

31 March 2009

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION AND LIVESTOCK
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, NATURE AND FOOD QUALITY
OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS**

**THE MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS**

on

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXTENSION

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and the Government of the Netherlands, represented by the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands, also on behalf of the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands (parties from both countries are hereinafter referred to as the Signatories),

Recognising that both sustainable agriculture and education are cornerstones of the economy and society of Afghanistan;

Acknowledging that the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to rebuild the educational infrastructure in Afghanistan is deeply concerned with the development of the agricultural sector, including its contribution to food security and poverty reduction;

Aware that the Government of Afghanistan has indicated that its main priorities closely linked to agricultural development are food security, earning foreign exchange, poverty reduction, improved income and status of women, developing alternatives to poppy, and a basis found in a strong private sector.

Realizing the willingness of other multilateral and country donors to contribute to this development and priorities;

Realizing that particular attention is needed for technical and vocational education and training, and being aware of the need to strengthen the national Afghan education and training system;

Convinced that education and training in the field of agriculture will provide a sound and solid basis and impetus needed for the envisaged development of the agricultural sector;

Having expressed their willingness to cooperate closely in the field of agricultural education, training and extension in the Letter of Cooperation signed in Kabul on January 8, 2009;

Reiterating the willingness expressed by the Netherlands to act as a lead donor in the field of agricultural education, training and extension in Afghanistan;

Reconfirming their commitment to continue this cooperation, have jointly come to the following understanding:

Objective and scope

The general objective of this MoU is to strengthen the national Afghan agricultural education and training system, with the aim of improving food security, reducing poverty, developing sustainable agriculture and stimulating private sector development in Afghanistan.

The programme will cover eleven core implementing activities to meet the objective, to be executed in two phases: the inception phase and the implementation phase.

During the inception phase, covering the period April 2009 – October 2010, the Netherlands is committed to providing the Government of Afghanistan with advisory and technical support to:

1. Formulate a National Agricultural TVET policy document that elaborates the details of the National Afghan TVET system for agriculture, and will act as the framework for the national TVET system.
2. Draft and contribute to a multiannual National Programme for Agriculture Education
3. Develop a financial modality for multi-donor support to the National Programme for Agriculture Education.
4. Develop a comprehensive framework for all levels of Vocational Education and Training for professionals from farmers to agriculturalists and extension workers.
5. Develop and establish a National Agriculture Education Centre (NAEC) in Kabul, comprising of a Teacher Training and Curriculum Development Unit, and an Applied Research and Documentation Unit.
6. Prepare through staff training for the staffing and redevelopment of two regional institutes: a training centre near Kabul, and an agricultural school with training centre in Uruzgan.
7. Before completion of the implementation phase, a follow-up MoU for the implementation phase will be elaborated.

During the implementation phase, covering the period April 2010 – April 2013, the Netherlands is committed to provide the Government of Afghanistan with advisory and technical support to:

8. Implement the multiyear National Programme for Agriculture Education in cooperation with other donors
9. Redevelop the role and educational function of two Regional Institutes as linking pins between the NAEC at the central level and the agricultural practice at provincial and district level.
10. Establish and implement a centre near Kabul for practical training in small scale urban horticulture.
11. Establish an agricultural school with attached practical training centre in Uruzgan.

The Government of Afghanistan will take ownership of and ensure the sustainability of all activities carried out, documents produced and infrastructure created within the scope of this MoU.

Executors

The principal responsible for the execution of this MoU is the Minister of Education of the Government of Afghanistan, in close consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of the Government of Afghanistan and in cooperation with the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kabul.

Steering Committee

To monitor and guide the process, the Ministry of Education of Afghanistan will establish and chair a Steering Committee for the supervision of the national programme for restructuring and developing the national agricultural education system. Steering Committee members will include representatives from relevant Afghan ministries, including the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kabul will be represented at the Steering Committee as external advisor. At the discretion of the Steering Committee, additional donor countries may be admitted as advisors to the Steering Committee.

