

Memorandum of Understanding Between the CRSP Council, INSAH, IPM CRSP, and Virginia Tech.

I. OVERVIEW

This Memorandum of Understanding between the Institut du Sahel (INSAH), the Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) Council, the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) CRSP as the Lead CRSP, and OIRD/Virginia Tech as Management Entity entered into by the undersigned, is designed to establish a long-term collaborative research support program on commodities and areas with which the CRSP Council, INSAH, and their collaborating African institutions have common goals.

Background: *The CRSPs*

Collaborative research is carried out by the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) in many of the scientific disciplines that contribute to development. The most important efforts are those which improve the sustainability of food production systems in the developing countries with an emphasis on enhancing the quality of life for small-scale crop, animal, and fish farmers and their families. The Agency's Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs) are a long-term, multidisciplinary research and training initiative that capitalizes on the vast U.S. land-Grant University and College of Agriculture system that works with developing-country research programs. The currently functioning CRSPs are:

- Bean/Cowpea CRSP
- Integrated Pest Management CRSP (IPM CRSP)
- Peanut CRSP
- Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture CRSP
- Small Ruminant CRSP (SR CRSP)
- Soil Management CRSP (Tropsoils)
- Sorghum/Millet CRSP (INTSORMIL)
- Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management CRSP (SANREM CRSP)

The productive activities of these eight programs directly supports A.I.D.'s three part agricultural goal of helping smallholders in developing countries to improve their incomes, alleviate hunger, and maintain and improve the natural resource base upon which they depend for food, fuel, fiber, and shelter.

Consistent with the CRSP Council Memorandum of Understanding and the bylaws, the Council unanimously designated, on March 22, 1995, the IPM CRSP/OIRD, Virginia Tech to be the Lead CRSP to implement an InterCRSP NRM Initiative in West Africa. Accordingly, OIRD/Virginia Tech will serve as the Management Entity for this program and coordinate the activities of the participating CRSPs and lead the InterCRSP effort in West Africa.

INSAH

INSAH is a specialized institution of the Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS). The CILSS is a Sahelian inter-governmental regional organization charged with helping its member states coordinate and harmonize their development policies and strategies, with respect to food security and sustainable natural resources management. Its Executive Secretariat, based in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), is in charge of implementing its mandate. INSAH is responsible for broad subject-matter research analyses, as well as selected scientific and technical training, information, and documentation in the region. INSAH, as the research arm of CILSS has the mandate to coordinate research to support the CILSS development agenda, but also to promote regional cooperation between CILSS members and their neighboring countries. Therefore, INSAH establishes a close liaison with national agricultural research systems (NARS), development agencies, African and foreign universities, and inter-African and international organizations.

During the Heads of State and Government Conference of CILSS, held in Cape Verde in 1994, the countries renewed their commitment to the organization and its institutions. INSAH's mandate has been confirmed for carrying-out and coordinating research on regional food security and natural resources management issues, with particular attention to agro-socio-economic aspects and technology development transfer and adoption.

A. The Goal

The various CRSPs use similar methods to pursue the overall goal of alleviating hunger while sustaining the natural resource base upon which the populations of the developing countries depend. All of the CRSPs, and their collaborative NARSs, carry out research that leads to the development of ecologically and environmentally sound technologies. The knowledge they disclose and the innovations they devise help developing-country farmers manage their food-producing resources for sustainable agricultural yields.

B. Procedure for Establishment of the Collaborative Research Relationship

With mutual understanding of the CRSPs and INSAH with their goal and mandate, as described above, a collaborative research relationship is developed as follows:

1. Based on previous discussions and consultations on constraints to Natural Resource Management and related areas and research needs to relieve these constraints, project(s) will be prepared, reviewed, and selected through established procedures. Following this tentative approval, a formal collaborative agreement will be reached.

2. The collaborative research agreement will include: (a) the Memorandum of Understanding between the CRSP Council, the ME of the Lead CRSP, and INSAH; (b) a long-term Plan of Work with Annual Project Revisions to implement the research proposal(s) between the participating U.S. and member INSAH collaborating institutions with the research project(s) attached detailing research to be done.
3. Any number of Plan(s) of Work following these same procedures may be developed jointly with member INSAH collaborating institutions, as appropriate under this Memorandum.
4. After receipt and acceptance of these documents by the CRSP Council and the Management Entity of the InterCRSP Lead CRSP, the NRM InterCRSP, funds can be released to implement the research.
5. All programs and procedures will follow CRSP guidelines, USAID regulations, CRSP Council guidelines, and those of ME IPM CRSP (OIRD, Virginia Tech).

C. INSAH / Host Country Contributions

The Contribution of INSAH and the member INSAH collaborating institutions to this agreement will include the following:

1. The Regional InterCRSP Coordinator at INSAH.
2. The Country-level Coordinator at each collaborating country.
3. Additional collaborative scientists, as available.
4. Offices, laboratories, land, and agricultural facilities, as available, for conduct of the Program.

D. CRSP Council / Lead CRSP

The Contribution of the CRSP Council / Lead CRSP shall include the following:

1. A U.S.-based InterCRSP Coordinator, backstopping support for the Regional InterCRSP Coordinator based at INSAH.
2. Senior scientists from CRSP collaborating institutions, or scientists identified by CRSP member institutions, for short-term work in the INSAH cooperation region.
3. Senior scientists and support personnel for long-term work on campus in the U.S.
4. Graduate research assistantships for personnel from the INSAH cooperation region, or from the collaborating CRSP member institutions, with funding from donor(s) to support the program.
5. Supplies, equipment, and travel for CRSP personnel in the collaborating institution.

