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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## Memorandum of understanding between IFAD and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

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**For: Approval**

## **Recommendation for approval**

It is recommended that the Executive Board approve the provisions of the memorandum of understanding entered into by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on 19 October 2010.

## **Memorandum of understanding between IFAD and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

1. On 19 October 2010, IFAD entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the purpose of providing a framework for enhancing collaboration on activities of common interest, such as the financing of country-level investments and capacity strengthening, policy dialogue and knowledge management, in addition to dialogue and advocacy at the country, regional and international levels. The memorandum will remain in force for a period of eight years.
2. Considering that IFAD and JICA have already collaborated with each other in the context of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) initiative, and aim to strengthen cooperation between them and foster common strategies to achieve a greater impact on food security and poverty reduction in Africa, this collaboration will focus on: (i) rice-related research, investments, market linkages and value chain development; (ii) engagement in country-led processes such as policy dialogue, capacity-building and institutional development of relevance to the CARD initiative; and (iii) promotion of South-South cooperation.
3. The Executive Board is invited to approve the provisions of the memorandum of understanding.
4. A copy of the signed memorandum of understanding is provided in the annex.



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

and the

**JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY**

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”) is entered into between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (hereinafter referred to as “IFAD”) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as “JICA”).

**WHEREAS**, IFAD is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a mandate to mobilize additional resources to be made available on concessional terms for agricultural development in its developing Member States. In fulfilling this objective, IFAD provides financing primarily for projects and programmes specifically designed to introduce, expand or improve food production systems and to strengthen related policies and institutions within the framework of national priorities and strategies.

**WHEREAS**, JICA is an incorporated administrative agency implementing Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan for the promotion of international cooperation as well as the sound development of the global economy by supporting the socioeconomic development, recovery or economic stability of developing regions of the world, and is now strongly committed to rural development in Africa.

**CONSIDERING THAT**, having recognised the increasing importance of rice production in Africa, JICA launched the Coalition for African Rice Development (hereinafter referred to as “CARD”) initiative at TICAD IV held in May 2008, based on a consultative group of bilateral and multilateral development partners and African and international institutions, with the aim of doubling rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2018.

**CONSIDERING ALSO THAT** IFAD and JICA (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”) have collaborated with each other under the CARD initiative and would like to strengthen cooperation between them and foster common strategies to achieve a greater impact on ensuring food security and poverty reduction in Africa.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

## ARTICLE I **Objectives and scope**

Section 1.1 The purpose of this MoU is to provide a framework for continuing collaboration on activities of common interest when such collaboration is deemed to enhance the effectiveness of each Party, including the financing of country level investments and capacity strengthening, policy dialogue and knowledge management, as well as dialogue and advocacy at the country, regional and international levels.

Section 1.2 To this end, the Parties shall, in accordance with the provisions hereinafter set forth, act as strategic partners in all matters of common concern to them, especially in the rice sector of Africa in relation to the CARD initiative. All activities carried out under the framework of this MoU will be undertaken in accordance with the respective rules, regulations and procedures of each Party.

## ARTICLE II **Topics and activities**

Section 2.1 The collaboration will focus on the following topics:

- a) Rice-related research, investments, market linkages and value chains development;
- b) Engagement in country-led processes (linked to regional/international initiatives where applicable, including CAADP), including policy dialogue, capacity building and institutional development of relevance to the CARD initiative;
- c) Promotion of South-South cooperation.

Section 2.2 The Parties will, in the context of the formulation and implementation of their respective country or regional programmes, explore opportunities for joint or complementary interventions. To this effect, the Parties will share information in due course on their country strategy and programme formulation, supervision and implementation support.

## ARTICLE III **Cooperation and management**

Section 3.1 In order to foster cooperation, the Parties may, subject to their respective policies and procedures:

- a) Consult each other on all matters arising out of this MoU;
- b) Establish any appropriate administrative arrangements, including the matching of resources, as are deemed appropriate between the Parties and the mobilization of relevant financial contributions from public and private entities to be used to finance programmes and projects in line with the objectives of the MoU.

Section 3.2 *Consultative Meetings* The Parties will hold consultative meetings as part of regular exchanges of information between the Parties in order to:

- a) Provide overall strategic guidance for the implementation of the MoU and explore options for coordinated interventions as deemed appropriate;
- b) Take stock of progress made in the implementation and the results achieved, exchange views on the lessons learned, identify outstanding matters and agree on appropriate follow-up action at the relevant levels of intervention.

#### ARTICLE IV **Amendment, duration and termination**

Section 4.1 *Amendment* The MoU may be amended by written agreement between the Parties.

Section 4.2 *Duration* This Memorandum shall remain in force for a period of eight years from its effective date (in line with CARD's original time horizon), except as the Parties may otherwise agree in writing.

Section 4.3 *Termination* Three months prior to the termination of this MoU, the Parties shall consult with each other in order to determine whether this MoU should be terminated or extended.

#### ARTICLE V **Effectiveness**

Section 5.1 *Date of effectiveness* This MoU shall come into effect on the day of receipt of the last notification by a Party of the completion of its relevant internal procedures

#### ARTICLE VI **Miscellaneous**



Section 6.1 *Addresses* The following addresses are specified for all notices, requests, reports and other communications given or made under this MoU:

For JICA  
Director General of the Rural Development Department  
Japan International Cooperation Agency  
3rd floor, Nibancho Center Building, 5-25 Niban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
102-8012  
Japan  
Telephone: 81352266660

For IFAD:  
Director of the Office of the President and of the Vice-President  
International Fund for Agricultural Development  
Via Paolo di Dono, 44  
00142 Roma  
Italy  
Telephone: 3906 54591

Section 6.2 *Language for Communications* All notices, requests, reports, documents and other information and communications related to this MoU shall be in English.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties, acting through their duly authorized representatives, have signed this MoU in English in two original copies, in Tokyo, Japan, on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

	
Ms. Yukiko OMURA Vice-President International Fund for Agricultural Development	Mr. Kenzo OSHIMA Senior Vice-President Japan International Cooperation Agency