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C. Shailaja  
E 407464

SI.No. 3469 Di. 22/04/16. Rs. 100/-  
Sold To K. Suman Chandra  
S/o. D/o. W/o. K. Ramulu, R/o. Hyd,  
For Whom Self Other

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**syngenta foundation**  
India



### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

This MoU is for bringing about agriculture development and improving the income of small and marginal farmers by leveraging knowledge, expertise, ICT skills and institutional strengths of Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) and National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India by engaging with the other on subjects of mutual interest and is entered into and made effective from 22.04.2016.

**BETWEEN**

**National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (hereinafter referred to as NIRD&PR), represented by its Director General, having its office at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030, Telangana State and hereinafter shall mean and include its successors and permitted assignees shall be known as First Party.**

**AND**



**Syngenta Foundation India (hereinafter referred to as SFI)**, a registered company under Section 25 Companies Act, i.e non-profit making Company, visioned to create value for resource-poor small farmers in developing countries through innovation in sustainable agriculture and the activation of value chains, represented by the **Executive Director** and having its Registered office at **Amar Paradigm, S.No. 110/11/13, Baner Road, Pune** and hereinafter shall mean and include its successors and permitted assignees shall be known as **Second Party**.

(NIRD&PR and SFI are hereinafter collectively referred to as the **“Parties”** and individually as the **“Party”**)

WHEREAS, the NIRD&PR is the apex institution constituted by Ministry of Rural Development for imparting training to National, State and International level officials on subject matters of rural development, poverty reduction and local governance and actively engaged with public and private agencies through its Center for Corporate Social Responsibility, Public Private Partnership and Peoples Action, and,

WHEREAS, NIRD&PR’s mission is to examine and analyse the factors contributing to the improvement of economic and social well-being of people in rural areas on a sustainable basis with focus on the rural poor and the other disadvantaged groups through research, action research and consultancy efforts and to facilitate the rural development efforts with particular emphasis and focus on the rural poor by improving the knowledge, skills and attitudes of rural development officials and non-officials, through training, workshops and seminars and .

WHEREAS NIRD&PR undertakes strategic partnerships with premier institutions that can complement its efforts and facilitate progress towards its vision and enable acceleration of its mission; and,

WHEREAS, NIRD&PR invests significantly in development/policy research, knowledge management, support innovations and social entrepreneurs for scaling up and mainstreaming best practice models in the State; and to support its mandate NIRD&PR agrees to extend its partnership with Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) through its Center for Corporate Social Responsibility, Public Private Partnership and Social Action.

WHEREAS, the Syngenta Foundation India, since its inception in 2005, has worked for improving income of small and marginal farmers through extension of scientific Agriculture and better market-linkage and also working closely with Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations in various parts of the country. The main facet of every partnership is holistic agricultural development thus improving the income of small and marginal farmers; trains rural youth and supports them through seed capital, mentoring and incubating support, as ‘Agri-Entrepreneur’ and ‘Agriculture Technology Assistants’.

Whereas SFI is technology neutral, company neutral, no way involved in any product promotion and works with all agri-businesses.

**NOW THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITNESSES AS FOLLOWS:**

**Objective of the Partnership**

The objective of the MoU is to establish a strategic collaboration between both the Parties in developing a new model of agriculture extension linking credit and other vital services by training and development of large number of rural youth as ‘Barefoot Doctors of Farmers (BDF)’. These *inter alia* may include undertaking capacity building, innovative pilots, and incubation support and job placement.

**Scope of the Partnership**

The scope of the partnership will include, the following strategic areas, inter-alia;

- **Capacity building:** Capacity building of rural youth to train them as BDF and Agri-Entrepreneurs through empaneled agencies/institutions in the field, training the Trainers, developing training modules and closely monitoring and coordination.
- **Innovative Pilots:** To undertake innovative pilots with the focus on Agriculture Development Activities including agricultural extension technology innovations.
- **Conceptualize, experiment, demonstrate and spread new concepts/models of empowering farmers and thus improving their prosperity.**
- **Incubation support:** To support and mentor rural youth to continue engagement with agriculture by enabling Agricultural development through setting up business enterprises and at the same time becoming self-employed in their own village in agri-related ventures.
- **Placements:** To offer placement support and link-up with companies related to agriculture to the BDF trained under the objectives of this MOU.
- **Evaluation:** Undertake evaluation studies to assess impact and outcomes of the activities undertaken under this MoU.
- **Connecting the dots in the vicious cycle of uncertainty of agriculture as an enterprise and transforming it from “ a way of life into and agri-Enterprise”**

