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Investing in rural people

## Proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sapienza University of Rome, Roma Tre University and the University of Rome Tor Vergata

### Note to Executive Board representatives

#### Focal points:

#### Technical questions:

Paul Winters  
Associate Vice-President  
Strategy and Knowledge Department  
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2189  
e-mail: p.winters@ifad.org

Constanza di Nucci  
Senior Technical Adviser  
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2290  
e-mail: c.dinucci@ifad.org

#### Dispatch of documentation:

Deirdre McGrenra  
Chief  
Governing Bodies  
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2374  
e-mail: gb@ifad.org

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For: Approval

## Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to authorize the President to negotiate and finalize a memorandum of understanding for the purpose of establishing a cooperation framework with the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of the Sapienza University of Rome; the Department of Economics of Roma Tre University; and the Centre for Economic and International Studies of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, substantially in accordance with the provisions presented in the annex hereto.

## Proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sapienza University of Rome, Roma Tre University and the University of Rome Tor Vergata

1. The Executive Board is invited to consider the proposal to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of the Sapienza University of Rome (DISSE), the Department of Economics of the Roma Tre University (RM3) and the Centre for Economic and International Studies of the University of Rome Tor Vergata (CEIS). Specifically, the approval of the Executive Board is being sought to negotiate and finalize an MoU for the purpose of establishing a cooperation framework, substantially in accordance with the provisions presented in the annex hereto.
  2. In line with the IFAD Partnership Strategy,<sup>1</sup> IFAD has identified DISSE, the Department of Economics of RM3 and CEIS as relevant partners to promote the development of knowledge and expertise in areas of mutual interest such as agricultural development; rural poverty eradication and related development challenges; data gathering and research development approaches; migration; gender and youth employment; development and innovation of small- and medium-sized enterprises; and impact evaluation and assessments.
  3. All three of these potential partners are experienced in carrying out high-quality policy and research on economic issues that call for impact-oriented responses from the academic community. Their multidisciplinary approach to research and policy dialogue (which entails the participation of sociologists, economists, historians, psychologists, jurists, anthropologists and statisticians) represents an asset to IFAD, given its focus on impact and results in inclusive and sustainable rural economic growth.
- A. Department of Economics and Social Sciences, Sapienza University of Rome - Profile
4. DISSE is a Rome-based economic research centre established in January 2012 within the Sapienza University of Rome after the merge of the former Department of Social Sciences with the former Department of Economic and Social Analysis. Its main goal is to foster interdisciplinary research and promote higher education through undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.
  5. In terms of research orientation, DISSE activities fall into two areas: society and economy. The former includes the subfields: institutions, production and services; organizations, employment and human resources; cultural processes; and local development and the latter covers: international economic relations; public interventions in the economy; economic theory; and quantitative methods for economic and social analyses.

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<sup>1</sup> EB 2012/106/R.4.

## B. Department of Economics of Roma Tre University – Profile

6. The Department of Economics of RM3 was created in 1993 with the aim of promoting the scientific advancement and dissemination of both theoretical and applied socio-economic research. It follows a multidisciplinary approach for the study of the economy and of society, and fosters the integration of teaching with research. It offers an undergraduate degree in economics and several postgraduate programmes, including an international master's degree in human development and food security, a master's degree in cooperative business and a doctorate in economics.
7. For many years, IFAD staff have actively contributed to the master's degree in Human Development and Food Security run by Roma Tre University by delivering lectures, organizing seminars and supporting students in preparing their theses on specific thematic issues.
8. IFAD also supported the initiation phase of AGRINOVIA, a postgraduate programme on rural innovation launched in 2009 at the University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), and cofinanced by Roma Tre University, the Government of Italy and the French Embassy in Burkina Faso.

## C. Centre for Economic and International Studies of the University of Rome Tor Vergata – Profile

9. CEIS is a Rome-based economic research centre established in 1987 within the University of Rome Tor Vergata.
10. Its mission is to conduct high-quality policy-relevant research on economic issues that call for innovative and impact-oriented responses from the academic community and to promote advanced training in key areas of economics, thus empowering graduate students to pursue a career in economics, and other professionals to expand their potential and career opportunities. CEIS is committed to producing and disseminating outstanding research and analysis for the promotion of sustainable economic development, and to expand and improve public policy options in Italy and around the world.
11. Its research agenda covers different areas and fields of economics, with special attention to global macroeconomic topics. CEIS is fully funded beyond the University of Rome Tor Vergata and receives its financial support through donations, project grants and fellowships from several public and private national and international organizations.

## I. Recommendation

12. In accordance with article 8, section 2 of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the Executive Board is invited to authorize the President to negotiate and finalize a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of the Sapienza University of Rome; the Department of Economics of Roma Tre University; and the Centre for Economic and International Studies of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, for the purpose of establishing a cooperation framework, substantially in accordance with the provisions presented in the annex hereto. The signed memorandum of understanding will be submitted to the Board for information at a subsequent session.

Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of the University of Rome "La Sapienza", the Department of Economics of the University of "Roma Tre" and the Centre for Economic and International Studies of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (hereinafter referred to as the "Memorandum") by and between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (hereinafter referred to as "IFAD"), the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of the University of Rome "La Sapienza" (hereinafter referred to as "DISSE"), the Department of Economics of the University of "Roma Tre" (hereinafter referred to as "Department of Economics RM3") and the Centre for Economic and International Studies of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata" (hereinafter referred to as "CEIS"), hereinafter separately referred to as a "Party" and jointly referred to as "Parties".

WHEREAS IFAD is a specialized agency of the United Nations and an international financial institution duly established and existing under the Agreement Establishing IFAD, approved by the United Nations Conference on 13 June 1976 and entered into force on 30 November in 1977. IFAD's mandate is to invest in rural people in developing countries, empowering them to increase their food security and escape poverty by helping them build their resilience, expand their businesses and livelihoods.

WHEREAS DISSE was established in January 2012 thanks to the merge of the previous Department of Social Sciences of the University of Rome "La Sapienza", with the previous Department of Economic and Social Analysis (formerly Department of Economic Theory and Quantitative Methods for Political Choices). It gathers an interdisciplinary academic staff of sociologists, economists, historians, psychologists, jurists, anthropologists, and statisticians whose approach to research, whilst open to theory, is mainly of an empirical nature. Its main goal is to foster interdisciplinary research and promote higher education for Bachelor, Master, PhD and post-doctoral degrees.

WHEREAS the Department of Economics RM3 was created in 1993, with the aim to promote the scientific advancement and dissemination of both theoretical and applied socio-economic research. The Department of Economics RM3 follows a multidisciplinary approach to the study of the economy and of society, and fosters the integration and coordination between teaching and research.

WHEREAS CEIS was established in 1987 and is an internationally recognized economic research centre within the University of Rome Tor Vergata. Its main goal is to contribute to people's education and training, to scientific research and to the technological, organisational and social innovation needed to achieve a truly sustainable development in Italy, Europe and worldwide pursuant to the Sustainable Development Goals approved by the United Nations in 2015.

WHEREAS the Parties wish to cooperate in areas of common interest and make a more decisive impact towards the shared goal of agriculture sector development by capitalizing on their comparative advantages, and increasing complementarities and synergies;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties have come to the following understanding:

## Section 1 – Purpose

The Purpose of this Memorandum is to develop a framework for collaboration between the Parties in areas of common interest.

## Section 2 – Areas of Cooperation

Under this Memorandum the Parties will seek, within the limitations of their respective mandates, opportunities for collaboration in the following areas:

- a) agricultural development;
- b) rural poverty eradication and related development challenges;
- c) data gathering and research development approaches;
- d) migration;
- e) gender and youth employment;
- f) small and medium enterprise development and innovation;
- g) impact evaluation and assessments;
- h) any other areas as may be agreed upon between the Parties from time to time.

## Section 3 – Modes of Cooperation

3.1. In order to foster collaboration in the areas of common interest, the Parties will, subject to their respective mandates, policies and availability of resources:

- a) establish a network of experts in development for the purpose of connecting practitioners and researchers of the Parties and foster discussions;
- b) identify opportunities for collaborative research projects;
- c) share technical inputs and expertise;
- d) develop, organize and participate in teaching courses, modules, seminars and workshops;
- e) identify and undertake collaborative research projects and disseminate relevant results;

3.2. The Parties will hold consultative meetings, at least once a year, as part of regular exchange of information between the Parties in order to:

- a) provide overall strategic guidance for the implementation of this Memorandum and explore options for collaborative research projects as deemed appropriate;
- b) take stock of progresses made in the implementation and results achieved, exchange views on the lessons learned, identify outstanding matters and agree on appropriate follow-up actions.

3.3. The Italian Centre for International Development (ICID) of CEIS will facilitate regular consultation among the Parties and cooperation.

3.4. Any exchange of information between the Parties will be subject to their respective policies and procedures on the disclosure of information.

## Section 4 Acknowledgement and publicity

4.1. The Parties are encouraged to acknowledge or reference each other's involvement and contribution whenever possible. In particular, each Party may refer to its collaboration under this Memorandum with the other Parties in its internal documents. In doing so, the Parties will use neutral language that accurately reflects the actual

contribution of each Party. Terms such as “with the assistance of”, “in collaboration with” or “with the technical support of” may be appropriate.

4.2. The Parties shall mutually agree in writing on the format and wording of any press releases, publications, official statements, etc. regarding the activities contemplated in this Memorandum, prior to said press releases, publications, official statements, etc. being released to the public.

#### Section 5 Use of the names or emblems

Each Party will not use, without specific written authorization by the other Party concerned, the name of the other Party or of any of its bodies or subsidiaries, or the abbreviations of such name, or the emblem, logotype or other identifiers that contain any of these names or abbreviations and/or which are legally protected. This Section does not affect a Party's right to refer to the other Party in acknowledgements and publicity authorized in accordance with the preceding Section 4.

