to spraying practices and coverage can be achieved by better calibration and spray equipment, supplied by PFR.
5. Oversee the application of bait attractant to trees after fruit bagging in the two MangoFutures blocks
6. Oversee the bagging of fruit 54 days after flower induction (approx. 30 Nov. 2023)
7. Provide technical support during fruit harvest in mid to late January 2024.
8. Assist with any reporting requirements for the G2G MangoFutures project
9. Measurements to be undertaken by Dr Sales at each monitor tree include
 - a. fruit canopy density using PFR supplied protocols
 - b. pesticide residues samples to be undertaken at harvest
 - c. soil and plant tests as and when required.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Agreement:

"Agreement" means this Agreement and any Schedule annexed to this Agreement.

"Business Day" means any day of the week other than a Saturday or Sunday or regional holiday, on which the trading banks of the recipient's country are open for business.

"Confidential Information" means any information relating to PFR's business, the existence and contents of this Agreement and any information that arises in relation to this Agreement or the Services.

"Intellectual Property" means all information, data, inventions, patents, knowhow, copyright, designs, or the knowledge arising from or developed in the course of undertaking the Services and includes articles, papers (including those produced, collected or purchased) designs, records, models, samples, processes, software, techniques, methodologies, enhancements or other matters which are produced or arise in relation to the provision of Services or otherwise in relation to this Agreement.

"Services" means the services to be performed by the Research Provider as detailed in the Schedule.

Performance

2. The Research Provider will undertake the Services in accordance with best practice and all applicable legal and regulatory requirements.
3. The Research Provider will commence the Services on the Commencement Date and will complete the Services by the Completion Date.

Fee

4. PFR shall pay the Fee to the Research Provider by the 20th of the month following the date of the Research Provider's invoice.

Indemnity

5. The Research Provider indemnifies PFR and its officers and employees against all claims, demands, costs (including reasonable legal costs on a solicitor/client basis) damages, expenses or the like which PFR may suffer or incur as a direct or indirect result of any negligence, wilful act or default of the Research Provider in providing the Services.
6. To the extent allowed by law, PFR is liable to the Research Provider, under or in relation to this Agreement, only for actual loss suffered by the Research Provider as a direct result of PFR's wilful default, and in no circumstances shall PFR's liability, and the liability of its officers and employees, exceed in aggregate an amount equal to the money that PFR has paid to the Research Provider under this Agreement.

Insurance

7. The Research Provider acknowledges and agrees that it will:
 - 7.1. Carry out the Services at its own risk;
 - 7.2. Maintain or cause to be maintained, adequate liability insurance in respect of all of the Research Provider's obligations under this Agreement;
 - 7.3. Produce evidence of the currency of the above insurance policies if required by PFR; and
 - 7.4. Undertake at all times to comply with the terms of the above insurance policies.

Review and reporting

8. PFR and the Research Provider shall meet from time to time to review the Research Provider's progress in providing the Services.
9. The Research Provider shall keep accurate and systematic records in relation to the Services and shall make such records available to PFR as reasonably required.
10. The Research Provider shall report any occupational health and safety hazards in relation to the Services

immediately such health or safety hazard occurs (including any injury to personnel and damage to property), having first taken all appropriate remedial action.

Confidentiality

11. The Research Provider will keep confidential, and will not use nor permit the use of, any Confidential Information except to the extent that:
 - 11.1. The Confidential Information lawfully enters the public domain;
 - 11.2. PFR consents in writing to the disclosure of the Confidential Information;
 - 11.3. The Confidential Information is received in good faith from a third party, where no obligation of confidentiality is owed to the third party;
 - 11.4. Disclosure is required by law, in which case the Research Provider shall promptly notify PFR and take all reasonable steps so as to allow PFR the full opportunity to oppose disclosure.
12. The Research Provider will ensure that its employees and permitted sub-contractors who receive, or may receive, Confidential Information are aware of, and are bound by the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement.
13. If required by PFR, the Research Provider will obtain a written undertaking from any person to whom the Research Provider discloses Confidential Information that confirms:
 - 13.1. That person has read and understood the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement; and
 - 13.2. Will comply with them.

Intellectual Property

14. All rights in any Intellectual Property arising from, or in relation to this Agreement, or developed in the course of undertaking the Services will vest or remain with PFR as its sole property.
15. At PFR's request, the Research Provider will do all things reasonably required by PFR to perfect its rights in and to the Intellectual Property.

Use of PFR's Name

16. The Research Provider will not use PFR's name or the name of any employee or location of PFR to advertise or promote the Research Provider or the Research Provider's business without the prior written consent of PFR.

Termination

17. Either Party may terminate this Agreement by giving thirty (30) Business Days written notice to the other.
18. PFR may terminate this Agreement immediately by written notice to the Research Provider in the event the Provider:
 - 18.1. Breaches any provision of this Agreement;
 - 18.2. Commits an act of bankruptcy (or becomes insolvent if a company) or a receiver or similar officer is appointed in relation to any assets of the Research Provider; or
 - 18.3. Commits an act of serious misconduct which, in the opinion of PFR, brings or may bring, either Party into disrepute.

No Assignment or subcontracting

19. This Agreement is personal to the Research Provider. The Research Provider may not assign, transfer, or deal with any of the Research Provider's rights or obligations under this Agreement, nor subcontract any duties under this Agreement without the prior written consent of PFR. Any material change in the Research Provider's shareholding is an assignment for the purposes of this clause.

Further Services

20. The Research Provider acknowledges and agrees that if the Research Provider carries out any further services for PFR, then in the absence of a subsequent written agreement, those other services will be subject to the Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.

Entire Agreement

21. This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Services. There are no oral or written agreements, representations, understandings or

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

commitments of any kind, express or implied, not expressly set out in this Agreement.

22. Variations, waivers and modifications shall be valid only if in writing and signed by the Parties.

Notices

23. All notices under this Agreement shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by prepaid post or facsimile, to the address of the Party to whom the notice is to be given.

24. Notices shall be deemed to have been delivered on:

- 24.1. The third Business Day after posting in the case of notices sent by post to an address within the same country;
- 24.2. The tenth Business Day after posting by airmail in the case of notices sent by post to an address in a different country;
- 24.3. The receipt of an error free transmission report in the case of a facsimile, unless a verifiable query as to illegibility is promptly raised; or
- 24.4. The date of delivery in the case of personal service.

Enforceability

25. Should any part or provision of this Agreement be held to be unenforceable or in conflict with the applicable laws or

regulations of any jurisdiction, the invalid or unenforceable part or provision shall be replaced with a provision which accomplishes, to the extent possible, the original business purpose of such part or provision in a valid and enforceable manner, and the remainder of the Agreement will remain binding upon the Parties.

No waiver

26. Any failure by either Party to enforce any of the provisions of this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of any rights to future enforcement.

Governing Law

27. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of New Zealand. Both Parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of New Zealand. Neither Party will object to the exercise of jurisdiction by those courts, either for forum non conveniens, or on any other basis.

Survival

28. The provisions of this Agreement relating to limitation of liability, indemnity, confidentiality, intellectual property, use of PFR's name and governing law shall not expire when this Agreement ends.

December 12, 2023

FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA, Ph.D
President
University of Southern Mindanao (USM)
USM, Kabacan, Cotabato, Philippines

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Greetings of Peace from New Zealand!

This has reference to the recent collaboration between our agency – the **Plant and Food Research (PFR)** and the local government unit (LGU) of **Midsayap** through the leadership of the *Honorable Mayor Rolando Sacdalan*, on a project for the development of export quality assurance programme on Mango for the benefit of the mango farmers in Midsayap and stakeholders of the entire mango industry in Mindanao.

The said project officially commenced early this year and we are preparing for the establishment of the experimental site in Midsayap. In relation to this, we would like to invite one of your technical expert in the University – Dr. Mel Chrisel Sales, to join our research team specifically in the conduct of the experiment, soil and plant sampling activities as well as in the coordination with the focal team of Mayor Sacdalan for this project.

The PFR and LGU Midsayap always value partnerships with development agencies to better the implementation of the project and to ensure the delivery of the benefits to the project stakeholders. Thank you and looking forward to your positive response on this request.

Sincerely,



Dr. Phil Elmer
Team Leader and Principal Scientist, Plant and Food Research Limited – New Zealand

cc: The Honorable Rolando C. Sacdalan
Mayor, Municipality of Midsayap

Annex 2

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and executed in Kabacan, Philippines this 17th day of April, 2023 by the following entities:

The **FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS IN RURAL AREAS OF MINDANAO INC.**, a registered organization in the Securities and Exchange Commission (CN 201535758), with principal office address at AlmaCen Bldg., KI 11 Catalunan, Pequeño, Davao City represented herein by the President, **JEROME D. AMULATA**, and hereinafter referred to as "**UNORKA Mindanao**";

The **BARANGAY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF SIRIB, CALINAN DISTRICT DAVAO** with principal office address at Barangay Sirib, Calinan District, Davao City, represented herein by the Barangay Captain, **MARCELINA SARATE-ANTOGOP**, and hereinafter referred to as "**Brgy. Sirib, Calinan District, Davao City**";

and

The **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM)**, a level IV state University, created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, with office and postal address at Kabacan, Cotabato, herein represented by its President, **FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA, Ph.D.**, hereinafter referred to as "**USM**";

The **UNORKA Mindanao**, the **Brgy. Sirib, Calinan District, Davao City** and **USM** shall collectively referred to as the "**Parties**";

WITNESSETH, That

WHEREAS, **UNORKA Mindanao** provide assistance and needs of **USM** to gather the cacao farmers within the vicinity of **Calinan District**;

WHEREAS, **Brgy. Sirib, Calinan District Davao City** recognizes the need for technical assistance, particularly in the field of land management for cacao cropping-system within its area of responsibility;

WHEREAS, **USM**, pursuant to its mandate as the leading government institution of higher learning established in 1952, a state university with four (4) mandated functions in the field of instruction, research, extension and production;

WHEREAS, **USM**, spearheaded by a project leader under College of Agriculture, Department of Soil Science, has technical experts and specialists who may undertake research and extension activities on land management for cacao-cropping system through its project "**Developing Land Management Options for Diverse Cacao-based system in Mindanao**", in partnership with **GGGI-BKCF**;

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises and their mutual covenants herein set forth, the **UNORKA Mindanao**, the **Brgy. Sirib, Calinan District, Davao City**, and the **USM** hereby agree to join forces in the

planning and management of research and extension programs that shall conduct land management for cacao-cropping system activities with the following provision, to wit:

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding seeks to formalize the partnership between the **UNORKA Mindanao**, the **Brgy. Sirib**, and the **USM** as the parties of the foregoing implementation activities of the project.

II. Roles and Obligation of the Parties

A. The *UNORKA Mindanao* shall:

1. identify representative cacao farmers to be part of the knowledge sharing and skills training in land management for cacao-cropping system and diversified farming;
2. identify cacao site for the establishment of the research/ experiment area;
3. provide support to facilitate the following knowledge sharing and skills training activities of the project attached in the Annex A through organizing the cacao farmers during the conduct of activities;

B. The *Brgy. Sirib, Calinan District, Davao City* shall:

1. provide facility and security during the conduct of research/ experiment, knowledge sharing and skills training activities of the project;
2. provide access to enter the vicinity area of the project;

C. The *USM* shall:

1. conduct experiment on cacao and capability-building activities among the cacao farmers;
2. provide necessary expertise and relevant research-based information to strengthen the capacity of cacao farmers in producing cacao;
3. conduct periodic monitoring of the project implementation; and
4. forge partnership with relevant government and non-government agencies for information dissemination through research and extension activities;

III. Miscellaneous

1. this partnership shall remain effective for the duration of the project;
2. all data information generated from the results of the studies and activities will be owned by all parties and there will be free access on the use of data for any relevant research of any of the partners.

IV. Amendments

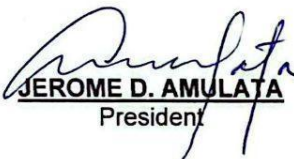
The parties to the partnership, by mutual consent and in writing, and for as long as it is within the purview of the law, may add, modify, amend, delete any word(s), phrase(s), sentence(s), or article(s) in this partnership.

V. Effectivity

This agreement shall effect immediately upon signing of all parties and shall remain in force unless otherwise revoked/amended by the parties of this Agreement. Furthermore, this Memorandum of Understanding can be rescinded or voluntarily terminated without cause, in part or in its entirety, by any of the Parties involved with prior one month notice to the party concerned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the partners, through their respective authorized representatives, have hereunto affixed their signature this 17th day of April, 2023 at the _____.

UNORKA MINDANAO


JEROME D. AMULATA
President

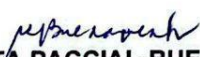
BRGY. LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF SIRIB


MARCELINA SARATE-ANTOGOP
Barangay Captain

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO


FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA, PhD
University President

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:


RONITA PACCIAL-BUENAVENTURA
Agribusiness Enterprise Devt. Coordinator, UNORKA


LUZ RAMOS-LAGUDAS
Barangay Councilor, Sirib


MA. TEODORA N. CABASAN
VP for Research, Development & Extension, USM


MEL CHRISEL A. SALES
Project Leader, USM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)

_____) S.S.

Before me, A Notary Public, this 11 AUG 07, 2023 day 07, 2023, at _____

Philippines personally appeared the following:

Name	Community Tax Certificate No.	Date/Place Issued
JEROME D. AMULATA	<u>29734124</u>	<u>4/12/2023 - TACLOAN, CAVITE</u>
MARCELINA SARATE-ANTOGOP	_____	_____
FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA, PhD	<u>05572120</u>	<u>1/17/2023 - KADAMCAN, COTABATO</u>

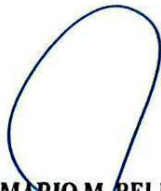
All known to me and to me known to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledge to me that the same is their free and voluntarily act and deed as well as that of the government agencies they represent herein.