6. Travel to U.S. or third countries for certain research personnel from the INSAH cooperation region with funding from donor(s).
7. The joint organization with INSAH of periodic workshops, for the benefit of host country CRSP collaborators and collaborating U.S. universities (CRSP members), to facilitate the exchange of information between researchers.

II. ADMINISTRATION OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

A. *Financial Management*

The CRSPs are funded by USAID and the participating U.S. institutions, and administered by the Management Entity located at the lead university of each CRSP, and is responsible to USAID for fiscal matters and research progress under their project(s). Each participating U.S. institution in turn is responsible to its Management Entity for fiscal matters and research progress under its project(s). The collaborating institutions under the INSAH MOU are, in turn, responsible to all the participating U.S. institution for project expenditures and research progress.

1. All project expenditures will be managed by the U.S. participating institution, which is held accountable by the Management Entity (OIRD/Virginia Tech), for the total project funds. Funds to be expended by the INSAH cooperation region can be disbursed directly to a host country institution, an International Bank, or another fiscally auditable entity agreeable to the Lead CRSP, the CRSP Council, INSAH, the collaborating U.S. institution, and the USAID Mission.
2. Funds to be expended directly on behalf of, but not specifically in the INSAH cooperation region, such as for individuals studying in the U.S. or for purchase of research materials to be sent to collaborating INSAH Host Country programs, may most efficiently and most cost effectively be expended by the collaborating U.S. institution with the concurrence of the collaborators.
3. INSAH designated Host Country Collaborating Program is administratively responsible for all funds provided to it for expenditure under the CRSP Council / Lead CRSP and will provide, to the participating U.S. institution, documentation of expenditures as outlined in the Plan of Work for fiscal audit as requested by the participating U.S. institutions. It will be the responsibility of the ME (OIRD/Virginia Tech) to conduct an external audit, if required by USAID. INSAH collaborating Host Country institutions will also be responsible for submitting a research progress report to INSAH, the U.S. institution collaborator, and the Management Entity of the Lead CRSP.

4. In respect of the laws and regulations of the INSAH collaborating countries, equipment to be purchased under this project, pursuant to the agreement, will be free of all duties, tariffs, or customs levies and other obligations applicable in any of the INSAH collaborating countries, whether the purchase is made in the U.S., locally, or in another country. Equipment purchases should be approved by USAID and purchase requests should be made to ME (OIRD/Virginia Tech).

B. Duration

1. Termination: This agreement will officially commence on the date of completion of its signing.

If any party to this agreement decides to terminate, it must provide at least three (3) months advance notice to the other party.

2. This Memorandum of Understanding, or Plan(s) covered by this document, shall continue until terminated by:
 - a. Immediate notification of termination of the CRSP Council / Lead CRSP funding grant by USAID Washington.
 - b. Acceptance of a request to terminate by INSAH to the CRSP Council, Lead CRSP, and the ME (OIRD/Virginia Tech).
 - c. Acceptance by the Board of Directors of the CRSP Council of a recommendation to terminate by the CRSP Council and the Lead CRSP (ME and the IPM CRSP Board).
3. Either the U.S. or INSAH collaborating institutions may request the Management Entity (OIRD/Virginia Tech) of the Lead CRSP institution to consider adjustments in their collaborative arrangements.
4. The CRSPs are continuing projects with funds appropriated annually.

III. ADJUSTMENT OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH OTHER CRSP COUNCIL / U.S. RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Additional CRSP / U.S. institutions may enter into research agreements with INSAH collaborating institutions upon joint concurrence with this Memorandum of Understanding as stipulated in Section I and II, and the mutual agreement of a Plan of Work.

IV. CONTACTS

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B. U.S.

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Lead CRSP and Management Entity (NRM InterCRSP, West Africa)
IPM CRSP - Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program
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V. APPROVALS

Having read this Memorandum of Understanding, the persons below have signed their names and shown their agency affiliation indicating their concurrence with the collaborative research relationships outlined therein.

For CRSP Council:

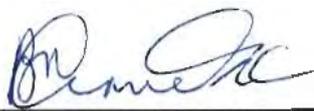


John M. Yohe
Chair, CRSP Council

2/20/96

Date

For IPM CRSP and NRM InterCRSP, West Africa:

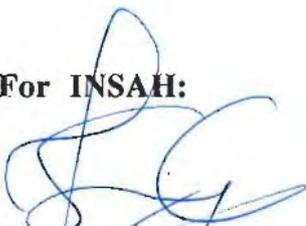


Brhane Gebrekidan
Program Director, IPM CRSP

3/3/96

Date

For INSAH:



M.S. Sompo-Ceesay
Director General, INSAH

06 JAN 1996

Date

For Virginia Tech:



S.K. De Datta
Director, Office of International Research and Development; Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech; Principal Investigator, IPM CRSP and NRM InterCRSP, West Africa

2/29/96

Date

For USAID:

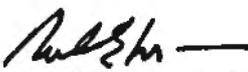
F. Richardson King, AFRISCI/AFGE

W.P. WARREN, G/EG/AFS

USAID Representative

March 11, 1996

Date



Paul E. Torgersen
President, Virginia Tech

3/19/96

Date