

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN



**ICFRE-RAIN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ICFRE-RFRI)
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)
JORHAT 785010, ASSAM**

AND



**ICAR-CENTRAL AGROFORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ICAR-CAFRI)
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)
JHANSI 284003, UTTAR PRADESH**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

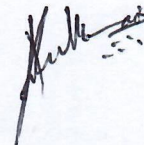
This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered on this day 9th of December, Two Thousand Twenty five (2025) between “**ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam**” having its campus at Sotai, A.T. Road (East), Jorhat-785010, Assam, hereinafter called as “**ICFRE-RFRI**” and **ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi** having its campus at **Jhansi-284003, Uttar Pradesh** hereinafter referred to as “**ICAR-CAFRI**”. Both ICFRE-RFRI and ICAR-CAFRI are independently referred to as “Party” and collectively as “Parties”.

The parties have agreed to engage in a broad spectrum of joint activities in the field of Forestry/Agroforestry and Natural Resource based Sustainable Livelihood Promotion, in North East and Central India or any other areas if both the parties mutually agreed upon. This MoU shall be treated as a platform on which both parties agree to work together in future. The terms and conditions of this collaboration are as follows.

1. BACKGROUND

ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute (ICFRE-RFRI), Jorhat (Assam)

The ICFRE–Rain Forest Research Institute (ICFRE-RFRI), Jorhat–785010, is a constituent unit of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, with its headquarters at Dehradun. The Institute came into existence in April 1988 to provide research support for the development of the forestry sector in the northeastern region of the country. Its origins, however, go back to 1976 when a Regional Centre of the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, was established at Burnihat (Assam) to advance forestry knowledge through research, education, and extension, and to support forestry-related studies in the northeastern states. Over time, the Centre expanded its infrastructure and emerged as a key hub for research on forestry and ecological issues of the region. It was later upgraded to the Institute of Rain and Moist Deciduous Forest Research (IRMDFR), which was subsequently renamed as the ICFRE–Rain Forest Research Institute (ICFRE-RFRI). Today, the Institute has grown into an organization of repute, providing significant contributions in forestry research and technology extension across all north-eastern states. Its multidisciplinary scientific staff delivers need-based technological solutions in forest science, supporting the conservation, protection, restoration, and management of forest resources. Proven technologies developed under various research projects are disseminated to stakeholders through Regional Capacity Building Programmes, Demo Villages, and Van Vigyan Kendras (VVKs) across the region. The Institute is headquartered at Jorhat, Assam, with its Centres located at Aizawl (Mizoram) and Agartala (Tripura).



ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute (ICAR-CAFRI), Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh)

ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute (ICAR-CAFRI), formerly the National Research Centre on Agroforestry, is a multidisciplinary premier research institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) located at Gwalior Road, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. The Institute was established in 1988 with a mission to improve quality of life of rural people through integration of perennials on agriculture landscape for economic, environmental and social benefits. The Institute works with a vision of "Integration of woody perennials in the farming system to improve land productivity through conservation of soils, nutrients and biodiversity to augment natural resource conservation, restoration of ecological balance, alleviation of poverty and to mitigate risks of weather vagaries". The Institute is mandated to develop sustainable agroforestry practices for farms, marginal land and wastelands in different agroclimatic zones of India; Coordinate network research for identifying agroforestry technologies for inter-region; Training in agroforestry research for ecosystem analysis and Transfer of agroforestry technology in various agroclimatic zones. ICAR-CAFRI has developed robust agroforestry models and package of practices for different agro-climatic conditions covering small and marginal farmers for suitable production of food, fodder, fuel, fibre and fertilizers.

2. PURPOSE & SCOPE OF COLLABORATION

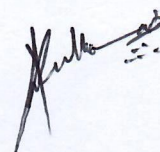
The potential areas of collaboration include research, training, capacity building, experience sharing and knowledge management, in the domain of Forestry, Agroforestry and Natural Resource based Sustainable Livelihood Promotion and Ecosystem Health Management. The specific areas for joint activities will be decided on a case-to-case basis in due course of time.

3. OUTLINES OF THE COLLABORATION

This document is not intended to create legal or binding obligations on either party. It serves only as a record of the parties' current intentions. This will be a sustaining program and will help sourcing funds for collaborate research/academic programs from external agencies. We also plan to work on a joint online degree program in Agroforestry, which could be an avenue for further cooperation between ICFRE-RFRI and ICAR-CAFRI.

Under the aegis of this agreement, ICFRE-RFRI & ICAR-CAFRI shall jointly explore the possibilities of working mainly in the northeast and central part of India. The major focus of this collaboration shall be on:

- Each institution will encourage the exchange of faculty/scientists for joint teaching and research programs on tree genetic resources, agroforestry and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and collaborative professional training program on agroforestry and allied aspects including distance education programs in forestry/agroforestry;
- Scientists from each institution will collaborate in developing proposals for external funding as appropriate and implement joint projects in mutual areas of interest;
- Both ICAR-CAFRI and ICFRE-RFRI agree to include scientists for mass awareness and capacity building programs and guide students.



