MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE CENTRE ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (CIARDAP)

AND

THE INTERNATIONAL JUTE STUDY GROUP (IJSG)

Date: July 27, 2011
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AND
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The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, hereinafter referred to as CIRDAP located at Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh, represented by its Director General, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal

And

International Jute Study Group (IJSG), 145 Monipuripara, Near Farmgate Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh, represented by Secretary General Mr. Bhupendra Singh, IAS has entered into the following understanding:

WHEREAS:

CIRDAP is a regional Inter-Governmental and autonomous institution functioning with a wide diversity of specialties and professionals in various key facets relating to poverty alleviation and rural development in 15 member countries in the Asia and the Pacific region (www.cirdap.org.sg);

To assist national action and to promote regional co-operation relating to integrated rural development (IRD) through a network of national institutions in Member States in the Asia and the Pacific Region, with the aim, in particular, of improving the production, income and living conditions of needy rural people and of encouraging their participation in social and economic life;

To act as a servicing institution for its Member States, with respect to IRD by providing them with technical support, by fostering the exchange of ideas and experiences and by encouraging such joint or collaborative activities as may benefit those States individually or collectively;
To act as a regional forum in conducting research, pilot projects, holding seminars, conferences, workshops, organize training programmes, provide technical support and maintain liaison with national, international organizations and NGOs.

And whereas,

IJSG ([www.iute.org](http://www.iute.org)) is an intergovernmental body set up under the aegis of UNCTAD to function as the International Commodity Body (ICB) for Jute, Kenaf and other Allied natural Fibers. It is representing its 30 member countries, of which the main objectives are:

a) To provide an effective framework for international cooperation, consultation and policy development among members with regard to all relevant aspects of the world of jute economy;

b) To promote the expansion of international trade in jute and jute products by maintaining existing markets and by developing new markets, including the introduction of new jute products and the development of new end-uses;

c) To provide a forum for the active participation of the private sector in the development of the jute sector;

d) To address the issues of poverty alleviation, employment and development of human resources, particularly women, in the jute sector;

e) To facilitate the improvement of structural conditions in the jute sector through improvement of productivity and quality, and promotion of the application of new processes and technologies;

f) To create and increase awareness of the beneficial effects of the use of jute as an environmentally friendly, renewable and biodegradable natural fibre;

g) To improve market intelligence with a view to ensuring greater transparency in the international jute market in collaboration with other organizations.

And whereas,

by making joint and complementary efforts through both parties research and action research work related with poverty alleviation and rural development can make more effective contributions to rural development and basic needs assistance to poor people in the region than they could through isolated and independent actions

Now, therefore, the two organisations, CIRDAP and IJSG desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding of Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as MOUC concerning undertaking as partners in development actions as and where feasible to combine their strength towards synergic effect in projects of mutual interest.
THEREFORE, the Parties agree to the following terms:

ARTICLE ONE: OBJECTIVES

This MOUC establishes the general basis necessary for accomplishing following objectives:
Cooperation between parties shall be carried out, subject to availability of funds, the approval of both parties and the basis of reciprocity. It will include but will not be limited to the following:

a) To facilitate exchange of information, experiences, views, experts between the parties.
b) To take up studies as well as action research project, generate information and documentation in related fields.
c) To organize exposure visit and training programmes in the field of Jute, natural fibers and rural development and areas of mutual interests.
d) To take up projects jointly particularly multi-country projects in the region.
e) To conduct joint seminars, symposia and workshops.

ARTICLE TWO: AREAS OF COOPERATION

The areas of cooperation of this MOUC shall be all those which contribute to the realization of the objectives established in the foregoing article.

By virtue of the experience of USG and CIRDAP, areas for particularly fruitful joint cooperation are but not limited to:

- Joint study and action research/pilot projects activities: Research/action research on topics of mutual interest will be identified and jointly undertaken, and the result will be reciprocally shared. Use of existing research facilities will be extended to facilitate research. Funding will be sought by the both institutions.