Responsibilities

The Government of Afghanistan will, in accordance with Afghan law, be responsible for the execution of designated procurement procedures, overseeing and monitoring building activities in Afghanistan.

The Government of Afghanistan will identify, acquire, employ and pay local staff and local experts, on the basis of competence and performance.

The Government of Afghanistan will provide for an incentive scheme for staff trained locally and abroad in order for them to join the programme as intended after finishing the training.

The Government of Afghanistan will ensure that appropriate budgetary reservations are made in the national budget from 2010 (Afghan year 1389) onwards to include the costs of the new agricultural vocational education and training system throughout the country, including the National Centre, the proposed seven regional centres and associated training facilities.

The Netherlands will act as lead donor for the programme as described in this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Netherlands will support the Government of Afghanistan in identifying and engaging further donors that are interested in supporting this sector, be it in kind by contributing expertise or financially through the appropriate channels.

Finances and Funding Modalities

For the inception phase, the Netherlands will contract an external organisation through which the financing and management of the activities will be channelled. The disbursement of funds will be based on one or more project documents, always including budget, work plan and liquidity request, to be submitted by the Minister of Education of Afghanistan to the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kabul via the contracted external organisation and to be laid down in separate contribution agreements.

During the implementation of the inception phase, the Signatories will together be responsible for setting up financial channels for transfer of funds for the implementation phase of the project.

The Netherlands commits itself to support the objectives of this MoU and hereby commits a maximum amount of €5.000.000 (five million Euros) to the inception phase. On the basis of the plans developed during the inception phase, the Netherlands will commit additional contributions, to be confirmed in a follow-up MoU which will be developed and signed at least two months before completion of the inception phase.

The running and maintenance cost of any infrastructures which may be set up under the inception phase will fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.

Reporting

The Ministry of Education, as chair of the steering committee, will agree with the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kabul on a schedule for regular reporting to the Government of the Netherlands according to provisions in the abovementioned contribution agreements.

Harmonisation

The Ministry of Education takes the responsibility for ensuring that all programmatic action under this MoU will respect the initiatives and actions of other projects of the Ministry of Education, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and of other Afghan Ministries, and where possible harmonise efforts.

Suspension

Each Signatory reserves the right for reasons of national security, national interest, public order or public health to suspend temporarily, either in whole or in part, the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding. Suspension will come into effect immediately after notification has been given to the other Signatory through diplomatic channel.

Revision, modification and amendment

A Signatory may request in writing a revision, modification or amendment of all or any part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Any revision, modification or amendment agreed to by the Signatories will be confirmed in writing and will form part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Such revision, modification or amendment will come into effect on the date determined by the Signatories.

Settlement of dispute

Any difference or dispute between the Signatories concerning the interpretation and/or implementation and/or application of any of the provisions of the MoU will be settled amicably through mutual consultation and/or negotiations between the Signatories through diplomatic channels.

Coming into operation, duration, termination

This MoU will become effective on the date of signing, and will cover the inception phase of April 4, 2009 through October 31, 2010. Ultimately four months before the end of this phase, Signatories will discuss the arrangements for the implementation phase.

Notwithstanding anything in this article, a Signatory may terminate this MoU by notifying the other Signatory of its intention to terminate this MoU by notice of writing through diplomatic channels, at least three (3) months prior to its intention to do so.

The foregoing record represents the understanding reached between the Afghan Ministry of Education, the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality, also on behalf of the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands.

Signed in triplicate at Kabul on 4 April 2009,

Signatures:

Ghulam Farooq Wardak
Minister of Education
of the Government of the
Islamic Republic of
Afghanistan

Muhammad Asif Rahimi
Minister of Agriculture,
Irrigation and Livestock
of the Government of the
Islamic Republic of
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Gerda Verburg
Minister of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality,
also on behalf of the
Minister for Development
Cooperation of the
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Netherlands