

Memorandum of Understanding

Between
Damascus University in the Syrian Arab Republic
and
Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)
and
Czech University of Life Science Prague (CULS), Czech Republic

The first Party: Damascus University is considered the mother University of the Five Syrian Universities. It dates back to the early beginning of the twentieth century. It is represented by its president.

The second Party: Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD). It is an Arab specialized organization that works within the framework of the Arab League. The ACSAD aims to develop agricultural and water research in arid and semi-arid zones, and exchange information and experiences in ways that help take advantage of scientific advances, and transfer a development and localization of modern agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural production, and improve the management of water resources in these areas. It is represented by its general director.

The third party: Czech University of Life Science Prague (CULS), Czech Republic, EU. It is the oldest Czech university of life sciences in the Czech Republic and it was founded in 1906. It is mainly concerned with the science of agriculture, environment, engineering, landscape management, and economics. In 2003 the European system of education began following the Bologna declaration principles. The University is represented by its Rector.

Believing in the importance of the role of scientific research in the establishment of sound rules of sustainable development, and to provide information, scientific and technical data for bodies responsible for planning and decision-making.

And based on the mutual wish of the two universities and the Arab center (ACSAD) to establish a cooperative relationship with the aim of exchanging the knowledge and experience, and to activate the scientific research and develop it in order to benefit from its results, and the application of the criteria of the best use of natural and human resources.

A memorandum of understanding is held and it includes the following articles:

Article 1: Objectives

- Strengthen the ACSAD role at the international level as a technical, scientific and research expert in the field of agriculture and water, and the work to create conditions for a fruitful international cooperation environment with European and Arab parties that are active in the same field.
- Establish and develop scientific and research cooperation relations, and knowledge and experiences exchange.
- Apply sound management of natural resources, and sustainable use.
- Establish joint studies, research and projects in the fields of agriculture and water.

Article 2: Joint cooperation fields and mechanisms.

- Prepare documents, projects, studies and joint research plans, commensurate with the priorities and plans of each of the two universities and the Arab Center.
- Take advantage of the infrastructure available to the three parties, and exchange of scientific and technical expertise, and participation in scientific, research and technical committees they pose.
- Joint organizing of scientific meetings and training courses, to which the ACSAD can invite a number of faculty members in the two universities to participate in organizing and implementation of the specialized training courses held by the center, and can invite a number -to be agreed upon at its time - of graduate students in the two universities to join such courses, and access to the accumulated experience it has, and the research projects it carried out, especially in the fields of agriculture and water.
- The two universities and the Arab Center (ACSAD) exchange all publications and periodicals issued them, and is subject to the laws and regulations on intellectual property rights and moral force in each of the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Czech Republic, and the Arab League.

- Continuous consultation between all parties in the various areas of common interest to enhance cooperation efforts, and developing and improving its efficiency.
- Take into account the laws and regulations applicable to all parties when applying any activity of the aforementioned activities.

Article 3: programs Implementation

- The fields and mechanisms of cooperation and mentioned in the second article are as a general framework for cooperation between all parties, and a reference for each executive program to be agreed upon later.
- Establish Executive programs for each future cooperation activity and define the mechanisms of implementation and mutual obligations, and the financial terms of the agreement among the three parties.
- The executive programs are decided by the General Director of the Arab Center (ACSAD), and the Rector of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, and the President of Damascus University.
- Each executive program is a supplement to this MOU.
- Take into account the laws and regulations applicable to all parties when applying any activity of the aforementioned activities.

Article 4: Financial conditions

- The home university undertakes to cover travel expenses of its delegates, while the host university covers accommodation expenses and local transportation in the short visits.
- Mutual activities expenses are agreed on by official correspondence among the three parties.
- The possibility to exempt researchers from the subscription fee in workshops and scientific conferences for each party when their staff members are accepted.

Article 5: Final Provisions

- 1- This memorandum becomes effective from the day following the signature date and shall remain in effect for (5) years. This is subject to the regulations in force of each party who has signed it
- 2- This memorandum may be renewed for five years upon a written consent of all Parties.

- 3- Each one of the parties may terminate this memorandum by presenting a written notification to the other parties, and the termination shall become effective three months after the submission of this notification. Upon cancellation, terms of the present memorandum remain valid in case of delegates already dispatched in accordance with the memorandum up until the end of their designated term. The same applies for research projects and activities till their completion and delegates continue their missions assigned to them in the framework of the memorandum until they finish their delegation period.
- 4- Each party may nominate a coordinator for this memorandum to be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the MOU terms, and submit an annual report about the progress of implementation.
- 5- Any modification or change, deletion or add in any item or article in this memorandum will be after consultation and agreement of all parties through official correspondence. This will be effective after ratification by the three parties. This will be subject to the regulations in force of each party.

This memorandum has been drawn up in three original copies in English and Arabic with equal validity for both.

Prof. Dr. Mhd Hassan Al Kurdi
President
Damascus University



Prof. Dr. Rafiq Ali Saleh
General Director
Arab Center for the Studies of
Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)



Prof. Dr. Jiří Balík
Rector
Czech University of Life
Sciences Prague

