MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Integral Valorization of Bioproduction Research and Curriculum Consortium

Developed within the Framework created by the
EC-US Cooperation Program in Higher Education
and Vocational Education and Training

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
Fayetteville, Arkansas, U.S.A.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Ames, Iowa, U.S.A.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas, U.S.A.

UNIVERSITEIT GENT
Gent, Belgium, EC

KARL-FRANZENS UNIVERSITAT GRAZ
Graz, Austria, EC

INSTITUT NATIONAL POLYTECHNIQUE DE TOULOUSE
Toulouse, France, EC
production, "green" food and non-food products and clean technology. The members of the Integral Valorization of Bio-production Research and Curriculum Education Consortium from the United States are University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Iowa State University and Kansas State University. The members for the European Community are University of Gent (Belgium), Karl-Franzens Universitat Graz (Austria) and Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse (France).

The consortium members seek to purposefully share their respective reservoir of faculty, students, and administrative staff resources, both through planned and systematic geographic mobility exchange of students and faculty and through the use of new technologies when possible, including computer technology and worldwide networks. The institutions involved in this consortium will draw on their unique characteristics and operative conditions to create a greater openness to international cooperation and collaboration at their respective campuses.

The main focus of the program is to facilitate student mobility among institutions of higher education with a common subject matter focus through multilateral curricular development and to establish a network of scholars working towards the development of a joint curriculum and delivery. Members of this consortium are committed to working toward the following: 1) recognition of credits for students among participating institutions in the four countries; 2) faculties within the same or related disciplines working together in the development of improved, new, or joint curriculum, teaching materials, methods and modules; 3) opportunities for students to work towards achieving a second language proficiency.

2.0 FACULTY COLLABORATION

Integrating the uniqueness of each member of the Consortium, collaborative efforts will focus on the academic areas of agriculture, food science, biotechnology, processing, chemical transformations and environmental sciences. The proposed curriculum emphasizes the importance of continued interest in the development and modification of raw materials.

3.0 STUDENT EXCHANGES

Each year, each member of the Consortium will identify up to nine (9) students, of which up to 3 students will study at each of the transatlantic partners for an average of 5 months (one semester). Students will remain students of their home institution and must register as full-time students at the host institution. To the extent possible, the universities will attempt to respect the planned number of student exchanges and to keep a balance in terms of the number of students exchanged with each of its partner countries.

3.1 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students participating in exchanges must satisfy all admission requirements established by the host institution, including those related to academic qualifications and language ability (where language proficiency applies). Students will be nominated by their home institution based on academic skills and language proficiency and be approved by the Selection Committee of the
Whereas the Integral Valorization of Bio-production Research and Curriculum Education Consortium (hereinafter “IVBP” or “the Consortium”) is comprised of UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, Fayetteville, Arkansas, U.S.A.; IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A.; KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, Manhattan, Kansas, USA; UNIVERSITEIT GENT, Gent, Belgium, EC; KARL-FRANZENS UNIVERSITAT GRAZ, Graz, Austria, EC; and INSTITUT NATIONAL POLYTECHNIQUE DE TOULOUSE, Toulouse, France, EC; and

Whereas Consortium members agree that sustainable development of energy use and production of food and non-food goods and materials is dependent on the introduction of a complex interaction between the best available technology, consumer awareness, welfare and social behavior; and

Whereas Consortium members agree that integral valorization of bio-production will be future driving forces for the growth of a more sustainable industry that produces "environmental friendly products"; and

Whereas Consortium members wish to seek areas of common intellectual interest and potential collaborative research and curriculum development; and

Whereas Consortium members wish to promote academic exchanges with institutions in other countries; and

Whereas there is consensus among IVBP members that a multidisciplinary approach involving many topics (primarily bio-production, chemical and biochemical transformation of natural resources, bio-degradable products, bio-fuel, bio-energy and clean technology) is not currently available in the EU and the US; and

Whereas the six institutions wish to cooperate in developing curriculum and a series of exchanges and academic mobility designed to help industries improve the quality of life in agreement with environmental concerns while addressing the use of readily available resources by integrating bio-production (agriculture), technology, chemistry and biotechnology, with efforts also to focus upon providing opportunities for contact and exchange among IVBP faculty and students in order to foster mutual understanding and a free exchange of ideas; and

Whereas Consortium members intend to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education and Directorate General for Education and Culture to organize a transatlantic graduate course, entitled, “Integral Valorization of Bio-production”;

Now, therefore, the Consortium members hereby agree as follows:

1.0 GOALS AND MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Six institutions of higher education have formed this consortium to stimulate transatlantic cooperation in education and research in the rapidly changing area of Integral valorization of bio-
consortium. The selection of the host institution among eligible students will be based primarily on completion of the common curriculum as proposed by the grant. Candidates should also possess adaptability, sound intellectual capabilities, and awareness of cultural differences.

3.2 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

The registration forms and official documents will be sent by the home institution's project director to the host institution's project director before the deadline. All participants must meet registration deadlines set by the member institutions. The project director of the home institution will then forward the notification of admission and other related documents to the host institution's project director. Participating students will engage in coursework, which may include project work at the university or in the context of internships with private entities, when undertaken as part of the university curriculum.

3.3 FEES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Tuition and other fees for exchange students shall be collected only by the home institution. Students are responsible for paying for their transportation, medical insurance, accommodations and meals, textbooks, personal expenses and all debts incurred during the course of the exchange semester or year.