This instrument refers to a MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING consisting of three (3) pages, including the page whereof this acknowledgement is written, and is signed by the parties and their instrumental witnesses on each and every page thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND NOTARIAL SEAL on the date and place first written above.

Doc. No. 485
Page No. 97
Book No. IV
Series of 2023




MARIO M. BELLO, JR.
Notary Public for the Province of Cotabato
Valid Until December 31, 2023
PTR No. 2081414/01-03-23/Amas, Kidapawan City
IBP O.R. No. 291764/01-20-23/North Cotabato Chapter
Roll No. 81958



Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO
USM, Kabacan, Cotabato



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Resolution No.020 series of 2022

"ENDORSEMENT OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN GLOBAL GREEN GROWTH INSTITUTE (GGGI) AND UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM)"

WHEREAS, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) provides funding support for Research and Development (R&D) project that comply with its priority area/program;

WHEREAS, Dr. Mel Chrisel A.Sales, a faculty member of the College of Agriculture at the University of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan, Cotabato has an approved project with the title "Developing Land Management Options for Diverse Cacao-based system in Mindanao" funded by GGGI with a grant of \$ 136,310.24;

WHEREAS, the project's goal is to establish a suitable soil resilient for climate mitigation, database management, and land development for cacao farmers in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the project addresses the land development for cacao-based farming, climate-resilient soil management, and sustainable cacao-based cropping system;

WHEREAS, URDEC upon thorough evaluation and assessment favorably endorsed the Grant Agreement between GGGI and USM for the implementation of the project "Developing Land Management Options for Diverse Cacao-based system in Mindanao";

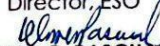
NOW, THEREFORE, THE COMMITTEE RESOLVES AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be submitted to **DR. FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA**, USM President, for his information and appropriate action.

RESOLVED FURTHER, to provide copies of this resolution to the Chairperson and members of the **UNIVERSITY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION COMMITTEE (URDEC)**.

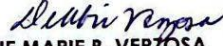
Adopted during the URDEC Special Meeting, September 05, 2022, Conference Room, Extension Service Building, University of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan, Cotabato.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

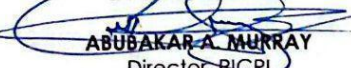

MARY JOY S. CANOLAS
Director, ESO


LYDIA C. PASCUAL
Director, RDO


MA. TEODORA N. CABASAN
VPRDE and URDEC Co-Chairperson


DEBBIE MARIE B. VERZOSA
Director, RPSO


EFREN E. MAGULAMA
Director, USMARC


ABUBAKAR A. MURRAY
Director, PICRI


FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA
SUC President IV and URDEC Chairperson



Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO
Kabacan, Cotabato
email address: boardsec@usm.edu.ph



BOARD OF REGENTS

AN EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 149th REGULAR MEETING OF THE USM GOVERNING BOARD ON 06 OCTOBER 2022 AT THE MICROTREL BY WYNDHAM, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

CONFIRMATION OF MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT

Resolution No. 119-A, series of 2022 – With the Ifugao State University, in recognition of the crucial importance of library services and utilization to reinforce instruction in the academic community, agree on the following:

1. Allow their faculty, staff and students of both parties to utilize its resources in the conduct of research in accordance with its existing policies;
2. Not collect any fees from the faculty staff and students of both institutions when they use the library resources;
3. Provide each other with publications/ newsletters as an exchange of library resources;
4. Provide technical assistance on library matters;
5. Enforce library rules and regulations

This Agreement takes effect upon signing by both parties and shall be binding for a period of four (4) years unless further amended or earlier revoked by mutual consent

Resolution No. 119-B, series of 2022 - With the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), and the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office XII for the implementation of the project, *Food for Life: Assessment of Wild Food Resources for Sustainable and Safe Food Production Among Local Communities in Ligawasan Marsh*, with a project funding of Php997,861.20 for a period of six months covering July 2022 to December 2022.

Resolution No. 119-C, series of 2022 - With the Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rubber Research Institute (DA-PRRI) for the provision of technical expert as project staff in the implementation of the project, *Assessment of Various Rubber-based Cropping Systems for Enhanced Production of Smallholder Rubber Farmers in Different Climatic Types of the Philippines*.

Resolution No. 119-D, series of 2022 - With the Ministry of Science and Technology – Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MOST-BARMM) for the implementation of the project, *BARMM in a Changing Environment (Biomonitoring and Assessment of the Relationship Between Marsh and Man)* with a fund of Php1,206,367.90, for a period of six (6) months after the agreement shall have been signed and extendable for another six (6) months with no additional cost incurred by the Funding Agency

Resolution No. 119-E, series of 2022 - With the Ministry of Science and Technology – Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MOST-BARMM) for the implementation of the project, *Biodiversity Assessment in Key Areas for Wildlife and Nature Project (Bakawan Project): Assessment of Structural and Functional Biodiversity in Mangrove Ecosystem of Timaco Mangrove Swamp, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*, with a fund of Php1,031,289.34 for a period of

Page 1 of 3

“UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
MINDANAO THROUGH QUALITY AND RELEVANT EDUCATION.”

USM SYS-F70 Rev 1 2020 07 14

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

LARK E. CATUBAY
Board Secretary I
USM Kabacan, Cotabato



Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO
Kabacan Cotabato
email address: usm@usm.edu.ph



BOARD OF REGENTS

AN EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 149th REGULAR MEETING OF THE USM GOVERNING BOARD ON 06 OCTOBER 2022 AT THE MICROTREL BY WYNDHAM, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

CONFIRMATION OF MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT

continued ..

six (6) months after the agreement shall have been signed and extendable for another three (3) months with no additional cost incurred by the Funding Agency

Resolution No. 119-F, series of 2022 – With the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) for the implementation of the project, *“Optimization of Irrigation Flow through Conduit Micro Hydropower to Generate Electricity for Off-Grid Barangays of Kabacan, Cotabato,”* with a fund of Php996,776.00 to be completed within a period of twelve (12) months covering August 01, 2022, to July 31, 2023.

Resolution No. 119-G, series of 2022 – With the Department of Science and Technology – Region XII (DOST-Region XII) for the implementation of the project, *Commercialization of Chevron Food Products and Standardization of Processing Center,”* with a fund of Php1,000,000.00 to be implemented in twelve (12) months covering the period January 2023 to January 2024.

Resolution No. 119-H, series of 2022 - With the Erumanen ne Menuvu Kamal and Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) for the implementation of RA 10533 An Act Enhancing the Philippine Basic Education System, which gives emphasis on delivering basic education in the framework of Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) by cooperation.

Resolution No. 119-I, series of 2022 - With the Islamic Relief Worldwide – Philippines (IRW-PH) to define roles, responsibilities and procedures for collaboration and cooperation and terms of engagement in the implementation of humanitarian and development projects in targeted communities and project areas.

Resolution No. 119-J, series of 2022 - With the Sante Aquaculture Science and Technology Foundation, Inc in the putting up of a study grant with the following provisions:

1. The grant shall be subject to USM rules on admissions and scholarships;
2. The number of recipients shall be mutually agreed upon by both parties;
3. USM shall be responsible for the screening, selection and endorsement of the recipients to the SANTEH FOUNDATION;
4. USM shall submit to SANTEH FOUNDATION the required documents such as application forms, statement of account, weighted general average duly certified by the University and other documents deemed necessary;
5. SANTEH FOUNDATION shall remit to USM the corresponding amount after receipt of Statement of Account consisting of Tuition and Miscellaneous Fees (as determined by USM) and Monthly Stipend of Php2,500 per scholar per month for a period of five (5) months per semester. The same stipend amount shall be received by the scholar for summer courses required for the degree as indicated in the curriculum;

Page 2 of 3

“UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND
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USM SYS-F70 Rev 1 2020 07 14

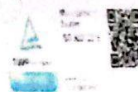
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY


LAKAN E. CADUBAY
Board Secretary I
USM Kabacan Cotabato

Annex 3



Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO
Kabacan, Cotabato
email address



BOARD OF REGENTS

AN EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 149th REGULAR MEETING OF THE
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Page 1 of 3

"UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND
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CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.

USM SYS-F70 Rev 1.1 2020-07-14

MARGIE N. BUTUAN-GAIANG
Chief Administrative Officer

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

LAKOTE COUBAY
Board Secretary I
USM, Kabacan, Cotabato
2022-10-19



Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO
Kabacan Cotabato
email address: usm@usm.edu.ph



BOARD OF REGENTS

AN EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 149th REGULAR MEETING OF THE
USM GOVERNING BOARD ON 06 OCTOBER 2022 AT THE MICROTREL BY
WYNDHAM, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

CONFIRMATION OF MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT

continued

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4. USM shall submit to SANTEH FOUNDATION the required documents such as application forms, statement of account, weighted general average duly certified by the University and other documents deemed necessary.
5. SANTEH FOUNDATION shall remit to USM the corresponding amount after receipt of Statement of Account consisting of Tuition and Miscellaneous Fees (as determined by USM) and Monthly Stipend of Php2,500 per scholar per month for a period of five (5) months per semester. The same stipend amount shall be received by the scholar for summer courses required for the degree as indicated in the curriculum.

Page 2 of 3

“UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND
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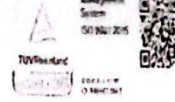
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

USM SYS-F70 Rev 1 2016-07-14

MARGIE N. BUTUAN-GALANG
Chief Administrative Officer

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

LAKEN E. CALUBAY
Board Secretary I
USM, Kabacan, Cotabato
date: 10.14



**AN EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 152nd REGULAR MEETING OF THE
USM GOVERNING BOARD ON 16 JUNE 2023 AT THE CHED-HEDC BUILDING,
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY AND VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

CONFIRMED

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:

ATTESTED BY:

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

MARGIE N. BUTUAN-GALANG
Chief Administrative Officer

**"UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
MINDANAO THROUGH QUALITY AND RELEVANT EDUCATION."**

USM-SYS-F70.Rev.1.2020.07.14

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
LAKSND E. C. SUBAY
Board Secretary

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and executed by and between the parties hereto, namely:

CENTER FOR ASIAN MISSION FOR THE POOR ASIA (CAMP ASIA), Inc., an international Non-Government Organization based in Seoul, South Korea, with Philippine country office located in Lot A-2 Upper Quarry, Barangay Minuyan Proper, City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, duly represented by its President, **REV. CHULYONG LEE**, hereinafter referred to as "**CAMP**";

-and-

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM), a level IV state University, created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, with office and postal address at Kabacan, Cotabato, duly represented by its President, **FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA, Ph.D.**, hereinafter referred to as "**USM**".

witnesseth:

WHEREAS, CAMP recognizes the need for technical assistance, particularly in the field of sustainable land management on durian cropping-system for its approved project with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) entitled "**Developing Sustainable Agricultural Environment through the Organization of Durian Producers in Mindanao, Philippines**";

WHEREAS, USM is a Center of Excellence in Agriculture since the year 2015. One of its four-fold functions is Extension, facilitated by a technical pool of experts capable of addressing the project's objective of developing site-specific nutrient and land management as well as internal quality control system (IQCS) manual for sustainable production of durian.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the parties thereto agree as follows:

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding is anchored on the objective of establishing a collaboration between parties and to formalize the partnership in the foregoing implementation activities of the above-mentioned project.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

MARGIE N. BUTUAN-GAIANG
Chief Administrative Officer

II. Roles and Obligation of the Parties

A. *CAMP* shall:

1. Coordinate with USM technical experts in the planning and implementation of activities of the project;
2. Furnish USM a copy of the technical accomplishment report of the project;
3. Be accountable for the travel and logistical expenses of USM expert/s including equipment to be purchased and other service fees incurred in the conduct of the approved activities for the project;
4. Acknowledge USM in all reports, articles, and media releases of the experiment/ study/ activities conducted;
5. Allow USM technical experts to publish the result of the experiment/ study as the corresponding author;
6. Allow and support USM students to conduct thesis studies in the experimental sites of the project;
7. Support the USM technical expert in undertaking activities in exploring possible partnerships and linkages on research, capacity training, and other initiatives offered in South Korea to support USM's priority research, development, and extension agenda.

B. *USM* shall:

1. Provide the necessary technical experts with the following functions:
 - a. To assist in formulating the detailed research study outline; and
 - b. To assist in facilitating research and development activities in line with the objectives of the project.
2. Allow travel of the technical experts in relation to the implementation of the approved project activities charged to the CAMP ASIA Project.

III. Miscellaneous

1. This partnership shall remain effective for the duration of the project;
2. All data information generated from the results of the project and activities will be owned by both parties and there will be free access on the use of data for any relevant research of any of the partners.

IV. Amendments

The parties to the partnership, by mutual consent and in writing, and for as long as it is within the purview of the law, may add, modify, amend, delete any word(s), phrase(s), sentence(s), or article(s) in this partnership.


MARGIE N. BOTUAN-GALANG
Chief Administrative Officer

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.

V. Effectivity

This agreement shall take effect immediately upon signing of both parties and shall remain in force unless otherwise revoked/amended by the parties of this Agreement. Furthermore, this Memorandum of Understanding can be rescinded or voluntarily terminated without cause, in part or in its entirety, by any of the Parties involved with prior one month notice to the party concerned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, have caused this Memorandum of Understanding signed in USM, Kabaacan, North Cotabato on July 11, 2023.

By:

CENTER FOR ASIAN MISSION FOR
THE POOR ASIA

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
MINDANAO


REV. CHULYONG LEE
President


FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA, PhD
President

Witness:


DIR. BUYOUNG CHO
Project Coordinator/ CAMP


MA. TEODORA N. CABASAN, PhD
Vice-President RDE/ USM


MEL CHRISSEL A. SALES, PHD
Technical Expert/ USM

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


MARGIE N. BUTUAN-GALANG
Chief Administrative Officer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)

Kabataan, Cotabato) S.S.