- Both ICAR-CAFRI and ICFRE-RFRI agrees to exchange planting material/germplasm for its testing and evaluation.
- Any other area of mutual interest could be covered under this MoU. However, the expenses incurred by each institution under this agreement will be the sole responsibility of the institutions concerned.

3.1. Academic and Research Collaboration:

In pursuant to the agreement, academic and research and allied collaborations shall be initiated between both institutions/parties.

The research collaboration shall involve visits of scientists to each other's institution and write collaborative research projects for funding and be a part of in-house research projects. Research collaboration shall involve being a part of the publication authorship group, keeping intellectual property rights intact. Scientists of ICFRE-RFRI may also be involved in teaching activities organized by ICAR-CAFRI and vice versa.

3.2. Exchange of academic information, data generation and dissemination, and scholarly publications:

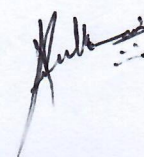
In pursuant of the agreement, exchange of academic information, data regeneration and dissemination and scholarly publications shall be the privilege of both parties/institutions involved. The data generation could be from primary or secondary source. The samples to be collected from field areas shall be shared as per convenience and the Government protocols. Secondary data source and sharing shall also need to have clearances of the Government procedures. The publications and authorship shall be discussed among the research groups exclusively and the institute shall not be involved in this matter. Dissemination of information to print/visual media shall be as per the Government protocols.

4. Performance Standards

The Parties shall perform their respective roles and responsibilities under this MoU with highest standards of professional and ethical competence and integrity.

5. Publication & Intellectual Property Rights

- (i) If the research is conducted and completed in India with the help of ICFRE-RFRI members in the team, the intellectual property will be protected in India with ICFRE-RFRI as a co applicant. ICAR-CAFRI will have rights to commercialize technology.
- (ii) If the research is conducted and completed in India with the help of ICAR-CAFRI members in the team, the intellectual property will be protected in India with ICAR-CAFRI as a co-applicant. ICFRE-RFRI will have rights to commercialize the technology.



- (iii) In case application is to be made for international protection, then both ICAR-CAFRI and ICFRE-RFRI will apply as co-applicants for the protection of intellectual property rights subject to exclusive rights of both the Parties to commercialize the technology in their respective countries. Commercialization in any other country shall be done jointly through a separate agreement.
- (iv) In case research is carried out solely and separately by the Party or the research results are obtained through the sole and separate effort of the Party, the Party concerned alone will apply for grant of IPR and once granted, the IPR will be solely owned by the concerned Party.
- (v) In case of research results obtained through joint activities, the grant of intellectual property rights will be sought by both the Parties jointly and once granted these rights will jointly be owned by the Parties.
- (vi) Any Publication, document and/or paper arising out of joint work conducted by the participants pursuant to this MoU will be jointly owned. The use of the name, logo and/or official emblem of the participants in any publication, document and/or paper will require prior permission of both the participants. It may however be ensured that the official emblem and logo are not misused.
- (vii) Both parties agree to ensure appropriate protection of intellectual Property Rights generated from such cooperation consistent with their respective laws, rules and regulations and other international agreements to which both parties are signatories.

6. Disclosure of Information

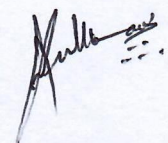
ICAR-CAFRI and ICFRE-RFRI agree that except for a Court Order requiring disclosure, neither shall disclose to any third party without the written consent of the other, any information made available to the Parties, in the performance of work and/or generated by the performance of work, under this Agreement, except information which at the date hereof was:

- (i) In the public domain
- (ii) Known prior to the date hereof as evidenced by written documents subsequently.

The provisions in this Article shall survive termination or completion of the Memorandum of Understanding.

7. Funding

This MoU carries no financial commitment to either Party. However, the Parties endeavor to seek funding sources to support the objectives of this MoU.



8. Amendments

The Parties of this MoU may, by mutual consent, add, modify, amend or delete any words, phrases, sentences or Articles in this MoU.

9. Validity of the MOU

This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective on the final date of signing and will have duration of five years. However, it can be extended by mutual agreement. Any cessation of the MoU by either party shall be notified in writing to the other Party at least six months in advance.

10. Arbitration

Dispute arising out of this MoU, if any, shall be amicably settled jointly by the ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam and the ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereby execute the MoU in two original copies in English language on the 9th of December, 2025.

For and on behalf of
ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute,
Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

For and on behalf of
ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat,
Assam

Name: **AYYANADAR ARUNACHALAM**

Designation: Director

ICAR-CAFRI, Jhansi

निदेशक / Director

भा.कृ.अ.प.-केन्द्रीय कृषिवानिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान, झाँसी

ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi
Jorhat, Assam

Date: 9-12-2025

Name: **NITIN KULKARNI**

Designation: Director

ICFRE-RERI, Jorhat

निदेशक / Director
भा.कृ.अ.प.-केन्द्रीय कृषिवानिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान
ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute
जोरहाट, असम/Jorhat, Assam

Jorhat, Assam

Date:

Witness:

1. Atanda

2. S. Suresh Kumar

1. Nitin Kulkarni

2. [Signature]