

AGREEMENT FOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Between

Agricultural Research Agency of Sardinia (Agris),

Loc. Bonassai, Olmedo Italy

College of Pastoral Agriculture Science and Technology (CPAST),

Lanzhou, Cina

I. PURPOSE

College of Pastoral Agriculture Science and Technology (CPAST) and Agris Sardegna (subsequently termed as Agris) believe that the quality of their research and teaching is strengthened by the establishment of international cooperation links and wish to enter into research collaboration, with a view to their mutual enrichment in scientific, academic and cultural areas.

II. OBJECTIVE

The general objective of this Agreement is to establish long-term research collaboration in fields which are compatible with the orientation of each party, and which are relevant to the scientific, social and cultural interests and needs of the countries in which the parties are respectively located. The initial focus will be research collaboration in the area of Agricultural Science between the CPAST and Agris in the :

- A. Exchange of students: mostly of interest for CPAST ;
- B. Exchange of staff: of interest for Agris and CPAST;
- C. Collaborative research projects: of interest for Agris and CPAST;
- D. Exchange of information and publications: of interest for Agris and CPAST;
- E. Special short-term programs for professional and academic groups: of interest for Agris and CPAST;
- F. Promotion of lectures, research workshops, symposia, and other activities jointly developed by the these institutions: of interest for Agris and CPAST;

For purpose of this Agreement, "researchers" means the following:

- a) Faculty members (CPAST)
- b) Postdoctoral fellows (CPAST and Agris)
- c) Research staff members (Agris)

III. SCOPE

This agreement may extend to any recognized academic field at either institution, subject to the prior approval of the administration of the host institution.

IV. EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS

- A. Applicants for participation will be selected according to previously established criteria for the exchange program planned. They will be selected by the home institution and subject to final acceptance by the host institution. All participants must be officially registered as full-time students at the home University or as a permanent or temporary staff researcher, as a condition of acceptance into the exchange program.
- B. Students pursuant to this agreement must show evidence of **good level** of English language proficiency (intermediate or upper).
- C. Exchange candidates must have completed at least three academic year of study at the home

University or at least one year of experience as a researcher at Agris.

- D. It is agreed that both institutions will aim to fill one or more semester exchange placements per academic year. Students interested in participating in two semesters at the host institution will count as two exchange placements.
- E. Exchange students may study at the host institution for one semester or one academic year.
- F. Both institution will forward application materials to *partner institution* by October [30 October] for spring admission, and April [30 April] for fall semester admission. Both *Partner institution* will inform of its final admission decision within thirty days of receipt of application materials.
- G. All students/researchers must carry health, emergency evacuation and repatriation insurance that is valid in the host nation.
- H. Each student/researcher shall be subject to the regulations of the host institution and the host nation. Each student/researcher will enjoy the rights and privileges of students at the host institution.
- I. The host Institution will make every effort to facilitate integration of exchange students/researchers.
- J. Both institutions subscribe to a policy of equal opportunity and will not deny participation to students based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, creed, age, veteran status, or disability.
- K. The host research station will issue appropriate documents for visa purposes in accordance with their respective applicable laws and regulations. It is the responsibility of the individual exchange student/researcher to obtain a visa in a timely manner.

V. EXCHANGE OF STAFF

- A. Both institutions agree to encourage staff participation in exchange program activities.
- B. Applicants for participation in the exchange will be selected by the home institution and will be subject to acceptance by the host institution.
- C. The period of exchange will be determined by the purpose of the exchange. The duration of the staff exchanges shall be arranged as appropriate and in accordance with the established rules and practices of the host institution.
- D. The home institution will maintain their staff member on full salary and benefits for the period of exchange. The host institution will supply office space, library privileges, technology linkage, and other facilities appropriate to the position at the host institution.
- E. All staff shall be covered by health, emergency evacuation and repatriation insurance that is valid in the host nation. The cost of insurance will be paid by the participants or their University/research station, depending on the home University/research station policy.
- F. Exchange personnel are subject to the laws of the host country, to the rules and regulations of the host institution, and the cultural mores of the host nation.
- G. This agreement pertains to exchange participants only, and does not include spouses or dependents.

VI. RESERCH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Each party will nominate one (or, if appropriate, more than one) research program director to ensure that the research collaboration proceeds according to a reasonable schematic plan and to ensure that the terms of this Agreement are carried out. Each parties may at any time name a successor to, or replacement of, its research program director(s).

VII. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

In the context of their respective policies and procedures, the two parties agree to own jointly any intellectual property that has been produced collaboratively. For intellectual property which has been developed separately by either party, ownership is retained by the originating party.

VIII. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Both institutions agree to develop initiatives that are of mutual benefit to students, academic, and non-academic staff. These initiatives will be developed collaboratively and will be authorized by the appropriate administrators on each campus. Details of new initiatives will be negotiated by both parties, as the need arises.

IX. FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

Each party acknowledges to the other that it subscribes to a policy of nondiscrimination, which requires its employees not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, religion, or national origin. Each party shall abide by these principles in the administration of this Agreement and neither party shall impose criteria for the exchange of researchers which would violate these principles of non-discrimination.

X. LANGUAGE

Although a translation of this Agreement may be prepared in another language, it is understood that the English version of this Agreement will be the official binding document between the parties. Furthermore it is agreed that oral and written communications between people involved and all documents sourced from collaborative projects in the framework of this agreement will be in English.

XI. ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Each institution will appoint a liaison officer who shall be responsible for all matters concerned with this agreement.

XII. DURATION, CONDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT

- A. This agreement is effective upon the signature of the designated officials of each institution.
- B. This agreement will be valid for five years from the date of signature.
- C. It is intended that exchanges be reciprocal, within a five-year period. Every effort will be made to maintain an exchange balance within a calendar year. Reciprocity shall be subject to periodic review by both University/research station. The absence of exchanges during any one calendar year is possible and does not nullify this agreement.
- D. Modifications may be made to the agreement, upon written acceptance by both institutions.
- E. Either institution may terminate this agreement with six months' written notice. Exchanges planned or in progress when termination is instituted will be satisfactorily completed.
- F. The agreement may be renewed by mutual consent of both parties, following an evaluation of all components of the program.

Head of Agris
Dott. Agostino Pintus

Partner Institution Contact
Head of CFAST
Prof . Foujiang Hou