

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.

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

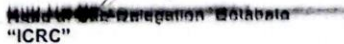
In order to be valid, any amendment or annex to this Agreement shall be made in writing, by mutual agreement, and signed by the two parties involved. A similar procedure shall apply to any proposed amendment to this letter.

The following annexes form an integral part of this agreement:

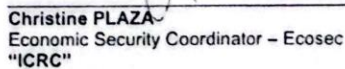
Annex 1 : List of equipment Phase 2

Annex 2 : Financial Proposal

Signed on 27 / 06 / 2024.


"ICRC"


"USM"


Christine PLAZA
Economic Security Coordinator – Ecosec
"ICRC"

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Annex 1: List of equipment and material for USMARDC- 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	H2SO4	98.08 g/mol	3
n-Hexane	Liquid (4L/Bottle)	AR Grade	C6H14	86.18 g/mol	3
Petroleum Ether	Liquid (4L/Bottle)	AR Grade	C6H14	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	H3BO3	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	K2Cr2O7	294.19 g/mol	3
Ortho-phosphoric Acid, 85%	Liquid (2.5L/Bottle)	AR Grade	H3PO4	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	H8FeN2O8S26H2O	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 Samag, 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. accommodation	20	550	11 000.00 PHP	Train 20 farmer-partners in OPV seed production through intercropping system
	Food & snacks	box	27	2300	62 100.00 PHP	
1st Monitoring before land preparation (2 days)	Travel to Samag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Check condition of the soil if ready for planting
2nd Monitoring during planting (2 days)	Travel to Samag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Give technical assistance to the farmer-partners in planting corn and companion crops
3rd Monitoring 12-14 days after planting (2 days)	Travel to Samag, 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
4th Monitoring, 33 days DAP (1st roguing, 2 days)	Travel to Samag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Give technical assistance to farmer-partners in roguing corn plants
5th Monitoring, 45-50 DAP (Flowering Stage, 2 days)	Travel to Samag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Assist the farmer-partners in detasseling of off-type plants
6th Monitoring, 75 DAP (final roguing, 2 days)	Travel to Samag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Assist the farmer-partners in the removal of diseased plants.
7th Monitoring, 95-100 DAP (Harvesting, 3 days)	Travel to Samag, 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.
8th Monitoring, Harvesting Seed processing (2 days)	Travel to Samag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Give technical assistance in seed processing
9th Monitoring, Seed processing (2 days)	Travel to Samag, Ampatuan and vice versa	ICRC car rental day	2	0	0.00 PHP	Give technical assistance in seed processing/finallization
TOTAL FIELD VISITS COSTS					233 100 PHP	
OTHER COSTS						
Experimentation organic seed multiplication intercropping (labour)			1	77 550.00	77 550.00	
Experimentation organic seed multiplication monocropping			1	33 600.00	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:					
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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