Before me, A Notary Public, this AUG 14 2023, 2023, at
Kabataan, Cotabato
Philippines personally appeared the following:

Name	Government Issued Identification	Date/Place Issued
CHULYONG LEE	M89260349	January 23, 2019 Republic of Korea
FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA	P2691644B	August 1, 2019 DFA, Davao City, Philippines

All known to me and to me known to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledge to me that the same is their free and voluntarily act and deed as well as that of the government agencies they represent herein.

This instrument refers to a MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING consisting of three (3) pages, including the page whereof this acknowledgement is written, and is signed by the parties and their instrumental witnesses on each and every page thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND NOTARIAL SEAL on the date and place first written above.

Doc. No. 275
Page No. 55
Book No. XVII
Series of 70 m



REGERICK L. BENITO
Notary Public for the Province of Cotabato
Valid Until December 31, 2023
PTR No. 2081413 / 01-03-23 / Amas, Kidapawan City
IBPO R. No. 252257 / 12-21-22 / North Cotabato Chapter
Roll No. 46786

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

MARGIE N. BUTUAN-GALANG
Chief Administrative Officer

Annex 4

ICRC PHILIPPINES

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

And

University of Southern Mindanao (USM)

MAN 24/00502

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral, independent, humanitarian organization whose mandate is to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and other situation of violence. The ICRC endeavours to alleviate suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

1 Object and scope of the agreement

The present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) intends to formalize the co-operation between University of Southern Mindanao and the ICRC (each a "Party" and together the "Parties") in the development of the second phase of a Seed Multiplication Pilot project as part of the project implemented by the ICRC in the community of Barangay Saniag-Municipality of Ampatuan Province of Maguindanao del Sur.

The concerned activities and services are intended to improve food production of rural communities in one Barangay of the province of Maguindanao Del Sur by supporting 20 farmers in the production of good maize Open Pollinated Variety seeds (USM var 10) based on Philippine Quality Standard. Moreover, the project intends to strengthen the availability of seeds at local level by providing good seeds to the most vulnerable farming communities.

2. Representation

Each Party shall appoint a person responsible for the implementation of the Agreement, who shall act as the designated representative for each of the Institutions, in relation to the implementation and administration of this Agreement.

Upon signature of this Convention:

- The person responsible for USM is **Francisco Gil N. Garcia, PhD, SUC President IV of USM**, telephone: + 63 9983760318, e-mail: op@usm.edu.ph
- The person responsible for the ICRC is **Christine Plaza, Economic Security Coordinator**, telephone: +63 9088910241, e-mail: cplaza@icrc.org

together, -hereinafter, the Parties-

Each Party is entitled to change its liability at any time if it notifies the other(s) party(s) of its decision in writing.

3. Responsibilities of the Parties

USM:

USM will, under the scope of this MoU:

- Assign one (1) Project Coordinator and three (3) agricultural technicians.
- Establish an experiment plot of 0,5 Ha to undertake organic corn seed multiplication in intercropping with mungo beans. The plot will be set up at the USMARDC, Kabacan.
- Establish an experiment plot of 0,5 Ha to undertake organic corn seed multiplication in monocropping. The plot will be set up at the USMARDC
- Produce the planning of monitoring field visits for the USM team.

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- Produce the training sessions' contents and timeframe on "good seeds" production techniques for each farmer.
- Organize two (2) training sessions (one before land preparation and one before harvesting) at USMARDC for farmers on good seeds production techniques.
- Lead the technical training of seed multiplication farming techniques.
- Follow-up and monitor cropping tasks and plot vegetative status for each farmer.
- Lead all technical field visits and be responsible of reports writings of these visits.
- Produce detailed monthly report on crop status for each farmer, which includes the technical monitoring sheet.
- Maintain the regular exchange with the ICRC through monthly meetings (virtual or face to face)
- Support the farmers in testing and storing good seeds.
- Ensure that the harvest is tested according to Philippine Quality Standard for "good seeds" type.
- Produce a report on Post Harvest (quantity/quality harvested, quantity available for ICRC distribution)
- Produce a final report (lessons learnt, needs for further adjustments and improvements)

Reporting and maintaining records:

- ✓ **Trainings contents on seeds multiplication** (submission to ICRC via email by July 2024)
- ✓ **Detailed "Monthly Progress Report" on field good seeds production plots**, (submission to ICRC via email by end of each month from July 2024 until December 2024).
- ✓ **Post-harvest Monitoring Report** (submission to ICRC via email by January 2025)
- ✓ **Final Project Report** (submission to ICRC via email by January 2025)

USM project Coordinator shall submit each report to the ICRC Ecosec Coordinator Christine Plaza (cplaza@icrc.org / + 63 908 891 0241) with copy to the ICRC Head of Sub-delegation in Cotabato Rim Hajji (rhajji@icrc.org / + 63 917 321 5785)

In General

- Immediately inform the ICRC of any event that may impact the regular implementation of the Project.
- Cooperate in the monitoring of the Project and provide answers to any question related to the Project.
- Participate in monthly coordination and consultation meetings with ICRC.
- Address any conflict with citizens and neighbors that may arise during the implementation.
- Ensure that the relevant agricultural technicians of the USM are fully aware of the Project, including its objectives, implementation modalities, progress, and results.

ICRC:

The ICRC will, under the scope of this MoU:

- Ensure that the USM team is fully aware of ICRC principles and approach in the given context.
- Cover all the costs related to the implementation of the project (training sessions, field visits, farming costs, implementation of experiment plots; support to USMARDC seeds laboratory).
- Provide the agricultural inputs for the establishment of 2 experiment plots.
- Provide the final list of farmers selected for the project.
- Arrange the transport of the USMARDC team to the field by renting a vehicle with driver for each field visit (10)
- Provide the financial means required by USM to implement the activities as per the pre-agreed plan of action, timeframe, and budget.
- Maintain the regular exchange with the USM through monthly meetings (virtual or face to face) and joint field monitoring visits prior to and during the implementation.
- Participate in the design and implementation of the final post-harvest monitoring.
- Donate equipment for seed testing to the USMARDC Seed Laboratory.
- Select the final beneficiaries who will receive "good seeds" at the end of the project.
- Oversee the "good seeds" distribution to the final beneficiaries.

4. Activities

20 June 2024	- USMARDC allocates one Project Coordinator. - USMARDC allocates three (3) technicians for the project duration.
27 June 2024	- MoU is signed between USM and ICRC.
10 July 2024	- Detailed plan for technical support visits throughout the implementation process is formulated jointly by USMARDC and ICRC. - USMARDC produces the technical contents of good seeds' production and technical follow up
12 July 2024	- USMARDC technicians have formulated the assessment report on the potential farmers in targeted areas. - Based on the assessment findings, 20 farmers are selected for the project. - Soil samples from each farmer's plot are collected
12 July 2024	- Individual MoUs signed between ICRC and selected farmers.
19 July 2024	- Provision of inputs to USMARDC for the establishment of experiment plots
26 July 2024	- 1 training session to the 20 farmers is carried out by USMARDC on good seeds' production techniques. - Basics or C1 seeds (USM Var 10) issued from USM lineage are provided to the farmers as well as the remaining items of the agro package. - Soil testing is done for each farmer's plot - Start of the technical monitoring (Land preparation)
30 August 2024	- Technical monitoring and support to the farmers and production of one report by USM are done.
15 September 2024	- Laboratory items are delivered to USMARDC
30 September 2024	- Technical monitoring and support to the farmers and production of one report by USM are done.
31 October 2024	- Technical monitoring and support to the farmers and production of one report by USM are done.
30 November 2024	- Technical monitoring and support to the farmers and production of one report by USM are done. - 1 training session to the 10 farmers is carried out by USM on good seeds' harvest process/storage management
31 st December 2024	- Technical monitoring and support to the farmers and production of one report by USMARDC are done.
31 January 2025	- USMARDC has tested the harvest of Maize as per Philippine Quality Standard for "good seed type". - A Post Harvest report is produced by USMARDC team based on the pre-agreed format with the ICRC. - One final report is produced by USMARDC team
From July 2024 to December 2024	- 9 visits per farmers are conducted by USMARDC team (technical support and monitoring). - 9 monitoring field visits are conducted by ICRC.
February 2025	- 20-30% of the harvested and processed "good seed" of Maize are redistributed to 86 farmers from the Saniag project and to the most vulnerable household nearby community. - 70-80% of the harvested and processed "good seed" remain the property of the multiplier's farmers. - One seeds' laboratory is operational in USMARDC unit in Kabacan.

5. Payment

5.1 The partner shall receive from the ICRC a total amount three hundred thirty-four thousand and two-hundred fifty Philippines pesos (334 250 PHP) paid as follows:

DETAILED BUDGET SEEDS PRODUCTION PROJECT				
University Southern Mindanao Agricultural Research Development Center (USMARDC)				
July 2024 - January 2025				
Item description	Unit	Cost per unit (PHP)	Qty	Total cost (PHP)
A) Farmers training				
Training material for 20 persons for the 2-days training on OPV seed production at USM.	Lumpsum	550	20	11 000
Venue, accommodation, and food for 23 persons for the 2-days training on OPV seed production at USM	Lumpsum	86100	1	86 100
TOTAL A)				97 100
B) USMARDC staff per diem				
1 project coordinator (10 field visits)	day	1500	21	31 500
Technician 1 (10 field visits)	day	1500	21	31 500
Technician 2 (10 field visits)	day	1500	21	31 500
Technician 3 (10 field visits)	day	1500	21	31 500
TOTAL B)				126 000
C) Labor for 2 experiment plots				
Plot organic seed multiplication intercropping	Lumpsum	77 550	1	77 550
Plot organic seed multiplication monocropping	Lumpsum	33 600	1	33 600
TOTAL D)				111 150
TOTAL BUDGET (A+B+C+D) PHP				334 250

- The payments of **A)** will be executed at the end of the 2- days training
- The payment **B), C), D)** will be executed each end of month upon submission of the "monthly progress report" and upon achievement of all activities planned (see 4. main activities).

-If USMARDC fails to submit the required reports and other project records, or if the reports provided by USMARDC are not in accordance with the agreed format and contents, ICRC may, upon provision of due notice of default, terminate this Agreement without further payment and claim back the initial payment from USMARDC.

5.2. The payments provided for this agreement, shall be made through bank account deposit:

For the farmers' training material :

Bank name : Land Bank of the Philippines
Account name : USM External Research Fund
Account number : 2732-1047-58

For the farmers' training food and accommodation :

Bank name : Land Bank of the Philippines
Account name : USM Hostel
Account number : 2732-1026-66

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For the USMARDC staff per diem and the labour for experiment plots at USMARDC

Bank name : Land Bank of the Philippines
Account name : Jurhamid C. Imlan
Account number : 2737-0280-57

5. Duration

The duration of this agreement is eight (8) months, from 27th of June of 2024 to 28th of February of 2025

The agreement may be renewed or extended in writing and by mutual agreement by the parties for such term as they deem appropriate for the performance of the activities in pursuance of the principal object, or which result therefrom.

6. Termination

Either of the Parties is entitled to terminate the present MoU at any time by giving 30 days' notice in writing in case of partial or complete non-fulfilment of the obligations of one of the parties. Prior to this, however, consultations should take place between the parties to discuss such cancellation.

The ICRC expressly reserves the right to terminate this MoU without prior notice if it should have to leave or change the scope of its activities in the territory.

7. Due diligence

ICRC conducts a due diligence process as part of its standard operational practices to select reliable and trustworthy partners. The due diligence process is intended to ensure that external partners working with or on behalf of the ICRC comply with a number of standards that the institution has set for ethical behaviour, integrity and compliance with applicable law. Put simply, it is a matter of knowing the Parties with which the ICRC works. Ultimately, the aim of this process is to protect the people assisted by the ICRC, as well as the staff and good name of the institution.

ICRC undertakes not to use confidential information provided for purposes other than its due diligence process and to take reasonable precautions to prevent disclosure of confidential information to other third parties.

The due diligence process must be completed successfully before the ICRC can sign this agreement. Due diligence will be updated every three years or when there are significant changes in the project or our partner.

The document that satisfactorily validates the due diligence process performed by USMARDC becomes part of this Agreement and is included in Annex A.

8 Clause of confidentiality

USM shall ensure that the staff assigned to, or collaborating with, the ICRC are bound by and comply with a duty of discretion and professional secrecy. This duty of discretion imposes to refrain from disclosing any confidential or privileged information obtained or produced by the said staff as a result of their activity with the ICRC to any person not working for the ICRC or not assigned to the ICRC, unless they are directly involved in the works covered by this MoU or are acting as judicial or other authority according to the law.

9 Public communication

Without prejudice to exceptions provided by this MoU each Party undertakes not to disclose to the public or any third party the content of information exchanged in confidence under this MoU without prior written consent of the other Party, unless this information is already in the public domain or such disclosure is required by law.

The Parties shall mutually agree on any public communications regarding their joint initiatives to avoid any interference with their respective mandates and operations.

The ICRC might have to share this MoU with external parties such as donors or auditors. The USM may provide information regarding this MoU to auditors and other controlling, supervising or hierarchy bodies in cases determined by law.

10. Prevention of fraud, violence, sexual exploitation, and abuse

Each Partner shall take all possible measures to prevent and effectively address all forms of fraud, corruption, violence, exploitation and/or sexual abuse by its respective members, staff and volunteers, as well as by their agents, contractors and subcontractors engaged in the implementation and performance of the Agreement, or any sub agreements concluded thereunder.

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The Partner shall immediately report to the ICRC any allegation of fraudulent activity or any misconduct related to the funds, goods or services provided by the ICRC under the Agreement, and any sub-agreements concluded thereunder, using one of any reporting means available, including by notifying the ICRC's Global Compliance Office (gva_globalcomplianceoffice@icrc.org). The Partner commits to cooperate with auditors and investigators from the ICRC or appointed by the ICRC in response to any alleged misconduct.

