Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
between
The International Jute Study Group (IJSG)
and
The Global Natural Fibres Forum (GNFF)
for
Collaboration/Cooperation in Research & Development of Jute, Kenaf and Other Allied Fibres

Preamble:
The International Jute Study Group (hereinafter referred to as IJSG), and the Global Natural Fibres Forum (hereinafter referred to as GNFF);

Recalling that IJSG (www.jute.org) was established in 2002, by UNCTAD as the legal successor to the erstwhile International Jute Organization (hereinafter referred to as IJO), to provide an effective framework for international cooperation, consultation and policy development with regard to all relevant aspects of the world of jute economy, and to address the issues of poverty alleviation, employment and development of human resources, particularly women, in the jute sector. This is the only International Commodity Body (ICB) for jute, kenaf and other allied fibers with its Headquarters at 145, Monipuripara, Tejgaon, Near Farmgate, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.

Recalling that GNFF (www.globalnaturalfibres.org) is a global body established by the Commonwealth Secretariat through its Special Advisory Services Division (SASD) promoting the uses and development of the natural fibres which directly supports the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. It aims to become a global knowledge platform for usage of natural fibres across the globe and facilitate the building of a better ecosystem for production, processing and use of natural fibres. The International Secretariat to GNFF is a social entrepreneurship based in Bangalore, Karnataka, India, that supports livelihood of rural artisans through market access, producing contemporary products using traditional crafts, using natural raw materials.

Mindful of their common interest in supporting the efforts of their members to facilitate jute, kenaf and other natural fibres production, consumption and trade in order to improve the incomes, poverty reduction, women empowerment and creating additional employment opportunities of natural fibre producers. Also ensure others employed in and associated with the industries in producing and consuming countries, within the framework of sustainable environment, agricultural development, and maintaining markets in which they can compete effectively with synthetics.

Hereby agree to strengthen their collaboration as follows:
Article 1 - Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding
The purpose of the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to ensure cooperation between IJSG and GNFF through consultation, coordination of efforts, mutual assistance and joint action in fields of common interest and in accordance with the objectives and principles of IJSG and GNFF.

Article 2 - Consultation
IJSG and GNFF shall consult, through respective designated officers, on all matters mentioned in article 1 above that are of mutual interest to them.

Article 3 - Reciprocal Representation
IJSG and GNFF shall invite each other to participate in an Observer capacity, in conferences and meetings convened by either party on matter of common interest in accordance with their respective rules and procedures.

Article 4 - Exchange of Information and Documents
IJSG and GNFF shall arrange for the exchange of information and documents concerning matters of common interest. IJSG shall, to the extent possible, use information and data provided by GNFF to avoid duplication of efforts.

Article 5 - Intellectual property rights and publications
- Results of the collaborative research will be jointly published in the public interest as mutually agreed upon.
- It is also agreed that all outcomes of the IJSG-GNFF activities, including all intellectual property rights (IPR), shall be jointly owned by both the parties. As such, they shall remain publicly accessible and shall be available to the partners of IJSG and GNFF and to the end-users of the member countries.

Article 6 - Technical Co-operation and Joint Action
- Whenever desirable, IJSG and GNFF may seek each other’s technical co-operation with a view to promoting the development of collaborative activities in fields of common interest.
- In respect of each collaborative activity indicated in paragraph 1 above, the present Memorandum of Understanding shall be supplemented by a specific Exchange of Letters arranged through the respective competent organs or appropriate channels.
- The above exchange of letters (i) shall, inter alia, document the specific terms and conditions agreed upon for each collaborative activity or project, (ii) shall define the manner and extent of participation by each party, and (iii) shall specify the financial commitment, if any, that each party is to assume.

Article 7 - Amendments
Both parties may request that the present Memorandum of Understanding be amended. Any such amendment shall be adopted by mutual consent. Whenever required, an exchange of letters will detail the implementation of this article.
Article 8 - Period of Agreement
MoU comes into effect on the date of signing by both the parties. The validity of this MoU shall be for five years with renewal for a similar period based on review, necessary modifications and mutual consensus.

Article 9 - Termination
- Either party may terminate the present Memorandum of Understanding by giving three months’ written notice to other party.
- The obligations on the part of the other parties under the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force after its termination to the extent that may be necessary to properly wind up activities already undertaken, and to settle any financial relations between the parties and meet mutual and/or joint contractual obligations.

Article 10 - Entry into force
The present Memorandum of Understanding, being concluded in a spirit of friendly and increased cooperation shall come into force on its signature by the head of IJSG and GNFF, or their representatives.

Article 11 - General Conditions
- The parties to the agreement may add, modify, amend or delete any words, phrases, sentences or articles in this agreement by mutual consent.
- Done in English language on the dates and places indicated below.

For the
International Jute Study Group (IJSG)

Bhupendra Singh
Secretary General
International Jute Study Group (IJSG)
145 Monipuripara, Near Farmgate
Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh

Date March 27, 2013
Place Dhaka, Bangladesh

For the
Global Natural Fibres Forum (GNFF)

Ms Neelam Chhiber
International Secretariat
Global Natural Fibres Forum
Sy No. 36/5, Somasundarpalya,
HSR Layout Sector II,
Bangalore 560102

Date
Place