

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
For Piloting “Agriculture and Food Security” as
optional subject for Classes IX and X**

Signed between

Ministry of Education

And

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

30th January, 2013

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1. PREAMBLE

The Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) inspired by the long association and collaboration in integrating topics on nature, environment, and agriculture in core subjects and student clubs activities since 1960s, recognizes the need to further the partnership for introducing Agriculture (crops, livestock and forestry) as an optional subject in the education system of Bhutan. This proposition emanates from the predominance of agriculture in the national economy and security, cherished association between nature, farming and livelihood, and the need to prepare youth to appreciate nobility in toiling of soil as a basic life supporting skill and social values befitting the Bhutanese culture. To curtail the invasive unemployment issues, there is an urgent need to endow students with cognitive skills in application of fundamental scientific principles into day-to-day life and also provide multiple academic pathways to become productive citizens.

To encompass the occupational objective of this proposition, the bilateral association between MoE and MoAF needs to expand into shared vision of multiple stakeholders.

1.1 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education has an education policy that ‘ensures an education system that responds effectively to social and economic trends as they emerge, and meets the diverse needs of different communities, employers, and the wider society’. Improving the relevance of national curriculum through diversification is seen as way forward for the 21st Century Bhutanese Education and this can be better achieved through multi-sectoral partnership of the stakeholders. The inclusion of ‘Agriculture and Food Security Curriculum’ in the school education system will be example of such a collaboration.

1.2 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) upholds the poverty alleviation as the principle development goal. MoAF through the Council for RNR Research of Bhutan (CoRRB) implements a MoE-MoAF joint School Agriculture Program (SAP). MoAF also has five Research and Development Centres in Yusipang, Bajo, Jakar, Wengkhari and Bhur which can act as a principle resource centre for the schools.

2. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MoU is to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each Ministry as they work towards the collective venture of collaboration to:

- 2.1 Introduce “*Agriculture and Food Security Curriculum*” (AgFSC) as optional subjects from class IX to XII following the directive of the AgFS Curriculum Implementation Policy Framework (AgFSIPF).
- 2.2 Incorporate AgFS policy in the mandate and in the plans of each ministry.
- 2.3 Institute and facilitate the taskforce to work on the development of the AgFS Courses, implementation strategies, monitoring and supporting the implementation of AgFS, and assessment and maintenance of quality standard of Vocational Skills based on the framework.
- 2.4 Provide budget for training the professionals (Teachers), training materials and equipment/facilities to enhance the optional subjects from class IX to X to Elective subjects in

class XI to XII and any expenditure that may be required by the taskforce and the professionals involved in the implementation of AgFS in schools.

- 2.5 Develop joint academic programme on agriculture, jointly seek support from (Royal Civil Service Commission) RCSC and Ministry of Finance (relevant agencies) to approve human resources, funds, and build on the strengths of the respective parties through partnership.
- 2.6 Where possible undertake to share experiences and information based on their respective national and global network subject to the existing institutional mandates.
- 2.7 Access to facilities such as research plots, library, training facilities, equipment, and inputs at preferential rates and general support in terms of settling in, subject to the relevant party's existing rules and regulations.
- 2.8 Jointly monitor, evaluate and report on the pilot of Agriculture and Food Security curriculum and follow up to support effective implementation by schools.

3. PRINCIPLES AND OBLIGATIONS

Contained in the scope and principles, MoE and MoAF, consented to sign this MoU and concur to specific responsibilities as detailed below.