Failure by the Partners to comply with any of their obligations under this article, including any material omission or misrepresentation of information by the Partners in relation to allegations of, or demonstrated, fraud and corruption, may constitute cause for immediate termination of the Agreement. "

11 Force majeure

In case of Force Majeure (caused by conditions beyond its control including, but not limited to natural disasters, Governmental restrictions - including the denial or cancellation of any import or other necessary license, and/or any other cause beyond the reasonable control) or such as serious security problem for the ICRC staff, the ICRC retains the right to terminate this MoU or delay its commitment.

12. Privileges and Immunity

Nothing in the present MoU shall be directly or indirectly interpreted as a waiver on the part of the ICRC, of the privileges and immunities the ICRC and its staff enjoy under national or international law, including under the Headquarters Agreement between The ICRC and The Government of The Philippines signed on 30.04.1985

The parties agree that nothing in this Memorandum shall affect the ability of the ICRC to carry out its humanitarian activities in a neutral, independent and impartial manner.

13. Use of the ICRC Emblem

The ICRC emblem is protected under the Geneva Conventions, and no one shall use the ICRC emblem in any way without the prior written approval of the ICRC.

14. Governing Law

The Agreement shall be governed by the Law of Philippines with respect to the ICRC privileges and immunities provided by the international law and the Headquarters Agreement between The ICRC and The Government of The Philippines signed on 30.04.1985.

15. Dispute settlement

Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in relation to this Agreement including the validity, invalidity, breach or termination thereof, shall be settled by mutual agreement between the parties.

16. Amendments and annexes

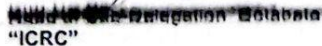
In order to be valid, any amendment or annex to this Agreement shall be made in writing, by mutual agreement, and signed by the two parties involved. A similar procedure shall apply to any proposed amendment to this letter.

The following annexes form an integral part of this agreement:

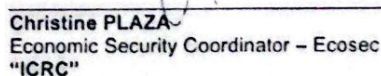
Annex 1 : List of equipment Phase 2

Annex 2 : Financial Proposal

Signed on 27 / 06 / 2024.


"ICRC"


"USM"


Christine PLAZA
Economic Security Coordinator – Ecossec
"ICRC"

Annex 1: List of equipment and material for USMARC- SEEDS MULTIPLICATION PROJECT PHASE 2

Chemicals for soil testing :

Item	Form	Chemical Grade	Chemical Formula	Molecular Weight	Quantity
Sulfuric Acid	Liquid (2.5L/Bottle)	AR Grade	H ₂ SO ₄	98.08 g/mol	3
n-Hexane	Liquid (4L/Bottle)	AR Grade	C ₆ H ₁₄	86.18 g/mol	3
Petroleum Ether	Liquid (4L/Bottle)	AR Grade	C ₆ H ₁₄	86.18 g/mol	3
Ethanol, Absolute 95%	Liquid (4L/Bottle)	AR Grade	EtOH	46.07 g/mol	3
Boric Acid	Solid (500g/bottle)	AR Grade	H ₃ BO ₃	61.84 g/mol	3
Buffer Solution pH 4	Liquid (1L/Bottle)				3
Buffer Solution pH 7	Liquid (1L/Bottle)				3
Buffer Solution pH 10	Liquid (1L/Bottle)				3
Potassium Dichromate	Solid (500g/bottle)	AR Grade	K ₂ Cr ₂ O ₇	294.19 g/mol	3
Ortho-phosphoric Acid, 85%	Liquid (2.5L/Bottle)	AR Grade	H ₃ PO ₄	98 g/mol	3
Hydrochloric Acid 37%	Liquid (2.5L/Bottle)	AR Grade	HCl	36.47 g/mol	3
Ammonium Ferrous Sulphate	Solid (500g/bottle)	AR Grade	H ₈ FeN ₂ O ₈ S ₂ 6H ₂ O	392.13 g/mol	3

1 Seed Germinator, Brand Seedburo; Model ACHIEVA A3920 with 6 perforated trays;

Annex 2 : Financial proposal Seed multiplication project - Phase 2

Please fill in the white cells. Do not modify the yellow and blue cells.
If you need to add columns for additional resources, please ensure totals are accurate.

Company name

University of Southern Mindanao

Field visits	Travel Type	Unit definition	Number of Unit	Cost per Unit	Total Cost	Purpose
Identification and selection of farmer (2 days)	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Identify 20 farmer-partners for the Seed Multiplication Project
2-Day Training on OPV seed production at USM	Supplies & Materials for the training	IEC Materials, cert rooms	20	550	11 000.00 PHP	Train 20 farmer-partners in OPV seed production through intercropping system
	Accommodation	rooms	8	3000	24 000.00 PHP	
	Food & snacks	per person	27	2300	62 100.00 PHP	
	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Check condition of the soil if ready for planting
1st Monitoring before land preparation (2 days)	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	1500	12 000.00 PHP	Give technical assistance to the farmer-partners in planting corn and companion crops
2nd Monitoring during planting (2 days)	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Monitor standing of the crops and give technical assistance to farmer-partners
3rd Monitoring 12-14 days after planting (2 days)	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Give technical assistance to the farmer-partners in roguing corn plants
4th Monitoring, 33 days DAP (1st Roguing, 2 days)	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	1500	12 000.00 PHP	Assess the farmer-partners in deassessing of off-type plants
5th Monitoring, 45-50 DAP (Flowering Stage, 2 days)	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Assist the farmer-partners in the removal of diseased plants.
6th Monitoring, 75 DAP (final roguing, 2 days)	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Assist the farmer-partners in sorting of corn ears for seeds purposes.
7th Monitoring, 95-100 DAP (Harvesting, 3 days)	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Give technical assistance in seed processing
8th Monitoring, Harvesting/ Seed processing (2 days)	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	1500	12 000.00 PHP	Give technical assistance in seed processing/finallization
9th Monitoring, Seed processing (2 days)	Travel to Sanag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	
TOTAL FIELD VISITS COSTS					223 100 PHP	
Other Costs				Cost per Unit	Number of Units	Total Cost
Experimentation organic seed multiplication intercropping (labour)				77 550.00	1	77 550.00
Experimentation organic seed multiplication monocropping				33 600.00	1	33 600.00
TOTAL additional costs						111 150
TOTAL proposal cost						334 250 PHP

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EXPERIMENTATION ORGANIC CORN SEED MULTIPLICATION- INTERCROPPING (0,5 Ha)

ITEM	QTY	TIMES	UNIT	JNIT COS1	AMOUNT
Land Preparation:					
Disc Plowing	0,5	1	Ha	7 000	3 500
Harrowing/Plowing (2 times)	0,5	2	ha	3 500	3 500
Furrowing	0,5	1	ha	1 750	875
Planting	6	1	MD	450	2 700
Off-barring	0,5	1	MAD	1 500	750
Hilling-up	0,5	1	MAD	1 200	600
Spraying of organic foliar fertilizer (4x)	2	4	MD	450	3 600
Spraying of biopesticide	2	1	MD	450	900
Weeding, 4x	5	4	MD	450	9 000
Roguing (2X)	2	2	MD	450	1 800
Harvesting mungo bean (x3)	5	3	MD	450	6 750
Harvesting corn	75	1	sacks	60	4 500
Hauling	75	1	sacks	15	1 125
Drying and shelling	75	1	sacks	10	750
Agricultural Inputs:					
Corn seeds (USM counterpart)	10	1	Kg	0	0
Mungbean seeds	6	1	Kg	100	600
Organic Fertilizer	7,5	1	bags	700	5 250
Foliar Fertilizer	4	1	liters	700	2 800
Biopesticides	2	1	liters	800	1 600
Biofungicides	1	1	liter	1 300	1 300
Other Inputs:					
Empty sacks (triple layer)	75	1	pcs	35	2 625
Twisted Twine	2	1	bundle	35	70
Placard/tarpauline	1	1	pc	1 000	1 000
Other Services:					0
On call Technical Staff for gathering of data at 25, 45, 60 & 90 days after planting	1	4	MD	800	3 200
Honorarium: 1 project staff (4 months)	1	4	pax	8 500	34 000
TOTAL					92 795,00

*1st weeding 14 days after planting (DAP)

2nd weeding - 20-30 DAP

3rd weeding - 50-55 DAP

4th weeding - 75 DAP

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EXPERIMENTATION ORGANIC CORN SEED MULTIPLICATION- MONOCROPPING (0,5 Ha)

ITEM	QTY	TIMES	UNIT	UNIT COST	AMOUNT
Land Preparation:					
Disc Plowing	0,5	1,0	ha	7 000	3 500
Harrowing/Plowing (2 times)	0,5	2,0	ha	3 500	3 500
Furrowing	0,5	1,0	ha	1 750	875
Planting	6	1	MD	450	2 700
Off-barring	0,5	1,0	MAD	1 500	750
Hilling-up	0,5	1,0	MAD	1 200	600
Spraying of organic foliar fertilizer (4x)	2	4	MD	450	3 600
Spraying of biopesticide	2	1	MD	450	900
Weeding, 4x	5	4	MD	450	9 000
Roguing (2x)	2	2	MD	450	1 800
Harvesting	75	1	sacks	60	4 500
Hauling	75	1	sacks	15	1 125
Drying and shelling	75	1	sacks	10	750
Agricultural Inputs:					
Corn seeds (USM counterpart)	10	1	Kg	0	
Organic Fertilizer	7,5	1	bags	700	5 250
Foliar Fertilizer	4	1	liters	700	2 800
Biopesticides	2	1	liters	800	1 600
Biofungicides	1	1	liter	1 300	1 300
Other Inputs:					
Empty sacks (triple layer)	75	1	pcs	35	2 625
Twisted Twine	2	1	bundle	35	70
Placard/tarpauline	1	1	pc	1 000	1 000
Other Services:					0
TOTAL					48 245,00

*1st weeding 14 days after planting (DAP)

2nd weeding - 20-30 DAP

3rd weeding - 50-55 DAP

4th weeding - 75 DAP

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Annex 5



Republic of the Philippines
MINDANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



July 28, 2025

JONALD L. PIMENTEL, PhD
University President
University of Southern Mindanao - Kabacan
USM Avenue, Kabacan, Cotabato, Philippines

Dear President Pimentel,

Greetings of peace and good health!

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) under the Circular Economy in Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPS) Programme, will be facilitating the **South-South Exchange Mission** for participating delegates from Kenya, including officials from the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture and representatives from the private sector, on **24 to 30 August 2025 in Davao City and selected Mindanao regions**. The mission aims to showcase innovations and circular economy practices in banana value chains, with Mindanao featured as a key learning site for inclusive agribusiness and sustainable agricultural development.

Given the University's recognized expertise in sustainable land management, nature-based farming solutions, and banana tissue culture research, your participation will be instrumental in showcasing innovative approaches that support climate-resilient and circular agricultural systems. We are, therefore, requesting the university to allow our visitors from Kenya to visit **USM's Tissue Culture Facility for Banana** and **USM to provide a brief presentation on Land Management and Nature-based Solutions Technologies**, on **August 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM**. These engagements will provide valuable insights for Kenyan stakeholders seeking to adopt regenerative practices and scalable technologies in banana production and value addition.

Our focal person for this activity, Ms. Cyrille Mae Solia, will coordinate with your office for your participation. Should you have any questions, Ms. Solia may be contacted thru 09923223942 or cyrillemae.solia@minda.gov.ph.

Thank you and we look forward to your positive response.

Very truly yours,

LEO TERESO A. MAGNO
Chairperson



10th and 14th Floors, Pryce Tower Bldg. Pryce Business Park, 3P Laurel Avenue Davao City, Philippines

www.minda.gov.ph



MinDAGovPH Official



@minda.gov.ph



Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO
Kabacan, Cotabato



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM No.---
Series of 2025

FROM: BRYAN LLOYD P. BRETANA, MSc.

SUBJECT: Assigned area for task force committee with the forthcoming official visit of the foreign delegates from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – Kenya, Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and Kenya-Department for Industry, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry.

DATE: Wednesday, August 27, 2025

A committee is hereby assigned to organize and facilitate the said activity.
Full cooperation of all involved personnel is highly enjoined.
For guidance and strict compliance.

Close collaboration with the concerned offices is expected to guarantee the success of this engagement, Full cooperation of all involved personnel is highly enjoined.

COMMITTEE PERSONNEL	ASSIGNED TASK
MEL CHRISEL A. SALES	COORDINATOR/PRESENTOR
MONAIRA SUMAEL	ASSISSTANT COORDINATOR
HAREM R. ROCA	PRESENTOR
KHRIS JUNE L. CALLANO	TISSUE CULTURE LABORATORY TOUR IN-CHARGE


BRYAN LLOYD P. BRETANA, MSc
Director of International Affairs

"UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN

MINDANAO THROUGH QUALITY AND RELEVANT EDUCATION."



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

ON

Program Title: "Developing soil knowledge, information and capacity to improve the productivity and sustainability of key cropping systems in the Philippines"

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This Memorandum of Agreement is made and entered into by and among:

The **DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURE, AQUATIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT** hereinafter referred to as "**DOST-PCAARRD**," with principal office at Los Baños, Laguna and represented by its Executive Director, **DR. REYNALDO V. EBORA**;

The **AGUSAN DEL SUR STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY**, an institution of higher learning duly organized under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 7932, and hereinafter referred to as **ASSCAT** with official address at San Teodoro, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, and duly represented by its University President **DR. JOY C. CAPISTRANO**;

The **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO**, a level IV State University created under Republic Act No. 763, as amended and hereinafter referred to as **USM** with principal office at Bai Matabay Plang Avenue, Poblacion, Kabacan, Cotabato and duly represented by its University President **DR. FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA**;

-and-

The **MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY**, and hereinafter referred to as **MMSU** with principal office at #16S Quiling Sur, City of Batac, Ilocos Norte and duly represented by its officer-in-charge-president **DR. PRIMA FE R. FRANCO**;

WHEREAS, the abovementioned program was approved by the PCAARRD Governing Council on October 3, 2024 at DOST-PCAARRD, Los Baños, Laguna

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the **PARTIES** hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

WITNESSETH:

I. Purpose

This Agreement seeks to implement the program titled, "Developing soil knowledge, information and capacity to improve the productivity and sustainability of key cropping systems in the Philippines".

