INTERNATIONAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
Trakia University, Faculty of Agriculture, Bulgaria
and
Iowa State University of Science and Technology, College of Agriculture Iowa, USA

I. Preamble

This International Memorandum of Understanding (IMU) constitutes an agreement between Trakia University of Stara Zagora, Faculty of Agriculture, Bulgaria, and the Iowa State University of Science and Technology, College of Agriculture, USA, to join in a strategic alliance to undertake a series of cooperative activities of common interest and mutual benefit.

In accordance with the objective to promote further cooperation between Bulgaria and the United States of America, Trakia University, Faculty of Agriculture, and the Iowa State University College of Agriculture hereby jointly enter into a bilateral linkage, focusing on the development of their institutions' programs, particularly those in research, teaching and extension. They will jointly develop and implement activities to improve their capacities to serve their respective clientele in Bulgaria and the United States of America. This linkage is developed based upon the institutions' commonality of interests and their belief that a linkage between them would strengthen their joint and individual capacities.

II. Objectives

The objectives of this linkage are to develop long-term activities. Where financially feasible and consistent with the policies of Trakia University and the Board of Regents of the State of Iowa, and all other governing legislation, the parties agree to pursue mutual interest in the following types of activities:

- Long-term and short-term exchanges of faculty and staff: Sabbaticals, faculty improvement leaves, visiting professorships, research collaboration, and other activities in areas of mutual interest and expertise are contemplated.

- Programs relating to research, teaching, and /or outreach: These programs may encompass any discipline to the extent that suitable counterparts exist.

- Encouragement of applications from students to study at the partner institution at the undergraduate and/or graduate level: Students who meet regular admissions requirements of the host institution may be admitted to academic programs. The term(s) of attendance, costs, and course of study will be determined individually for each student in accordance with standard admissions procedures for international students.

III. Program Management

Each activity will be jointly planned, implemented, and evaluated, and will be described in a plan of work which will include programmatic and budget details. Activities undertaken will permit publication, dissemination, and sharing by the two institutions of all the facts resulting from the activities. Exchange and dissemination of information will include both the exchange of working papers on joint research and the identification of materials for publication. No prohibition of publication will be imposed by either institution.
This MOU does not obligate either institution to provide funding or direct support for future collaborative activities. However, either institution, or both, may choose to provide support on a case-by-case basis. It is further understood that both institutions will jointly and separately seek funding from third parties to support activities to be carried out under this MOU. Implementation of specific collaborative programs will depend upon the availability of funds. The Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University and the College of Agriculture, Iowa State University will assist one another with applications to funding sources for financial support of this cooperation and exchange.

Each institution has designated an individual to serve as a point of contact. These officials are identified below:

For Trakia University,  
Faculty of Agriculture

Professor DSC Radoslav Slavov, PhD  
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture  
Trakia University  
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria  
Telephone: (+359 42) 699 300,  
(+359 42) 670 942  
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For Iowa State University  
College of Agriculture

Professor David Acker, PhD  
Associate Dean  
College of Agriculture  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50011 USA  
515 294 6614  
E-mail: dacker@iastate.edu

The representatives mentioned above will be responsible for monitoring program activities in the framework of this MOU, promoting achievement of the objectives of the agreement and reporting to their respective institutions the advances made.

This Memorandum will be in effect for five years, commencing on the date of the last signature affixed to this document. At the end of this period, each institution will review the types and extent of collaborative activities undertaken and determine whether or not the MOU should be renewed. The Memorandum can be amended, with the approval of both parties, by means of exchange of letters through the authorized officials at each institution. Either party may initiate the exchange of letters.

The Memorandum may be terminated by either party by giving written notice of the intent to terminate the MOU. Such termination shall not affect the execution and conclusion of specific activities in effect under terms of this MOU, nor publication and dissemination of results of research in progress. Insofar as possible, such notice will be given three months in advance of the desired termination date.

This Memorandum constitutes the entire agreement between parties. All prior discussions, agreements, and understandings, whether verbal or in writing, are merged in this MOU. For conditions of the affiliation not covered by this MOU or for problems that arise while the MOU is in effect, both parties agree to refrain from unilateral action and to consult and negotiate agreeable decisions. This Memorandum is designed to facilitate and develop a genuine and mutually beneficial process of cooperation and exchange and is not a contract creating legal or financial relationships between the parties. The parties do not discriminate on the basis of age, marital status, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or disability.
IN WITNESS THEREOF: Trakia University, Faculty of Agriculture and Iowa State University, College of Agriculture have executed this International Memorandum of Understanding as of the last date affixed below.

Trakia University
Faculty of Agriculture

Iowa State University
College of Agriculture

Professor Dr. Radoslav Slavov
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture

Professor David G. Acker
Associate Dean, College of Agriculture

Professor Dr. Ivan Stankov
Rector, Trakia University

24. 10. 2011
Date

27. 10. 2011
Date