3.1 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- 3.1.1 Incorporate AgFS policy in the mandate and the plans of the ministry.
- 3.1.2 Designate the Department of Curriculum Research and Development (DCRD) as the focal agency for this MoU.
- 3.1.3 Lead curriculum development and adaptation of AgFS courses to be offered as optional subject for students of class IX to X.
- 3.1.4 Formalize AgFS as an optional subject in class IX and X and gradually develop into an Elective subject in class XI and XII.
- 3.1.5 Lead the development of assessment tools in collaboration with relevant agencies.
- 3.1.6 Identify pilot schools in consultation with the Dzongkhag Education Officers (DEOs), inform and facilitate the establishment of rapport between the CoRRB, RNR Research and Development Centers (RNR-RDC) of MoAF and the schools on the launching of pilot program from 2013 academic session.
- 3.1.7 Facilitate the advocacy of AgFS implementation in schools with the help of CoRRB & RNR-RDCs.
- 3.1.8 Facilitate in the development of monitoring and support mechanism on the AgFS implementation in schools as subjects.
- 3.1.9 Strengthen SAP with the recruitment of CNR professionals (diploma graduate) as instructors to support SAP and AgFS optional subjects.

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- 3.1.10 Facilitate training programme on the AgFS through cost sharing on training materials and training equipments to enhance SAP to be functional in providing students with required skills and concepts of the vocation.
- 3.1.11 Liaise with RCSC and RUB and facilitate the recruitment of CNR graduates in schools to support the implementation of AgFS and SAP.
- 3.1.12 Coordinate and conduct evaluation of the piloting phase and submit detail report and recommendations to both the Ministries for the future actions.

3.2 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

- 3.2.1 Incorporate AgFS policy in the mandate and in the plans of the ministry.
- 3.2.2 Designate Council for RNR Research of Bhutan (CoRRB) as the focal agency for this MoU.
- 3.2.3 Facilitate in the development and adaptation of AgFS to be offered as optional subjects for the students of IX to XII.
- 3.2.4 Facilitate in the adaptation and development of SAP in schools for their effectiveness involving Department of School Education and Department of Curriculum Research and Development.
- 3.2.5 Facilitate the development of strategies of AgFS implementation, monitoring and assessment tools for maintaining the vocational skills standard in schools.
- 3.2.6 Mobilize fund and organize training for teachers teaching the Agriculture subject through regular SAP fund.
- 3.2.7 Identify and designate Central Programmes as learning centre for students.
- 3.2.8 Support the designated Central Programmes adequately to enable AgFS implementation in schools with instructional material development, equipment and professionals.
- 3.2.9 Designate one RNR officials either from RNR-RDC or Dzongkhag RNR sector as the external examiner for each pilot school, who will provide technical advice and also conduct assessment of student's project work.
- 3.2.10 Jointly with DCRD, facilitate and participate in advocacy talk on agriculture curriculum in school.
- 3.2.11 Supply of tools, seeds and other equipment to strengthen SAP and support to AgFS implementation in schools.
- 3.2.12 Carryout regular monitoring and supporting AgFS curriculum implementation in schools and conduct skills training needs assessment jointly with concerned agencies under the Ministry of Education.



3.2.13 Conduct joint evaluation of AgFS curriculum implementation in the schools, facilitate formalization of AgFS as an Optional subject in IX and X, as an Elective subject in XI and XII, and support AgFS in schools till the schools no longer require support from MoAF.

4. VALIDITY OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This MOU will become effective when the signatures of parties appear on it and will remain valid for a period of four (4) years. The MoU may be terminated by mutual consent. Specific projects underway during that time will be phased out gradually.

5. RENEWAL

This MOU shall be subject to review annually prior to the end of four (4) years where in the parties will decide about the renewal of the agreement for a further period as well as the terms and conditions that will apply.

6. EXCLUSIVITY

This MoU represents the total agreements between the parties to the exclusion of other discussions, proposals or undertakings in written or oral form. No addition to or amendment of or agreed termination of this agreement shall be of any force or effect unless in writing and signed by parties or their duly authorized representatives.

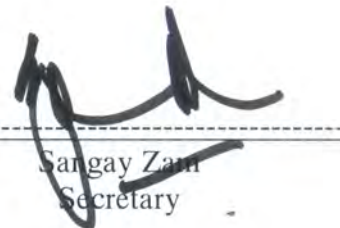
Signed in two original copies on the 30th of January 2013

For and on behalf of the
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests



Sherub Gyaltshen
Secretary

For and on behalf of the
Ministry of Education



Sangay Zam
Secretary