#### Section 6 Intellectual property rights

The Parties will agree in writing on the ownership of any intellectual property rights that may arise in any work which may result from the collaborative activities to be undertaken under this Memorandum.

#### Section 7 Representations and warranties

The Parties represent and warrant that they possess all requisite power and authority to enter into this Memorandum and to carry out the activities contemplated under this Memorandum.

#### Section 8 Obligations of the Parties

8.1. This Memorandum reflects the views and intentions of the Parties to cooperate on a non-exclusive basis, expressed in good faith but without the creation of any legal obligation or the incurrance of any liability of any of them. In particular, it is understood and agreed that nothing in this Memorandum: (a) will constitute, or be construed as an offer, promise or undertaking by the Parties to finance all or in part of any activity or project identified in or pursuant to this Memorandum; (b) shall be construed to create a joint venture, partnership, agency relationship, employment relationship, or any other relationship that may result in vicarious liability between or among the Parties; (c) shall be construed to create any commitment on the part of any Party to give preferred treatment to the other Parties in any matter contemplated under this Memorandum.

8.2. Any commitment, if desirable by the Parties, shall be reflected in separate agreements that may be entered into by the Parties under this Memorandum.

#### Section 9 Legal regime and administrative and financial arrangements

9.1. Any activity carried out by the Parties under this Memorandum will be subject to each of the Parties' internal policies, rules, regulations and procedures.

9.2. All activities carried out by the Parties under this Memorandum will be subject to specific written arrangements to be agreed upon between the Parties.

#### Section 10 Privileges and immunities

Nothing in or relating to this Memorandum will be construed as a waiver, renunciation or other modification of any of the privileges, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by IFAD under the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the Convention on the Privileges and

Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, and any other international treaty or convention, or under international customary law.

#### Section 11 Consultation

The Parties will consult and seek an amicable resolution in good faith of any issues arising out of, or in connection with the interpretation or application of any provision of this Memorandum.

#### Section 12 Effectiveness, extension and termination

12.1. This Memorandum will be effective as of the date of its signature by the Parties following the approval by the IFAD Executive Board. [If the signing occurs on different dates, this Memorandum will take effect on the date of its last signature].

12.2. It shall remain in force for a period of five years. Such period may be extended by mutual written consent of the Parties.

12.3. This Memorandum may be terminated by each Party by giving at least thirty (30) days' advance written notice to the other Parties. Such termination shall take effect as of the date specified in the termination notice, provided that the provisions herein contained will remain in effect to the extent necessary to permit an orderly settlement of all arrangements made with respect to ongoing cooperation activities. The termination of this Memorandum shall not affect contractual obligations that have been separately entered into by the Parties under this Memorandum.

12.4. The Parties may make this Memorandum publicly available in accordance with their respective policies on access to information.

#### Section 13 Communications

13.1. Each Party will designate an official (hereinafter referred to as "Official") who will be responsible for conducting relations under this Memorandum on its behalf. For the said purpose and until further notice, IFAD will be represented by Mr. Paul Winters, Director RIA; DISSE will be represented by Prof. Pierluigi Montalbano; the Department of Economics RM3 will be represented by Prof. Carlo Pietrobelli; CEIS will be represented by Prof. Furio C. Rosati.

13.2. Any notice or other communication to be given or made under this Memorandum will be addressed and sent to the attention of the Officials at the addresses below or such other additional or alternative official as each Party may designate by notice to the other Parties:

For IFAD:

Research and Impact Assessment Division  
Via Paolo di Dono, 44  
00142 Rome  
Italy

Tel: +39 06 54951  
Fax: +39 06 5043463  
Email: p.winters@ifad.org

For DI SSE:

Department of Economics and Social Sciences,  
Sapienza University of Rome  
P.le Aldo Moro, 5  
00185 Rome  
Italy

Tel: +39 06 49910739  
Fax: +39 06 49690326  
Email: [pierluigi.montalbano@uniroma1.it](mailto:pierluigi.montalbano@uniroma1.it)

For the Department of Economics RM3:  
Department of Economics - RM3  
Via Silvio D'Amico, 77  
00145 Rome  
Italy

Tel: +39 06 57335660  
Fax: +39  
Email: [carlo.pietrobelli@uniroma3.it](mailto:carlo.pietrobelli@uniroma3.it)

For CEIS:

Centre for Economic and International Studies  
Via Columbia 2  
00133 Rome  
Italy

Tel: + 39 06 72595601  
Fax: + 39 06 2020687  
Email: [segr.ceis@economia.uniroma2.it](mailto:segr.ceis@economia.uniroma2.it)



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, each acting through its duly Authorized Representative, have signed this Memorandum in four copies, in the English language

<p><b>INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Date and Place: _____</p>	<p><b>DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES OF THE , UNIVERSITY OF ROME "LA SAPIENZA"</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Date and Place: _____</p>
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<p><b>DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF "ROMA TRE"</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Date and Place: _____</p>	<p><b>CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME "TOR VERGATA"</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Date and place: _____</p>
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