- Capacity building: The involvement of experts sought for the implementation of training programmes especially in the field of Rural Poverty Reduction and Development.

- Exposure study Visit: Exchange of professionals for making an exposure-cum-study visit.
Also, following would be the areas of mutual cooperation:

a) Information sharing and exchange of ideas
b) Initiating innovative action research/pilot projects
c) Project monitoring and evaluation
d) Identifying mutually beneficial project activities
e) Submission of joint proposal for projects in different areas of development, poverty alleviation, disaster management, etc.

ARTICLE THREE
INSTRUMENTS

The different measures that may be adopted for implementing specific operational accords included in this MOUC will be those considered by the Parties to be most suitable for pursuing their purposes, giving due consideration to the following instruments:

a) Studies and research/action research on the areas of cooperation established by this MOUC;
b) Direct consultation, through technical teams or individual specialists;
c) Technical cooperation or financial, or both, as the case may be for preparing and implementing projects related to the areas of cooperation stipulated above;
d) Training, through courses, seminars, in-service training and study trips;
e) Information transfer through books, magazines, bulletins and other means of communication.

ARTICLE FOUR
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOUC

The Parties shall observe the following guidelines for implementing the present MOUC, whenever possible or appropriate:

a) The highest authority of each parties, or their duly authorized representatives, will maintain continuing official contact;
b) In accordance with paragraph (c) of Article One above, the implementation of specific actions will be governed by cooperation agreements that must detail, for each case, the objectives, mode of action, forms of participation, obligations of each party, technical, financial, personnel and other contributions, budgets, including overhead costs for
technical supervision and institutional support and other elements that guarantee the normal and effective fulfillment of the Agreement;

c) When considered necessary, the Parties may create groups or teams for studying the nature, intensity and coverage of the programmes, projects and activities underway or to be undertaken under this MOUC and make proposals and recommend projects that are needed and that will become the subject of specific operational agreements;

d) The specific operational agreements referred to in this MOUC may be signed with the participation of one or more other multilateral or bilateral technical cooperation and financial assistance entities or with the governments of countries interested in improving rural development and poverty alleviation in selected member countries or with private entities whose objectives are compatible with those of the Parties, if it is considered necessary by those signing the present MOUC;

e) The Parties may invite each other to designate observers to the regular and extraordinary meetings of their respective technical and governing bodies and to the other meetings that may be held to study matters of common concern;

f) CIRDAP and IJSG shall ensure that this MOUC is carried out with due diligence and efficiency and each shall furnish to the other all such information as shall be reasonably requested;

g) Any communications or documents given, made or sent by either CIRDAP or IJSG pursuant to this MOUC, shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given, made or sent to the party to which it is addressed at the time of its delivery by hand, mail, electronic mail or facsimile at its respective address. Either of the parties hereto may, by written notice to the other party hereto, change the address to which any notice or request shall be addressed;

h) All communications and documents submitted by both parties shall be in the English language;

i) Differences, which may arise in the application of the provision of MOUC, shall be settled by means of negotiations between CIRDAP and IJSG or by any other manner mutually agreed upon by the two parties;

j) CIRDAP and IJSG shall consult each other in respect of any matter that may from time to time arise in connection with this MOUC.
ARTICLE FIVE: AMENDMENTS

The terms of this MOUC may be modified with the approval of both Parties; such amendments to be made in the form of Addenda attached to the MOUC.

ARTICLE SIX: DURATION

The present MOUC shall enter into effect on the date it is signed (if not signed act: "on the date it is signed by the last of the Parties") unless one of the Parties informs the other, through official channels of communication, of its desire to terminate it, at least six months in advance. The anticipated termination of the present MOUC will not affect the operation or conclusion of the specific operational MOUC underway.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the legally authorized Representatives of the Parties sign two equally valid copies of this present MOUC on 27 July in the year Two Thousand and Eleven.