DOST-PCAARRD-ASSCAT-USM-MMSU, "Developing soil knowledge, information and capacity to improve the productivity and sustainability of key cropping systems in the Philippines", Php 36,808,050.00.

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Program leader, ASSCAT

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II. Objectives

General Objective:

To develop soil knowledge, a soil information and capacity that will support improvement in productivity, sustainability and resilience of key cropping systems through improved soil management and soil health in the Philippines, and to build the foundations for establishing a National Soil Health Strategy that support the government, farmers and other stakeholders to manage soil as a national asset for agricultural production.

Specifically, it aims to:

1. To develop fertilizer management programs for yield and quality of high value crops (cacao, banana, coffee, calamansi, rice) in rubber-based system in Agusan del Sur.
2. To enhance productivity of rice-based cropping systems in selected provinces of Luzon namely, Ilocos Norte, Tarlac and Bataan through soil health management.
3. To establish yield-calibrated soil nutrient indices for the development of a comprehensive soil health assessment index to increase and sustain the productivity of rubber-based cropping systems in Southern Philippines.
4. To investigate, implement and evaluate gender-inclusive practices related to local knowledge to improve soil health, resulting in policy recommendations for sustainable and equitable development.
5. To develop a simple, understandable, and precise map-based online soil information system that aid farmers in decision-making towards sustainable agricultural practices in selected provinces.

III. Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of the project are the following:

6Ps	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Total
Products	Established eight (8) experimental sites of rice and rubber based cropping system	Maintained eight (8) experimental sites of rice and rubber based cropping system	Developed one (1) soil mgt protocol for rubber based (Rice) cropping system	Developed two (2) soil mgt protocols for rubber (cacao, banana) based cropping system	Developed two (2) soil mgt protocols for rubber (coffee, calamansi) based cropping system	Established eight (8) experimental sites of rice and rubber based cropping system
	Developed eight (8) pest and diseases monitoring protocols on rice and rubber based cropping systems	Improved eight (8) pest and diseases monitoring protocols on rice and rubber based cropping systems	Improved eight (8) pest and diseases monitoring protocols on rice and rubber based cropping systems	Improved eight (8) pest and diseases monitoring protocols on rice and rubber based cropping systems	Developed eight (8) protocols for pest and diseases mgt of rice and rubber based cropping system	Developed eight (8) protocols for pest and diseases mgt of rice and rubber based cropping system
	Developed four (4) set up for base maps for 4 provinces	Improved four (4) set up for base maps for 4 provinces	Developed four (4) GIS maps			Transferred 4 GIS maps to provincial partners
	Developed one (1) soil	Improved one (1) soil information system	Tested one (1) soil Info system for	Developed one (1) Info		Developed one (1) soil Info

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			80 policymakers/ politicians 400 extension beneficiaries trained			80 BS Agriculture Students 80 policymakers/ politicians 400 extension beneficiaries trained
Patents			Submitted two (2) applications for the utility models (UM) for soil mgt protocols for rice and rubber based cropping systems	Submitted two (2) applications for the utility models (UM) for soil mgt protocols for rice and rubber based cropping systems Submitted one (1) copy right applicat ion for IEC of pest management protocol for rice based cropping systems	Submitted eight (4) applications for the utility models (UM) for soil mgt protocols for rice and rubber based cropping systems Submitted one (1) copy right applicati on for IEC of pest management protocol for rubber based cropping systems Submitted one (1) copyright application of Soil Health Mgt Manual for rice-based cropping system Submitted one (1) Copyright application of the Soil Health Laboratory Reference Manual (1)	Submitted/Filed eight (8) UMs for soil mgt protocols for rice and rubber based cropping systems Submitted two (2) copy right applicati on for IEC of pest management protocol for rice and rubber based cropping systems Submitted one (1) copy right applicati on for IEC of pest mgt protocol for rice based cropping system Submitted one (1) Copyright application of the Soil Health Laboratory Reference Manual (1) Submitted/appl ied: 7 copyrights (3 policy briefs; 3 terminal reports & 1 for survey instrument); 1 Patent of the Mobile app Submitted one (1) copyright application for the GIS Maps
Places and partners hips	Coordinated/ drafted 18 MOA/MOUs with LGUs, partner organizaitons , farmers and	Signed 18 MOA/MO Us with LGUs, partner organizai tons,	Submitted applications for 3 Copyrights of policy briefs 3 Copyrights for the terminal report 1 Patent of the mobile app on knowledge sharing on soil health Submitted one (1) copyright application for the GIS Maps			Signed 18 MOA/MOUs with LGUs, partner organizaitons, f armers and other stakeholders)

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	other stakeholders	farmers and other stakeholders				
Publications	Developed 7 IEC materials for rice and rubber based cropping systems Submitted four (4) paper for publication	Developed 6 IEC materials for rubber based cropping systems Submitted six (6) paper for publication Presented two (2) papers to local fora	Submitted eight (8) paper for publication Presented two (2) papers to local fora Developed least 3 Policy briefs	Submitted five (5) paper for publication Presented two (2) papers to local fora	Submitted five (5) paper for publication Presented two (2) papers to local fora	Developed 13 IEC materials for rice and rubber based cropping systems Submitted twenty eight (28) paper for publication Presented ten (10) paper for local for a/conferences Developed 3 Policy briefs
Policy			Developed 2 policy recommendation for soil health mgt of rice and rubber based cropping system Conducted 2-3 meetings with Policymakers for possible policy on gendered soil health management practices and policy to enhance soil and land use protection in improving soil health Developed one (1) policy recommendation for the use of the information system	Developed 2 policy recommendation for soil health mgt of rice and rubber based cropping system	Developed 4 policy recommendation on for soil health mgt of rice and rubber based cropping system Developed one (1) policy recommendation on on Soil Health Management	Developed 8 policy recommendation on for soil health mgt of rice and rubber based cropping system Developed one (1) policy recommendation on on Soil Health Management Conducted 1 meeting with Policymakers for possible policy on gendered soil health management practices and policy to enhance soil and land use protection in improving soil health Developed one (1) policy recommendation for the use of the information system

IV. Duration of the Project

The program shall be implemented for five (5) years covering the period November 1, 2024-October 31, 2029. The program shall commence immediately or within two (2) months after the release of funds. In case there is a change in actual date of implementation, it shall be requested from DOST-PCAARRD by ASSCAT.

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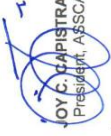

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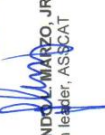

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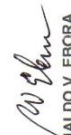

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 Executive Director, PCAARRD

V. Rights and Obligations of the Parties

DOST - PCAARRD shall:

- Provide financial support for the project with a total grant of **THIRTY SIX MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND AND FIFTY PESOS (Php 36,808,050.00)**, with the following breakdown:

Project	Implementing Agency	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Total for 5 years
Project 1	ASSCAT	1,753,331	1,743,331	1,633,331	1,506,664	1,621,667	8,258,324
Project 2	MMSU	1,430,584	1,483,783	1,483,783	1,122,884	1,122,885	6,643,919
Project 3	ASSCAT	1,382,333	1,322,334	1,322,334	1,322,333	1,322,333	6,671,667
Project 4	USM	2,339,945	2,339,945	2,339,945	2,027,345		9,047,180
Project 5	ASSCAT	987,200	812,000	912,000			2,711,400
	MMSU	1,133,520	1,133,520	1,208,520			3,475,560
TOTAL		9,026,913	8,834,913	8,899,913	5,979,226	4,066,885	36,808,050

Project 1	Scaling up of yield and profitability of diverse cropping systems: Rubber-based systems through soil fertility management and soil information system
Project 2	Enhancing the productivity of rice-based cropping systems in selected provinces of Luzon through soil health management
Project 3	Development of yield-calibrated soil health index for rubber-based cropping systems in Southern Philippines
Project 4	Assessment of the existing knowledge on soil health in different farming systems for the capacity building needs and policy support in the Philippines
Project 5	Development of Philippine agricultural soil information system for selected regions in the Philippines (PhASIS)

For its Y1 implementation, the total amount of **NINE MILLION TWENTY SIX THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED THIRTEEN PESOS (Php 9,026,913.00)** shall be remitted to ASSCAT, USM and MMSU, the line-item budget of which is attached as **Annex A** and made an integral part hereof.

Such grant shall be for the Year 1 of the program to be led by ASSCAT and to be expended as allocated in the project's approved line-item budget and released subject to the terms and conditions specified in the DOST A.O. No. 11, series of 2020 (dated September 2, 2020) on "Revised Guidelines for the Grants-In-Aid Program of the Department of Science and Technology and Its Agencies" and its amendments (**Annex B**), not contradicting with the current guidelines, shall govern the implementation of the program.

Release of succeeding program funds shall be subject to review, evaluation and approval by DOST-PCAARRD approving bodies duly supported by the required financial and technical reports.

- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the program in accordance with the objectives and the workplan;
- Conduct periodic field evaluation of the project to identify problems, solutions and remedial actions to avoid delays in implementation;

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- d. Provide adequate coordinative and efficient administrative support and management system necessary for the smooth implementation of the program;
- e. Ensure that specific work plans agreed by all parties are adhered to including budgets necessary to implement such plans;
- f. Review periodic financial reports submitted by the implementing agency; and
- g. Appraise technical reports (semi-annual, annual, publishable report and terminal).

The implementing agencies, ASSCAT, USM and MMSU through the College/University Presidents, bind themselves to implement the program under an assigned Program Leader (ASSCAT) and Project leaders/staff (ASSCAT, USM and MMSU) in accordance with the approved program proposal (made part hereof as **Annex C**) and shall be strictly implemented following the program's work and financial plan.

Among the responsibilities of the implementing agencies as provided for in this guidelines are as follows:

ASSCAT, USM and MMSU shall:

1. Exert all efforts (such as providing facilities and technical personnel with the required expertise) to attain the objectives stated in the proposal; and
2. Take the lead in the implementation of project activities and coordinate with other collaborating agencies; provided that such coordination does not create contractual obligations for or grant rights to these agencies under this agreement.
3. Hire the required project personnel as indicated in the approved proposal in accordance with the existing hiring policies of the agency and the approved line-item budget; request approval from DOST-PCAARRD of any changes in the position/designation of the project personnel to be hired; and submit list of personnel engaged in the project following DOST Form 11.
4. Submit the following accomplishment reports duly endorsed by the Agency Head to DOST-PCAARRD:
 - 4.1 An acceptable semi-annual technical and financial reports using DOST Forms 6 and 8 in two (2) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy within a month after the end of the project semester.
 - 4.2. An acceptable annual technical and financial accomplishment reports using DOST Form 7 and 8 in two (2) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy within two (2) months after the end of a project year. In case of a program, a consolidated annual program report shall be submitted in addition to the individual project reports.
 - 4.3. A quality terminal technical and financial report following DOST Form 15 and 16 in three (3) hardcopies and one (1) electronic copy within three (3) months after project completion which shall be accompanied by two (2) hardcopies and one (1) electronic copy of publishable technical report. The publication of such paper in any existing scientific or professional journal should meet the standards set by said journal.
5. Disburse funds in accordance with the approved Line-Item Budget (LIB), subject to existing government accounting and auditing procedures, and


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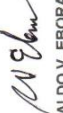

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make necessary reprogramming of funds for not more than three (3) times in each implementation year, following these rules:

- 5.1 Approve, through Implementing Agency Head or his authorized representative, any reprogramming/transfer of funds of existing expense items (other than those enumerated in 5.2) budget as originally approved by the DOST-PCAARRD to augment direct and indirect cost under PS, and MOOE. A copy of approval shall be provided to DOST-PCAARRD within two (2) weeks for documentation/concurrence of the monitoring division, otherwise the approved reprogramming shall be null and void;
- 5.2. Exceptions to the provisions of 5.1 are the following:
 - 5.2.1 Budget for the Foreign Travel, Training and Reclassification
 - 5.2.2 Creation of new expense item, including increase/decrease of numbers of items (e.g., equipment, personnel) originally approved in the LIB and upgrading/downgrading of positions from the originally approved PS
 - 5.2.3 Increase in indirect cost budget exceeding the 7.5% ceiling for indirect cost

66. Submit at least three (3) copies of the following financial reports to DOST-PCAARRD:

- 6.1. Semi-annual financial report using DOST Form 8, certified correct by the agency accountant and approved by the agency head within a month after each semester, supported by Report of Disbursement (ROD) and/or Report of Checks Issued (RCI).
- 6.2. Annual financial report using DOST Form 8 certified correct by the Agency Accountant and approved by the agency head within two (2) months after end of each implementation year.
- 6.3. Terminal financial report (TFR) duly accepted by the COA, using DOST Form 16, within three (3) months after project completion. The reported unexpended balance shall be refunded back to The Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

Financial reports are accompanied by DOST Forms 9, 11, 12, and 13, whenever applicable.

7. Be accountable for equipment purchased for the project. Only equipment listed in the approved proposal shall be purchased by the agency following the government Procurement Reform Act. DOST-PCAARRD remains to be the owner of all equipment purchased out of its grant and shall have the right to transfer/assign/donate such to anyone after the project completion.

Record all equipment purchased in the institution's books on inventory of equipment. Submit report on equipment purchased under Capital/Equipment Outlay and MOOE Semi-expendable Equipment using DOST Form 12 with the corresponding Property Acknowledgement Receipts (PARs) or Inventory Custodian Slips (ICS).

