Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
between
ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute (CAFRI), Jhansi Uttar Pradesh
&
P.K. University (PKU), Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as MoU) is made on this 4th day of the month of February in the year 2026 by and between the ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute (CAFRI), Having its Head Office at Jhansi U.P.[herein after called "ICAR-CAFRI"/First party], a constituent Research Institution of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 on the ONE PART and the P. K. University (PKU) having it headquarters at Shivpuri, M.P. [hereinafter called "PKU"/Second party] on the OTHER PART (who for the purpose of this MoU are hereinafter collectively referred to as the parties).

The parties, having discussed fields of common research interests and allied activities between the two institutions, have decided to enter into long-term collaboration for promotion of students' training and quality postgraduate research in cutting edge areas in accordance with the provisions contained in the Guidelines issued vide Letter No. 2-8/2012- HRD dated 11th December, 2012 or as revised from time to time. This MOU sets for the terms and understanding between ICAR-CAFRI and PKU to Collaborate in Basic and applied research programs, organizing joint seminars, Conferences, workshop, and sharing Research Projects, research materials and publication.

BACKGROUND

P.K. University (PKU), Shivpuri Madhya Pradesh

P.K. University has been serving since 2016. The University was established on August 19, 2015, through Madhya Pradesh Niji Vishwavidyalaya (*Sthapana evam Sanchalan*) Act 2007. It was constituted under the Madhya Pradesh act with the objective of providing education and opportunities for the rural population of Madhya Pradesh with mandate of the making of provision for the education of rural people of Madhya Pradesh. PKU is providing quality education supplemented with Industrial Internships and Professional Training in the areas of Agricultural Sciences, Business & Management, Development, Biotechnology & Technology, Training & Development, Computing & Information Technology, Entrepreneurship, Rural Development, Biotechnology, Biosciences & Environmental Sciences, Basic Sciences, Medical & Paramedical sciences, Humanities, Juridical Sciences, Life Sciences, Liberal Art & Sciences, Performing Arts, and Nursing, besides undertaking Quality Improvement and Training activities for the State Government officers. The academic and training programs of PKU entail a global perspective to meet the challenges of the current era and the emerging trends.

Central Agroforestry Research Institute, 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 woody perennials on agricultural landscapes 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 lands and wastelands in different agroclimatic zones of India; coordinate network research for identifying agroforestry technologies for inter-regions; training in agroforestry research for ecosystem analysis and transfer of agroforestry technology. CAFRI has developed robust agroforestry models and package of practices for different agro-climatic conditions covering small and marginal farmers.

1. PURPOSE & SCOPE OF COLLABORATION

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

2. 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 PKU and CAFRI.

Under the aegis of this agreement, PKU & CAFRI shall jointly explore the possibilities of working mainly in the north-eastern part of India. The major focus of this collaboration shall be on:

- Developing joint curricula for mutually identified programs.
- Guiding students for Postgraduate and Ph.D Research with CAFRI as an extended research campus or a PG Research Centre of PKU with CAFRI scientists as Main Supervisor(s) and PKU Faculty as Joint-Supervisor(s).
- Joint research in agroforestry and rocky or gravelly soil/land farming including forest farm interface.
- Promoting agroforestry suitable for the central and north-Central region through establishment and demonstration of successful tree-based farming solutions.
- Each institution will encourage the exchange of faculty/scientists for joint teaching and research programs on agroforestry and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and

collaborative professional training programs on agroforestry and allied aspects including distance education programs in agroforestry.

- Faculty/Scientists from each institution will collaborate in developing proposals for external funding as appropriate.
- Faculty/Scientists from each institution will collaborate in writing research papers, popular articles, etc in the larger interest of agroforestry and sustainable agriculture.
- Any expenses incurred by each institution under this agreement will be the sole responsibility of the institutions concerned.

2.1 Academic and Research Collaboration:

In pursuant of the agreement, academic and research collaborations shall be initiated between both Parties. Academic collaboration shall involve faculty members/scientists visiting their counterpart institutions for short-term (1-3 months) teaching assignments, evaluation and curriculum development. The eligible faculty members/scientists may also be a part of the dissertation/thesis supervision along with the host institution faculty members/scientists.

Research collaboration shall involve visits of faculty members/scientists to each other's institution and write collaborative research projects for funding and being a part of in-house research funded projects. Research collaboration shall involve being a part of the publication authorship group, keeping intellectual property rights intact.

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

In pursuant to the agreement, exchange of academic information, data regeneration and dissemination and scholarly publications shall be the privilege of both institutions involved. The data generation could be from primary or secondary sources. 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. Dissemination of information to print/visual media shall be as per the Government protocols.

3. Publication & Intellectual Property Rights

(i) If the research is conducted and completed in India with the help of P.K. University members in the team, the intellectual property will be protected in India with PKU 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. PKU will have rights to commercialize the technology.

(iii) In case application is to be made for international protection, then both ICAR-CAFRI and PKU 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 Party concerned.

(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 on any publication, document and/or paper will require prior permission from 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.

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. Disclosure of Information

ICAR-CAFRI and PKU 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.

6. Amendments

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

7. Validity of the MOU

This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective on the date of signing and will have a duration of five (5) 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.

8. Arbitration

Disputes arising out of this MoU, if any, shall be amicably settled jointly by P.K. University, Madhya Pradesh and the Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereby execute the MoU in two original copies in English language on the 4th of February, 2026.

(AYYANADAR ARUNACHALAM)
Designation: Director

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE ICAR-
CENTRAL AGROFORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(Prof. (Dr) Yogesh Chandra Dubey)
Designation: Vice-Chancellor

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE
P.K. UNIVERSITY

Witnesses:

Dr. A.K. Handa, Incharge, PME

Dr. Suresh Ramanan S, Incharge, ITMU

Mr. Mahesh Kumar Jetwani, SAO

Witnesses:

Prof. Mukesh Chansoria, Pro-VC

Dr. Prabhakar Kumar (HOD Agriculture)

Mr. Asif Khan (Deputy Registrar)