**Mutual Obligations**

Both parties agree to undertake the following:

1. Maintain confidentiality of its joint works until they are authorized to be shared by competent authorities in the public domain
2. Maintain transparency in all its project related partnerships that may include supporting in reaching out to the constituency, gathering relevant data, sharing of available data and information and having a proper channel of communication
3. Convene meetings at regular intervals to amicably sort out disputes or misunderstanding
4. Designate a key official who will participate in meetings and facilitate all discussions between the Parties to ensure that the partnership is implemented as per the MOU.
5. The key professional staff of SFI will be made available for interactions and discussions with the key professionals of NIRD&PR as and when required and play an important role in the execution of mutually agreed assignments.
6. NIRD&PR will enable to use its expertise in training, research etc and SFI will pool funds for each assignment as per mutually agreed activities.

### **Duration and Validity of Partnership**

The present partnership will be for **Three years** from the date of both parties signing the MoU. It may be renewed thereafter for another three years, based on mutual agreement with or without modifications to the present MoU. Extension / Reduction of the duration and / or Expansion of its scope is to be undertaken through mutual discussion between the Competent Authorities of both organizations. Such modification will be based on mutually accepted terms and conditions.

### **Implementation Arrangement**

In order to operationalize the Partnership, the following implementation arrangement is proposed:

1. **Staff:** Both Parties will identify their Staff/faculty who will be responsible for the assignment/ project / for coordination purposes and will meet as necessary in order to accomplish the purposes of this MOU.
2. **Work Plan:** A clear work plan would be shared with timelines, division of responsibilities and details specified for each joint assignment / project. The work plan for 2016-17 is given in the annexure-I
3. **Review mechanisms:** A clear cut review mechanism would be in place for addressing issues if any and to review progress and grievance redressal for all engagements between the Parties
4. **Deliverables:** The deliverables would be mutually agreed upon for each engagement / project separately by the Parties
5. **Financials:** Each assignment would be budgeted separately and the schedule of payments detailed out and deliberated and mutually agreed.
6. **Accounts and Audit of Expenditures:** For all specific engagements under this MOU, both NIRD&PR and SFI will maintain all relevant records including bills and receipts etc.,
7. **Confidentiality:** Both the parties within the framework established by the MoU, will keep confidential all material exchanged under its terms to the extent permitted by law. Releases to the press, public announcements, relating to this MOU may be made jointly or by either party with the consent of the other party.
8. This MOU in no way restricts the parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public/private agencies, organizations, or individuals.
9. **Force Majeure:** For the purposes of this MoU, “Force Majeure” means an event which is beyond the reasonable control of a Party, is not foreseeable, is unavoidable, and makes a Party’s performance of its obligations hereunder impossible or so impractical as reasonably to be considered impossible under the circumstances, and subject to those requirements, includes, but is not limited to, war, riots, civil disorder, earthquake, fire, explosion, storm, flood or other adverse weather conditions, strikes, lockouts or other industrial action, confiscation or any other action by Government agencies. Force Majeure shall not include insufficiency of funds or failure to make any payment required.
10. **Amendments:** This Partnership MoU may be amended by mutual written agreement of the parties. Any amendment will be without prejudice to any rights or obligations incurred under this MoU or supplementary agreement thereto reached pursuant / prior to the effective date of such amendment.
11. **Dispute Resolution:** Any dispute between the Parties arising under or related to this MoU will be settled mutually between both the parties.

- 12. Intellectual Property Rights:** Under the provisions of this MOU, the Parties may produce documents, reports, studies, photographs, and maps, as well as documents as well as product-specific documents -tangible and intangible information (collectively "Works"). Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties in writing, the copyright and other intellectual property rights in any such Work will belong to both the parties.
- 13. Effective Dates:** The partnership shall be effective from 22/04/2016, the date of signing of the MOU.
- 14. Schedules/Appendices:** The works plan / schedules of each assignment during the partnership period between NIRD&PR and SFI shall form part of the MoU.
- 15. Termination:** Termination of this MOU can be done by giving notice of one month by either party and on such termination, the parties shall settle all accounts/payments for all accepted and completed tasks/assignments till such time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ (NIRD&PR) and the SYNGENTA FOUNDATION INDIA (SFI) each acting through its representative duly authorized there to have signed this agreement on the date first above written in two original counterparts in English.

for NIRD&PR

for SFI

*Chanda Pandit*

*[Signature]*

Director General

Executive Director

Signature with Seal



Signature with Seal

Date:

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030.