Exchange students will not be expected to pay registration fees, admission fees, tuition, and selected incidental fees to the host institution since these fees will have been paid to the home university. Exchange students will benefit from the same university services as local students. All exchange students must abide by the rules and regulations of the host institution. All institutions will notify students of opportunities for university-sponsored residences or appropriate off-campus housing, where available.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSTITUTION

Members of the Consortium agree to enroll the students as full-time students in accordance with the statutes, ordinances and regulations of the host institution for the duration of their studies abroad. Each institution shall grant participants the same rights as regularly enrolled students and shall hold participants responsible for respecting the same rules and regulations applicable to other students, as described in publicly available university documents.

At the conclusion of each student’s participation in an exchange under this Agreement, the host institution, with the written request of the student, shall provide the student's home institution with a transcript of the student's educational record showing academic credit received during the period of study, to become a part of the home institution’s educational records.

The university members of the Consortium assume no responsibility whatsoever for any of the participating students’ property under the care of university members of the Consortium in connection with this Agreement and are hereby expressly released and discharged from any liability for any loss, injury or damage to persons or property of any nature, that may be sustained by reason of activities pursuant to this Agreement.
5.0 RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS

Travel arrangements and costs will be the students' responsibility. Each institution agrees that each student participating in exchange activities under this Agreement shall abide by the laws of the country of his or her home institution and the laws of the host country, as well as the policies, regulations, and disciplinary rules promulgated by each institution. Each institution shall grant participants the same rights to exchange students as regularly enrolled students and shall hold participants responsible for respecting the same rules and regulations applicable to other students, as described in publicly available university documents.

6.0 EXCHANGE OF FACULTY

The participating institutions may exchange faculty members for both short term (one to several weeks) and long term (a semester or a year) exchanges. Each home institution may decide on the arrangements concerning salary and benefits for their own professors as they see fit. No additional compensation need be given to exchange professors by either participating institution. Each institution will direct the visiting professor to appropriate housing on campus, or off campus, where available. Housing and transportation costs shall be the obligation of the individual faculty, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the host institution. Each faculty member participating in exchange activities under this Agreement shall abide by the laws of the country of his or her home institution and the laws of the host country, as well as the policies, regulations, and disciplinary rules promulgated by each institution.

7.0 PROJECT DIRECTORS

Each institution shall designate a project director to develop and coordinate the specific activities agreed upon. The designated project director for each university can be found in Appendix I: List of Project Directors.

8.0 TERM OF THE AGREEMENT

Provided that all parties meet their obligations under the grant, this agreement will terminate at the end of the funding period unless specifically extended beyond that time with the agreement of each of the parties. However, if one or more of the parties fails to meet their obligations under the grant, the remaining parties may terminate this Agreement upon notice and reasonable opportunity to cure, provided that any students or faculty currently being hosted as part of an exchange under this Agreement shall be permitted to complete the end of the current academic term at the host institution. This Agreement, including Appendix 1, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to its subject matter.

9.0 TECHNOLOGY EXPORT REGULATIONS

Each institution shall abide by all applicable laws and regulations governing the export of technology.
10.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

To the extent not provided for by the terms of the grant, the parties shall agree on a set of mutually acceptable expectations and procedures to govern any intellectual property developed as a product of this Agreement.

11.0 COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS

In undertaking the activities described in this Agreement, the participating institutions shall at all times comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including those pertaining to labor, immigration, and intellectual property.

12.0

All Consortium members subscribe to the policy of equal opportunity and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, ethnicity, religion, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation. The Universities below shall abide by these principles in the administration of this Agreement.

APPENDIX 1 - LIST OF PROJECT DIRECTORS

| Andy Proctor, US Coordinator  |
| Professor, Dept. of Food Science   |
| University of Arkansas           |
| 2650 Young Avenue                |
| Fayetteville, AR 72704-1201       |
| Raj Raman                        |
| Associate Professor              |
| Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering |
| 3222 NSRRC                        |
| Ames, Iowa 50011-3310             |
| Ronald L. Madl                   |
| Director, Bio-Processing and Industrial Value Added Program |
| Kansas State University          |
| 1980 Kimball Avenue, BIVAP Bldg. |
| Manhattan, KS 66506-7100          |
| Koen Dewettinck, EC Coordinator  |
| Professor, Dept. of Food Safety and Quality |
| Ghent University                 |
| Coupure Links 653                |
| B-9000 GENT, Belgium             |
| Anton Huber                      |
| Assoc. Professor, Institute of Chemistry |
| Karl Franzens Universitat Graz   |
| Heinrichstrasse 28, A-8010       |
| Graz, Austria                    |
| Carlos Vaca-Garcia               |
| Professor                       |
| Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse |
| ENSIACET - Laboratoire de Chimie Agro-Industrielle |
| 118, route de Narbonne           |
| 31077 TOULOUSE Cedex 04 FRANCE   |
In WITNESS THEREOF, the parties representing the institutions have offered their signatures:

Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas
Acting for and on behalf of the University of
Arkansas Fayetteville

[Signature]
John A. White
Chancellor

[Signature]
1/27/07

Elizabeth Hoffman
Provost
Iowa State University

[Signature]
1/30/08

M. Duane Nellis
Provost
Kansas State University

[Signature]
1/30/08

Prof. Dr. Paul Van Cauwenberge
Rector
Universiteit Gent

[Signature]
2/18/08

Prof. Dr. Roberta Maierhofer
Vice Rector for International Relations
Karl Franzens University

[Signature]
3/06/08

Prof. Gilbert Casamatta
President