8. Make available to authorized officials of DOST-PCAARRD and the Commission on Audit during office hours, the records of project operations and books of accounts for inspection whenever necessary.
9. Present the project results in agency in-house reviews/program review and/or at least in one seminar or scientific meeting for the purpose of disseminating the information and technology generated from the project; without prejudice to the provision of Section VI hereof.

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ASSCAT-Program Leader, shall:

- a. Coordinate with Project Staff to ensure that goals of the project are attained;
- b. Facilitate and monitor the implementation of project activities;
- c. Coordinate, facilitate and monitor the preparation of the project's accomplishments and financial reports;
- d. Consolidate project's accomplishment reports and prepare syntheses of accomplishment reports; and
- e. Maintain close communication and coordination with DOST-PCAARRD.

ASSCAT, USM and MMSU Project Staff, shall:

- a. Coordinate with Project Leader to ensure that goals of the project are attained;
- b. Facilitate and monitor the implementation of project activities;
- c. Facilitate the preparation and submission of the project's accomplishments and financial reports which shall be packaged by the Project Leader as a project output; and
- d. Maintain close communication and coordination with DOST-PCAARRD.

VI. Ownership and Utilization of Information, Technologies, Inventions and Improvements

The Implementing Agencies and the researchers recognize that results of the project and the rights to publication, except those that relate to intellectual property concerns, belong jointly to the researchers and implementing agencies. Ownership of intellectual property and intellectual property rights shall be governed by but not limited to, Chapter II, Rule 5 and Rule 6 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act (R.A.) 10055.

Full acknowledgments shall accordingly be given to DOST-PCAARRD in case the research results are published or presented in various forums, seminars, meetings. Such presentation should not prejudice the proprietary/confidential nature of the information as heretofore mentioned for purposes of intellectual property protection.

Subject to the limitations recognized by law, particularly those that relate to intellectual property, the implementing agencies reserve the right to use all data and findings by virtue of and pursuant to this agreement for the enhancement of its academic and research programs.

VII. Discontinuance of Assistance

DOST-PCAARRD reserves the right to:

- a. Discontinue any program/project of its assistance at any time with prior consultation with Implementing Agency for violation of this agreement or when it is determined that the results obtained or are reasonably expected to be obtained do not justify further activity for reasons attributable to the willful act of the project leader and/or implementing team; suspend the program/project and the disbursement of funds for violation of any part of this agreement;
- b. Terminate any project when funds are not available from the national government.

Discontinuance of assistance, suspension or termination of this agreement shall be done by DOST-PCAARRD upon prior consultation with ASSCAT, USM and MMSU. In case of suspension, upon receipt of

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the written notice therefore, the implementing agency shall cease disbursement of project funds and shall resume only upon the written advice of PCAARRD. In case of termination, DOST- PCAARRD shall notify the Project Leader at least forty-five (45) days before the date of termination so that he could accordingly notify the project staff at least a month before the date of project termination.

VIII. Indemnification

Each party shall indemnify, hold free and harmless, and defend at its expense the other party/ies from and against all suits, claims, demands and liabilities of any nature or kind, arising out of acts or omissions of the former, in the performance of any activity in connection with the project, including those that may be initiated by its employees, workers, agents, subcontractors, or by other entity or persons against said party by reason of or in connection to the program/project.

IX. Amendment Provision

Any additional or amendments to the stipulations hereof shall be done through a supplementary agreement to be prepared by the party requiring such and shall be mutually consented by the parties. Notarization of such shall be taken care of by the party who prepared the amendments/additional provisions.

X. Repealing Clause

Both parties agree that this MOA contains the full agreement of the parties and supersedes all previous agreements either written or oral if there are any.

XI. Preferred Dispute Resolution (Government to Government)

Should any disagreement arise out of the application, interpretation or implementation of this Agreement, the parties shall endeavor to exercise best efforts to amicably negotiate their difference. In case of failure, the rules under Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004 (RA 9285) on dispute between government agencies shall apply.

XII. Data Privacy Provision

Personal data and/or technical information, shared between all parties are necessary for effective research and development and shall be in accordance with the Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009 and the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and their Implementing Rules and Regulations.

It is expressly understood by all parties that the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information shall be upheld at all times and disclosure or transfer, consciously or unconsciously, to any party outside of this agreement, shall be prevented without the knowledge and written consent of all parties, except where such consent is not required for the lawful processing of personal data, as provided by law.

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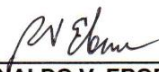
XIII. Effectivity and Termination

This Agreement shall take effect after the same is duly signed and notarized. It shall remain in force for until such time that the proponent/s have submitted all the requisite documents as stipulated in this agreement and cleared by the Funding Agency from all accountabilities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands, this _____ at _____.

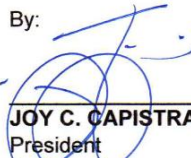
PCAARRD

By:


REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director

ASSCAT

By:


JOY C. CAPISTRANO
President

USM

By:


FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA
President

MMSU

By:


PRIMA F. R. FRANCO
OIC-President

WITNESSES:


MARIA TERESA L. DE GUZMAN
Officer-in-Charge
ARMRD, PCAARRD


FERNANDO L. MARZO, JR
Program Leader
ASSCAT

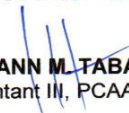

ARDRIEL A. BALADJAY
Project Leader, USM


JANET D. VILLAMOR
Project Leader, MMSU


MANUEL T. TABADA, JR.
Project Leader, ASSCAT


JIZABELLE L. BERJA
Project Leader, ASSCAT

Certified Funds Available:


JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III, PCAARRD

DOST-PCAARRD-ASSCAT-USM-MMSU, "Developing soil knowledge, information and capacity to improve the productivity and sustainability of key cropping systems in the Philippines", Php 36,808,050.00.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Republic of the Philippines)
Municipality of Los Baños) S.S.

BEFORE ME, A NOTARY PUBLIC for and in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines, on
this _____, personally appeared:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>DATE/PLACE ISSUED</u>
REYNALDO V. EBORA	S0026509A	October 6, 2022/ DFA, Manila

Known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and they acknowledged to me that the same is their free and voluntary act and deed as well as that of the Entities they represent.

This instrument, consisting of fifteen (15) pages, including this page whereon this Acknowledgement is written, signed by the parties together with their instrumental witnesses one each on every page thereof

TO THE TRUTH OF FOREGOING, witness now my hand and seal on the date and place first above written.

Doc No. _____
Page No. _____
Book No. _____
Series of _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Republic of the Philippines)
Municipality of Bunawan) S.S.

BEFORE ME, A NOTARY PUBLIC for and in Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, Philippines,
on this _____, personally appeared:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>DATE/PLACE ISSUED</u>
JOY C. CAPISTRANO	P75203B	OCTOBER 4, 2021 BUTUAN CITY

Known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and they acknowledged to me that the same is their free and voluntary act and deed as well as that of the Entities they represent.

This instrument, consisting of fifteen (15) pages, including this page whereon this Acknowledgement is written, signed by the parties together with their instrumental witnesses one each on every page thereof

TO THE TRUTH OF FOREGOING, witness now my hand and seal on the date and place first above written.

Doc No. _____
Page No. _____
Book No. _____
Series of _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Republic of the Philippines)
Municipality of Kabacan) S.S.

BEFORE ME, A NOTARY PUBLIC for and in Kabacan, Cotabato, Philippines, on
this _____, personally appeared:

NAME

GOVERNMENT
ISSUED
IDENTIFICATION

DATE/PLACE
ISSUED

FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA

Known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and they acknowledged to me that the same is their free and voluntary act and deed as well as that of the Entities they represent.

This instrument, consisting of fifteen (15) pages, including this page whereon this Acknowledgement is written, signed by the parties together with their instrumental witnesses one each on every page thereof

TO THE TRUTH OF FOREGOING, witness now my hand and seal on the date and place first above written.



Doc No. _____
Page No. _____
Book No. _____
Series of _____

Annex 7

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

ON

"DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TREATMENTS TO COCONUT INFLORESCENCES TO IMPROVE HYBRIDIZATION OPERATIONS"

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This agreement entered into by and between/among:

The **DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURE, AQUATIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT** hereinafter referred to as "**DOST-PCAARRD**," with principal office at Los Baños, Laguna and represented by its Executive Director, **DR. REYNALDO V. EBORA**;

-and-

The **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO**, and hereinafter referred to as "**USM**", with principal office at Kabacan, North Cotabato, and represented herein by its President, **DR. FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA**;

WHEREAS, the abovementioned project was approved by the PCAARRD Directors' Council on August 20, 2024 at the DOST-PCAARRD, Los Baños, Laguna.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the PARTIES hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

WITNESSETH:

I. Purpose

This agreement seeks to implement the project titled, "Development of Appropriate Treatments to Coconut Inflorescences to Improve Hybridization Operations."

II. Objectives

General Objective: To develop appropriate treatments to coconut inflorescence to improve hybridization operations.

Specifically, it aims to:

1. Determine the effects of different concentrations of liquid fertilizers applied on the fruit set and nut yield of hybridized inflorescences of dwarf coconuts; and
2. Determine the effects of thinning of buttons on the fruit set, nut yield, and quality of hybridized dwarf coconuts.

III. Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of the project are the following:

6Ps and 2Is	Output
Publication	• Two (2) scientific papers on enhancement of coconut inflorescence and fruit thinning studies presented in a national/ international conference. • At least two (2) articles submitted in SCOPUS/ISI indexed journals. • Published two (2) IEC materials on coconut farm management (submission of soft copies

DOST-PCAARRD and USM / Development of Appropriate Treatments to Coconut Inflorescences to Improve Hybridization Operations / PhP 5,000,000.00

JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III, FAD-Accounting
DOST-PCAARRD

LORELYN JOY N. TURNOS-MILAGROSA
Project Leader
USM

LEILAND D. PELEGRINA
Director, CRD
DOST-PCAARRD

FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA
President
USM

REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director
DOST-PCAARRD

	- of the IEC materials for uploading to the eLibrary of DOST-PCAARRD). - One (1) revised hybridization manual of PCA.
Patent	Application of two (2) utility models for the developed protocols (standard cultural management practices) on nutrient enhancement of hybridized inflorescence and thinning practices.
Product	Developed two (2) protocols on application of liquid/foliar fertilizer and button thinning procedure.
People Services	- Mentored five (5) MS Horticulture and five (5) BS Agriculture students on coconut production and hybridization programs. - Capacitated project team and staff to at least two (2) trainings on foliar fertilization and button thinning in relation to coconut hybridization/production. - Trained 30 men and women stakeholders from PCA, SUCs, and coconut farmers' association on research outputs and technology/process generated from the project components.
Policy	One (1) draft of policy recommendation for standard application of liquid/foliar fertilizers and fruit thinning practices.
Places and Partnerships	Forged MOU/MOA with PCA-NCSPC which will provide the coconut hybridization area for experiments and assistance from technical and skilled personnel
Social Impact	- Increased men and women coconut farmers' awareness on the importance of maintaining quality inflorescences in reducing the occurrence of flower abscission, fruit dropping, and immature shedding of buttons and nuts. - Capacitated men and women coconut hybridization workers and PCA field personnel in the proper ways of enhancing inflorescence nutrition and button thinning to increase hybrid nut production.
Economic Impact	- In the long term, increased production of hybrid seednuts leads to increased distribution of seedlings to farmers and thus increased planting and replanting of coconuts. Therefore, increased future harvests and income. - Greater economic activities through the supply chain of coconut seednuts/seedlings.

IV. Duration of the Project

The project shall be implemented for TWO AND A HALF (2.5) YEARS covering the period December 1, 2024–May 31, 2027. The project shall commence immediately or within two (2) months after the release of funds. In case there is a change in actual date of implementation, it shall be requested from DOST-PCAARRD by USM.

DOST-PCAARRD and USM / Development of Appropriate Treatments to Coconut Inflorescences to Improve Hybridization Operations / PhP 5,000,000.00

JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III, FAD-Accounting
DOST-PCAARRD

LORELYN JOY N. TURNOS-MILAGROSA
Project Leader
USM

LEILANI D. PELIGRINA
Director, CRD
DOST-PCAARRD

FRANCISCO GIL W. GARCIA
Resident
USM

REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director
DOST-PCAARRD

V. Rights and Obligations of the Parties

DOST - PCAARRD shall:

- a. Provide financial support for the project with a total grant of FIVE MILLION PESOS (₱5,000,000.00), with the following breakdown:

Year	Budget (PhP)
Y1	2,363,980.00
Y2	1,864,945.00
Y3	771,075.00
Total	5,000,000.00

For its Y1 implementation, the total amount of TWO MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY PESOS (PhP 2,363,980.00) shall be remitted to USM, the line-item budget (LIB) of which is attached as **Annex A** and made an integral part hereof.

Such grant shall be for the Year 1 of the project to be led by USM and to be expended as allocated in the project's approved LIB and released subject to the terms and conditions specified in the DOST A.O. No. 11, series of 2020 (dated September 2, 2020) on "Revised Guidelines for the Grants-In-Aid Program of the Department of Science and Technology and Its Agencies" and its amendments (**Annex B**), not contradicting with the current guidelines, shall govern the implementation of the project.

Release of succeeding project funds shall be subject to review, evaluation and approval by DOST-PCAARRD approving bodies duly supported by the required financial and technical reports.

- b. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the project in accordance with the objectives and the workplan;
- c. Conduct periodic field evaluation of the project to identify problems, solutions and remedial actions to avoid delays in implementation;
- d. Provide adequate coordinative and efficient administrative support and management system necessary for the smooth implementation of the project;
- e. Ensure that specific work plans agreed by all parties are adhered to including budgets necessary to implement such plans;
- f. Review periodic financial reports submitted by the implementing agency; and
- g. Appraise technical reports (semi-annual, annual, publishable report and terminal).