Date:

*Chanda Pandit*

*[Signature]*

Witness- 1

Witness- 1

Name: CHANDA PANDEI  
Designation: REGISTRAR & DIRECTOR (Admin)  
Address:

Name: PRAKASH AOTE  
Designation: CHAIRMAN  
Address: SYNGENTA FOUNDATION

Chanda Pandit, IA & AS  
Registrar & Director (Administration)  
National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj  
Rajendranagar, Hyd-500 030.

Witness- 2

Witness- 2 *[Signature]*

Name: *[Signature]*  
Designation: P & H (SAS)  
Address:

Name: Dr. Marco Ferroni  
Designation: Executive Director SFA  
Address: Switzerland

Dr. K. SUMAN CHANDRA  
Professor & Head  
Centre for Agrarian Studies  
National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030.

## **Annexure –I: Work Plan for 2016-2017**

The work plan for 2016-17 is focused on bringing a paradigm shift in agriculture development through innovations in agriculture extension, credit and value addition and marketing. There are two major initiatives planned for 2016-17, i.e. krishi sewaks or Agriculture Technology Assistants (ATA) training and capacity building activities and piloting/creation of a cadre of rural Agri Technology Assistants.

**I. Agri Technology Assistants:** One of the major factors constraining the agriculture development in India is lack of quality manpower that can disseminate scientific cultivation practices to the farmers and help farmers in availing important services such as credit, insurance and marketing. A cadre of agriculture extension workers is to be developed who can assist farmers from seeds to markets. These extension workers are to be identified from rural areas and preferably must work in 4-5 villages around his native village. These agriculture extension workers can also be leveraged for generating awareness or propagating other rural development programs in the villages.

Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) will train rural youth in the basics of agriculture and rural development. The trained rural youth will have at least 3 different livelihood options:

1. Employee of agri-business company; or
2. Become an agriculture entrepreneur and engage 300+ farmers; or
3. Become an entrepreneur for one of the NIRD&PR rural technologies

The foundation course for Agriculture technology assistants will be for a period of 60 days and this will be organized in the empaneled organisations with NIRD&PR and SFI. This course will be a residential program. All the registered candidates will receive the certification from ASCI (agriculture skills council of India) and will also be eligible for the stipend from ASCI. Post training, the candidates will be presented a certificate and grade sheet by NIRD&PR and SFI, along with ASCI certification.

In the first year, i.e., 2016-17; at least 500 Agriculture Technology Assistants will be identified and trained across India. The foundation course will focus on the following subjects:

- 1) Scope of Agriculture in India
- 2) Weather and climate
- 3) Soil
- 4) Plant nutrients
- 5) Irrigation
- 6) Farm machinery
- 7) Horticultural crops
- 8) Field crops
- 9) Weed management
- 10) Crop protection
- 11) Seeds and seed production
- 12) Commercial Propagation
- 13) Medicinal and Aromatic plants
- 14) Post-Harvest Management
- 15) Extension and Rural communication Techniques
- 16) Allied Activities

Each batch of agriculture technology assistants will consist of 25-30 students and of this, at least 5-6 students will be shortlisted for agri-entrepreneur initiative. The candidates shortlisted will undergo a special course that will help them in becoming an entrepreneur. Under Specialization courses, the candidates can choose any one of the following:-

- 1) Agri-input Marketing
- 2) Seed Organizer ship
- 3) Nursery Entrepreneurs
- 4) Farm Machinery Entrepreneurship
- 5) Irrigation Entrepreneurship
- 6) Spray Entrepreneur
- 7) Marketing Entrepreneur
- 8) Business Correspondence (Credit Entrepreneurship)
- 9) Allied Agriculture Entrepreneurship

Similarly from each batch of agriculture technology assistants, 5-6 students will be shortlisted for NIRD&PR rural technology entrepreneurship programme and will have the option of choosing from the available rural technologies.

**II. Rural Agri Technologies Incubator:** Apart from challenges faced by farmers in accessing good technologies and services such as credit and insurance, the next big challenge that farmers face is remunerative price realization for their output. One way to ensure the better price realization is linked to developing low cost agro processing technologies. These should be mostly in-situ in nature and closer to production zones. Hence, this initiative will focus on developing an incubator for launching 2-3 low cost rural agri technologies.

As part of this initiative, 3 management graduates will be hired to work on three technologies. These graduates will work on developing all linkages i.e. technology, credit, identifying entrepreneurs, business plans for entrepreneurs, backward and forward linkages with farmers and establishing the processing unit. The objective of this initiative is to establish few pilots based on rural agri technologies and to ensure that farmer's income increases substantially.