The implementing agency, USM, through its President, binds itself to implement the project under an assigned Project Leader in accordance with the approved project proposal (made part hereof as **Annex C**) and shall be strictly implemented following the project's work and financial plan.

Among the responsibilities of the implementing agencies as provided for in this guidelines are as follows:

USM shall:

1. Exert all efforts (such as providing facilities and technical personnel with the required expertise) to attain the objectives stated in the proposal; and
2. Take the lead in the implementation of project activities and coordinate with other collaborating agencies;

DOST-PCAARRD and USM / Development of Appropriate Treatments to Coconut Inflorescences to Improve Hybridization Operations / PhP 5,000,000.00

JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III, FAD-Accounting
DOST-PCAARRD

LORELYN JOY N. TURNOS-MILAGROSA
Project Leader
USM

LEILANI D. PELAGRINA
Director, CRD
DOST-PCAARRD

FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA
President
USM

REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director
DOST-PCAARRD

3. Hire the required project personnel as indicated in the approved proposal in accordance with the existing hiring policies of the agency and the approved LIB; request approval from DOST-PCAARRD of any changes in the position/designation of the project personnel to be hired; and submit list of personnel engaged in the project following DOST Form 11.
4. Submit the following accomplishment reports duly endorsed by the Agency Head to DOST-PCAARRD:
 - 4.1 An acceptable semi-annual technical and financial report using DOST Forms 6 and 8 in two (2) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy within a month after the end of the project semester.
 - 4.2 An acceptable annual technical and financial accomplishment report using DOST Forms 7 and 8 in two (2) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy within two (2) months after the end of a project year. In case of a program, a consolidated annual program report shall be submitted in addition to the individual project reports.
 - 4.3 A quality terminal technical and financial report following DOST Forms 15 and 16 in three (3) hardcopies and one (1) electronic copy within three (3) months after project completion which shall be accompanied by two (2) hardcopies and one (1) electronic copy of publishable technical report. The publication of such paper in any existing scientific or professional journal should meet the standards set by said journal.
5. Disburse funds in accordance with the approved LIB, subject to existing government accounting and auditing procedures, and make necessary reprogramming of funds for not more than three (3) times in each implementation year, following these rules:
 - 5.1 Approve, through Implementing Agency Head or his authorized representative, any reprogramming/transfer of funds of existing expense items (other than those enumerated in 5.2) budget as originally approved by the DOST-PCAARRD to augment direct and indirect cost under PS and MOOE. A copy of approval shall be provided to DOST-PCAARRD within two (2) weeks for documentation/concurrence of the monitoring division, otherwise the approved reprogramming shall be null and void;
 - 5.2 Exceptions to the provisions of 5.1 are the following:
 - 5.2.1 Budget for the Foreign Travel, Training and Reclassification
 - 5.2.2 Creation of new expense item, including increase/decrease of numbers of items (e.g., equipment, personnel) originally approved in the LIB and upgrading/downgrading of positions from the originally approved PS
 - 5.2.3 Increase in indirect cost budget exceeding the 7.5% ceiling for indirect cost
6. Submit at least three (3) copies of the following financial reports to DOST-PCAARRD:
 - 6.1 Semi-annual financial report using DOST Form 8, certified correct by the agency accountant and approved by the agency head within a month after each semester, supported by Report of Disbursement (ROD) and/or Report of Checks Issued (RCI).
 - 6.2 Annual financial report using DOST Form 8 certified correct by the Agency Accountant and approved by the agency head within two (2) months after the end of each implementation year.
 - 6.3 Terminal financial report (TFR) duly accepted by the COA, using DOST Form 16, within three (3) months after project completion. The reported unexpended balance shall be refunded back to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

Financial reports are accompanied by DOST Forms 9, 11, 12, and 13, whenever applicable.
7. The use of foreign travel funds, if provided for in the approved LIB, shall be governed by DOST Administrative Order No. 001, series of 2017: Revised Rules on Foreign Travel of DOST Personnel and Rule Governing the Use of Travel Grants for Paper/Poster Presentation, effective 29 January 2018.
8. Be accountable for equipment purchased for the project. Only equipment listed in the approved proposal shall be purchased by the agency following the government Procurement Reform Act. DOST-PCAARRD remains to be the owner of all equipment purchased out of its grant and shall have the right to transfer/assign/donate such to anyone after the project completion.

DOST-PCAARRD and USM / Development of Appropriate Treatments to Coconut Inflorescences to Improve Hybridization Operations / PhP 5,000,000.00


JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III, FAD-Accounting
DOST-PCAARRD


LORELYN JOY N. TURNOS-MILAGROSA
Project Leader
USM


LELANI D. PELAGRINA
Director, OFD
DOST-PCAARRD


FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA
President
USM


REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director
DOST-PCAARRD

Record all equipment purchased in the institution's books on inventory of equipment. Submit report on equipment purchased under Capital/Equipment Outlay and MOOE Semi-expendable Equipment using DOST Form 12 with the corresponding Property Acknowledgement Receipts (PARs) or Inventory Custodian Slips (ICS).

9. Make available to authorized officials of DOST-PCAARRD and the Commission on Audit during office hours, the records of project operations and books of accounts for inspection whenever necessary.
10. Present the project results in agency in-house reviews/program review and/or at least in one seminar or scientific meeting for the purpose of disseminating the information and technology generated from the project; without prejudice to the provision of Section VI hereof.

Project Leader, shall:

- a. Coordinate with Project Staff to ensure that goals of the project are attained;
- b. Facilitate and monitor the implementation of project activities;
- c. Coordinate, facilitate and monitor the preparation of the project's accomplishments and financial reports;
- d. Consolidate project's accomplishment reports and prepare syntheses of accomplishment reports; and
- e. Maintain close communication and coordination with DOST-PCAARRD.

Project Staff, shall:

- a. Coordinate with Project Leader to ensure that goals of the project are attained;
- b. Facilitate and monitor the implementation of project activities;
- c. Facilitate the preparation and submission of the project's accomplishments and financial reports which shall be packaged by the Project Leader as a project output; and
- d. Maintain close communication and coordination with DOST-PCAARRD.

VI. Ownership and Utilization of Information, Technologies, Inventions and Improvements

The Implementing Agencies and the researchers recognize that results of the project and the rights to publication, except those that relate to intellectual property concerns, belong jointly to the researchers and implementing agencies. Ownership of intellectual property and intellectual property rights shall be governed by but not limited to, Chapter II, Rule 5 and Rule 6 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10055.

Full acknowledgments shall accordingly be given to DOST-PCAARRD in case the research results are published or presented in various forums, seminars, meetings. Such presentation should not prejudice the proprietary/confidential nature of the information as heretofore mentioned for purposes of intellectual property protection.

Subject to the limitations recognized by law, particularly those that relate to intellectual property, the implementing agencies reserve the right to use all data and findings by virtue of and pursuant to this agreement for the enhancement of its academic and research programs.

VII. Discontinuance of Assistance

DOST-PCAARRD reserves the right to:

- a. Discontinue any program/project of its assistance at any time with prior consultation with Implementing Agency for violation of this agreement or when it is determined that the results obtained or are reasonably expected to be obtained do not justify further activity for reasons attributable to the willful act of the project leader and/or implementing team; suspend the program/project and the disbursement of funds for violation of any part of this agreement;
- b. Terminate any project when funds are not available from the national government.

DOST-PCAARRD and USM / Development of Appropriate Treatments to Coconut Inflorescences to Improve Hybridization Operations / PhP 5,000,000.00

JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III, FAD-Accounting
DOST-PCAARRD

LORELYN JOY N. TURNOS-MILAGROSA
Project Leader
USM

LEILANI D. PELIGRINA
Director, CRD
DOST-PCAARRD

FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA
President
USM

REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director
DOST-PCAARRD

Discontinuance of assistance, suspension or termination of this agreement shall be done by DOST-PCAARRD upon prior consultation with USM. In case of suspension, upon receipt of the written notice therefore, the implementing agency shall cease disbursement of project funds and shall resume only upon the written advice of DOST-PCAARRD. In case of termination, DOST-PCAARRD shall notify the Project Leader at least forty-five (45) days before the date of termination so that he/she could accordingly notify the project staff at least a month before the date of project termination.

JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III, FAD-Accounting
DOST-PCAARRD

VIII. Indemnification

Each party shall indemnify, hold free and harmless, and defend at its expense the other party/ies from and against all suits, claims, demands and liabilities of any nature or kind, arising out of acts or omissions of the former, in the performance of any activity in connection with the project, including those that may be initiated by its employees, workers, agents, subcontractors, or by other entity or persons against said party by reason of or in connection to the program/project.

IX. Amendment Provision

Any additional or amendments to the stipulations hereof shall be done through a supplementary agreement to be prepared by the party requiring such and shall be mutually consented by the parties. Notarization of such shall be taken care of by the party who prepared the amendments/additional provisions.

LORELYN JOY N. TURNOS-MILAGROSA
Project Leader
USM

X. Repealing Clause

Both parties agree that this MOA contains the full agreement of the parties and supersedes all previous agreements either written or oral if there are any.

XI. Preferred Dispute Resolution (Government to Government)

Should any disagreement arise out of the application, interpretation or implementation of this Agreement, the parties shall endeavor to exercise best efforts to amicably negotiate their difference. In case of failure, the rules under Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004 (RA 9285) on dispute between government agencies shall apply.

LEILANI D. PELAGRINA
Director, CRD
DOST-PCAARRD

XII. Data Privacy Provision

Personal data and/or technical information, shared between all parties are necessary for effective research and development and shall be in accordance with the Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009 and the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and their Implementing Rules and Regulations.

It is expressly understood by all parties that the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information shall be upheld at all times and disclosure or transfer, consciously or unconsciously, to any party outside of this agreement, shall be prevented without the knowledge and written consent of all parties, except where such consent is not required for the lawful processing of personal data, as provided by law.

FRANCISCO GILMOR GARCIA
Resident
USM

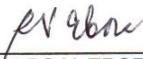
XIII. Effectivity and Termination

This Agreement shall take effect after the same is duly signed and notarized. It shall remain in force for until such time that the proponent/s have submitted all the requisite documents as stipulated in this agreement and cleared by the Funding Agency from all accountabilities.

REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director
DOST-PCAARRD

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands, this
at _____.

DOST-PCAARRD
By:



REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director

USM
By:



FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA
President

WITNESSES:



LEILANI D. PELEGRINA
Director, CRD
DOST-PCAARRD



**LORELYN JOY N. TURNOS-
MILAGROSA**
Project Leader, USM

Certified Funds Available:



JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III
DOST-PCAARRD

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Republic of the Philippines)
Municipality of Los Baños) S.S.

BEFORE ME, A NOTARY PUBLIC for and in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines, on this _____, personally appeared:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>DATE/PLACE ISSUED</u>
REYNALDO V. EBORA	S0026509A	October 6, 2022/ DFA, Manila

Known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and they acknowledged to me that the same is their free and voluntary act and deed as well as that of the Entities they represent.

This instrument, consisting of nine (9) pages, including this page whereon this Acknowledgement is written, signed by the parties together with their instrumental witnesses one each on every page thereof

TO THE TRUTH OF FOREGOING, witness now my hand and seal on the date and place first above written.

Doc No. _____
Page No. _____
Book No. _____
Series of 2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Republic of the Philippines)
_____) S.S.

BEFORE ME, A NOTARY PUBLIC for and in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines, on this
_____, personally appeared:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>DATE/PLACE ISSUED</u>
FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA	_____	_____

Known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and they acknowledged to me that the same is their free and voluntary act and deed as well as that of the Entities they represent.

This instrument, consisting of nine (9) pages, including this page whereon this Acknowledgement is written, signed by the parties together with their instrumental witnesses one each on every page thereof

TO THE TRUTH OF FOREGOING, witness now my hand and seal on the date and place first above written.

Doc No. _____
Page No. _____
Book No. _____
Series of 2024

Annex 8

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

ON

“INFLUENCE OF PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS TO IMPROVE HYBRID NUT PRODUCTION IN DWARF COCONUTS”

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This agreement entered into by and between/among:

The **DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURE, AQUATIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT** hereinafter referred to as “**DOST-PCAARRD**,” with principal office at Los Baños, Laguna and represented by its Executive Director, **DR. REYNALDO V. EBORA**;

-and-

The **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO**, and hereinafter referred to as “**USM**”, with principal office at Kabacan, North Cotabato, and represented herein by its President, **DR. FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA**;

WHEREAS, the abovementioned project was approved by the PCAARRD Directors' Council on August 20, 2024 at the DOST-PCAARRD, Los Baños, Laguna.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the PARTIES hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

WITNESSETH:

I. Purpose

This agreement seeks to implement the project titled, “Influence of Plant Growth Regulators to Improve Hybrid Nut Production in Dwarf Coconuts.”

II. Objectives

General Objective: To determine appropriate technologies/practices to improve fruit set and nut yield of hybridized dwarf coconut using plant growth regulators on emasculated inflorescence.

Specifically, it aims to:

1. Determine the effects of different concentrations of Gibberellic Acid (GA_3) on the fruit set and nut yields of hybridized inflorescences of dwarf coconuts; and
2. Test the large-scale applicability of Alpha Naphthalene Acetic Acid (ANAA) in increasing hybrid nut yield in the hybridized dwarf coconuts.

III. Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of the project are the following:

6Ps and 2Is	Output
Publication	• At least four (4) scientific papers presented in a national/ international conference • At least 2 journal articles submitted for publication in SCOPUS/ ISI indexed journal (Enhanced Hybrid Coconut Production to Application of GA_3 and Semi-Commercial ANAA)

DOST-PCAARRD and USM / Influence of Plant Growth Regulators to Improve Hybrid Nut Production in Dwarf Coconuts / Php 5,000,000.00

JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III, FAD-Accounting
DOST-PCAARRD

MARK AL-JAMIE J. MUTULANI
Project Leader
USM

LEILANI D. PELÉGRINA
Director, CRD
DOST-PCAARRD

FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA
President
USM

REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director
DOST-PCAARRD

Product	Developed two (2) protocols on application of Gibberellic Acid and ANAA
People Services	Mentored five (5) MS Horticulture and five (5) BS Agriculture students on coconut production and hybridization programs
Policy	One (1) draft of policy recommendation for administrative guidelines related to application of hormones
Places and Partnerships	Forged MOU/MOA with PCA-NCSPC which will provide the coconut hybridization area for experiments and assistance from technical and skilled personnel
Social Impact	- Provide information and increase the awareness of coconut growers/ farmers and researchers on the potential effects of using plant growth regulators affecting early inflorescence stage (fruit setting) of coconut hybrids. - With increased production of hybrids, there will be greater recognition and appreciation of the hybrid nut producers by the authorities & farmers. - More interaction of PCA field personnel and Farmers' Cooperative since PCA will be the distributor of the hybrids to the farmers/cooperatives. Empowerment of the farmers/cooperatives.
Economic Impact	- With the use of more hybrids nationwide, greater nut production, more nut deliveries to processing plants, more income for farmers, more products produced, greater domestic consumption and export earnings and greater income for the national treasury. - Greater economic activities through the value chain of coconuts. - Contribute to sustainable and increase production of coconut hybrids.

JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III, FAD-Accounting
DOST-PCAARRD

MARK AL JAMIE J. MUYTULANI
Project Leader
USM

LEILANI D. PELEGRIANA
Director, CRD
DOST-PCAARRD

IV. Duration of the Project

The project shall be implemented for TWO AND A HALF (2.5) YEARS covering the period December 1, 2024–May 31, 2027. The project shall commence immediately or within two (2) months after the release of funds. In case there is a change in actual date of implementation, it shall be requested from DOST-PCAARRD by USM.

V. Rights and Obligations of the Parties

DOST - PCAARRD shall:

- Provide financial support for the project with a total grant of FIVE MILLION PESOS (₱5,000,000.00), with the following breakdown:

Year	Budget (Php)
Y1	2,347,765.00
Y2	1,920,505.00
Y3	731,730.00
Total	5,000,000.00

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President
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REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director
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For its Y1 implementation, the total amount of TWO MILLION THREE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE PESOS (₱2,347,765.00) shall be remitted to USM, the line-item budget (LIB) of which is attached as **Annex A** and made an integral part hereof.

Such grant shall be for the Year 1 of the project to be led by USM and to be expended as allocated in the project's approved LIB and released subject to the terms and conditions specified in the DOST A.O. No. 11, series of 2020 (dated September 2, 2020) on "Revised Guidelines for the Grants-In-Aid Program of the Department of Science and Technology and Its Agencies" and its amendments (**Annex B**), not contradicting with the current guidelines, shall govern the implementation of the project.

Release of succeeding project funds shall be subject to review, evaluation and approval by DOST-PCAARRD approving bodies duly supported by the required financial and technical reports.

- b. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the project in accordance with the objectives and the workplan;
- c. Conduct periodic field evaluation of the project to identify problems, solutions and remedial actions to avoid delays in implementation;
- d. Provide adequate coordinative and efficient administrative support and management system necessary for the smooth implementation of the project;
- e. Ensure that specific work plans agreed by all parties are adhered to including budgets necessary to implement such plans;
- f. Review periodic financial reports submitted by the implementing agency; and
- g. Appraise technical reports (semi-annual, annual, publishable report and terminal).

The implementing agency, USM, through its President, binds itself to implement the project under an assigned Project Leader in accordance with the approved project proposal (made part hereof as **Annex C**) and shall be strictly implemented following the project's work and financial plan.

Among the responsibilities of the implementing agencies as provided for in this guidelines are as follows:

USM shall:

1. Exert all efforts (such as providing facilities and technical personnel with the required expertise) to attain the objectives stated in the proposal; and
2. Take the lead in the implementation of project activities and coordinate with other collaborating agencies;
3. Hire the required project personnel as indicated in the approved proposal in accordance with the existing hiring policies of the agency and the approved LIB; request approval from DOST-PCAARRD of any changes in the position/designation of the project personnel to be hired; and submit list of personnel engaged in the project following DOST Form 11.
4. Submit the following accomplishment reports duly endorsed by the Agency Head to DOST-PCAARRD:
 - 4.1 An acceptable semi-annual technical and financial report using DOST Forms 6 and 8 in two (2) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy within a month after the end of the project semester.
 - 4.2 An acceptable annual technical and financial accomplishment report using DOST Forms 7 and 8 in two (2) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy within two (2) months after the end of a project year. In case of a program, a consolidated annual program report shall be submitted in addition to the individual project reports.

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DOST-PCAARRD

FRANCISCO OL N. GARCIA
President
USM

REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director
DOST-PCAARRD

after the end of a project year. In case of a program, a consolidated annual program report shall be submitted in addition to the individual project reports.

- 4.3 A quality terminal technical and financial report following DOST Forms 15 and 16 in three (3) hardcopies and one (1) electronic copy within three (3) months after project completion which shall be accompanied by two (2) hardcopies and one (1) electronic copy of publishable technical report. The publication of such paper in any existing scientific or professional journal should meet the standards set by said journal.
5. Disburse funds in accordance with the approved LIB, subject to existing government accounting and auditing procedures, and make necessary reprogramming of funds for not more than three (3) times in each implementation year, following these rules:
 - 5.1 Approve, through Implementing Agency Head or his authorized representative, any reprogramming/transfer of funds of existing expense items (other than those enumerated in 5.2) budget as originally approved by the DOST-PCAARRD to augment direct and indirect cost under PS and MOOE. A copy of approval shall be provided to DOST-PCAARRD within two (2) weeks for documentation/concurrence of the monitoring division, otherwise the approved reprogramming shall be null and void;
 - 5.2 Exceptions to the provisions of 5.1 are the following:
 - 5.2.1 Budget for the Foreign Travel, Training and Reclassification
 - 5.2.2 Creation of new expense item, including increase/decrease of numbers of items (e.g., equipment, personnel) originally approved in the LIB and upgrading/downgrading of positions from the originally approved PS
 - 5.2.3 Increase in indirect cost budget exceeding the 7.5% ceiling for indirect cost
6. Submit at least three (3) copies of the following financial reports to DOST-PCAARRD:
 - 6.1 Semi-annual financial report using DOST Form 8, certified correct by the agency accountant and approved by the agency head within a month after each semester, supported by Report of Disbursement (ROD) and/or Report of Checks Issued (RCI).
 - 6.2 Annual financial report using DOST Form 8 certified correct by the Agency Accountant and approved by the agency head within two (2) months after the end of each implementation year.
 - 6.3 Terminal financial report (TFR) duly accepted by the COA, using DOST Form 16, within three (3) months after project completion. The reported unexpended balance shall be refunded back to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

Financial reports are accompanied by DOST Forms 9, 11, 12, and 13, whenever applicable.

7. The use of foreign travel funds, if provided for in the approved LIB, shall be governed by DOST Administrative Order No. 001, series of 2017: Revised Rules on Foreign Travel of DOST Personnel and Rule Governing the Use of Travel Grants for Paper/Poster Presentation, effective 29 January 2018.
8. Be accountable for equipment purchased for the project. Only equipment listed in the approved proposal shall be purchased by the agency following the government Procurement Reform Act. DOST-PCAARRD remains to be the owner of all equipment purchased out of its grant and shall have the right to transfer/assign/donate such to anyone after the project completion.

Record all equipment purchased in the institution's books on inventory of equipment. Submit report on equipment purchased under Capital/Equipment Outlay and MOOE Semi-expendable Equipment using DOST Form 12 with the corresponding Property Acknowledgement Receipts (PARs) or Inventory Custodian Slips (ICS).

9. Make available to authorized officials of DOST-PCAARRD and the Commission on Audit during office hours, the records of project operations and books of accounts for inspection whenever necessary.
10. Present the project results in agency in-house reviews/program review and/or at least in one seminar or scientific meeting for the purpose of disseminating the information and technology generated from the project; without prejudice to the provision of Section VI hereof.

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Project Leader, shall:

- a. Coordinate with Project Staff to ensure that goals of the project are attained;
- b. Facilitate and monitor the implementation of project activities;
- c. Coordinate, facilitate and monitor the preparation of the project's accomplishments and financial reports;
- d. Consolidate project's accomplishment reports and prepare syntheses of accomplishment reports; and
- e. Maintain close communication and coordination with DOST-PCAARRD.

Project Staff, shall:

- a. Coordinate with Project Leader to ensure that goals of the project are attained;
- b. Facilitate and monitor the implementation of project activities;
- c. Facilitate the preparation and submission of the project's accomplishments and financial reports which shall be packaged by the Project Leader as a project output; and
- d. Maintain close communication and coordination with DOST-PCAARRD.

VI. Ownership and Utilization of Information, Technologies, Inventions and Improvements

The Implementing Agencies and the researchers recognize that results of the project and the rights to publication, except those that relate to intellectual property concerns, belong jointly to the researchers and implementing agencies. Ownership of intellectual property and intellectual property rights shall be governed by but not limited to, Chapter II, Rule 5 and Rule 6 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10055.

Full acknowledgments shall accordingly be given to DOST-PCAARRD in case the research results are published or presented in various forums, seminars, meetings. Such presentation should not prejudice the proprietary/confidential nature of the information as heretofore mentioned for purposes of intellectual property protection.

Subject to the limitations recognized by law, particularly those that relate to intellectual property, the implementing agencies reserve the right to use all data and findings by virtue of and pursuant to this agreement for the enhancement of its academic and research programs.

VII. Discontinuance of Assistance

DOST-PCAARRD reserves the right to:

- a. Discontinue any program/project of its assistance at any time with prior consultation with Implementing Agency for violation of this agreement or when it is determined that the results obtained or are reasonably expected to be obtained do not justify further activity for reasons attributable to the willful act of the project leader and/or implementing team; suspend the program/project and the disbursement of funds for violation of any part of this agreement;
- b. Terminate any project when funds are not available from the national government.

Discontinuance of assistance, suspension or termination of this agreement shall be done by DOST-PCAARRD upon prior consultation with USM. In case of suspension, upon receipt of the written notice therefore, the implementing agency shall cease disbursement of project funds and shall resume only upon the written advice of DOST-PCAARRD. In case of termination, DOST-PCAARRD shall notify the Project Leader at least forty-five (45) days before the date of termination so that he/she could accordingly notify the project staff at least a month before the date of project termination.

VIII. Indemnification

Each party shall indemnify, hold free and harmless, and defend at its expense the other party/ies from and against all suits, claims, demands and liabilities of any nature or kind, arising out of acts or omissions of the former, in the performance of any activity in connection with the project, including those that may be initiated by its employees, workers, agents,

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subcontractors, or by other entity or persons against said party by reason of or in connection to the program/project.

IX. Amendment Provision

Any additional or amendments to the stipulations hereof shall be done through a supplementary agreement to be prepared by the party requiring such and shall be mutually consented by the parties. Notarization of such shall be taken care of by the party who prepared the amendments/additional provisions.

X. Repealing Clause

Both parties agree that this MOA contains the full agreement of the parties and supersedes all previous agreements either written or oral if there are any.

XI. Preferred Dispute Resolution (Government to Government)

Should any disagreement arise out of the application, interpretation or implementation of this Agreement, the parties shall endeavor to exercise best efforts to amicably negotiate their difference. In case of failure, the rules under Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004 (RA 9285) on dispute between government agencies shall apply.

XII. Data Privacy Provision

Personal data and/or technical information, shared between all parties are necessary for effective research and development and shall be in accordance with the Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009 and the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and their Implementing Rules and Regulations.

It is expressly understood by all parties that the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information shall be upheld at all times and disclosure or transfer, consciously or unconsciously, to any party outside of this agreement, shall be prevented without the knowledge and written consent of all parties, except where such consent is not required for the lawful processing of personal data, as provided by law.

XIII. Effectivity and Termination

This Agreement shall take effect after the same is duly signed and notarized. It shall remain in force for until such time that the proponent/s have submitted all the requisite documents as stipulated in this agreement and cleared by the Funding Agency from all accountabilities.

JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III, FAD-Accounting
DOST-PCAARRD

MARK AL-JAMIE J. MUTTULANI
Project Leader
USM

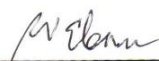
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President
USM

REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director
DOST-PCAARRD

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands, this
_____ at _____.

DOST-PCAARRD
By:



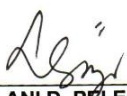
REYNALDO V. EBORA
Executive Director

USM
By:



FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA
President

WITNESSES:



LEILANI D. PELEGRINA
Director, CRD
DOST-PCAARRD



MARK AL-JAMIE J. MUTTULANI
Project Leader, USM

Certified Funds Available:



JAIVEE ANN M. TABADERO
Accountant III
DOST-PCAARRD

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Republic of the Philippines)
Municipality of Los Baños) S.S.

BEFORE ME, A NOTARY PUBLIC for and in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines, on this
_____, personally appeared:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>DATE/PLACE ISSUED</u>
REYNALDO V. EBORA	S0026509A	October 6, 2022/ DFA, Manila

Known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and they acknowledged to me that the same is their free and voluntary act and deed as well as that of the Entities they represent.

This instrument, consisting of nine (9) pages, including this page whereon this Acknowledgement is written, signed by the parties together with their instrumental witnesses one each on every page thereof

TO THE TRUTH OF FOREGOING, witness now my hand and seal on the date and place first above written.

Doc No. _____
Page No. _____
Book No. _____
Series of 2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Republic of the Philippines)
_____) S.S.

BEFORE ME, A NOTARY PUBLIC for and in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines, on this
_____, personally appeared:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>DATE/PLACE ISSUED</u>
FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA	_____	_____

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