

অসম असम ASSAM

27AA 998900

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

RAIN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, JORHAT, ASSAM

AND

NOWGONG COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), NAGAON, ASSAM FOR RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

This Memorandum of Understanding (herein after referred to as 'MoU') is made and entered intogat Jorhat on this date – the 1st of July of the year 2021, by and between the Rain Forest Research Institute. Jorhat, Assam – 785010 (herein after referred to as 'RFRI') and the Nowgong College (Autonomous), Nagaon, Assam – 782001[herein after referred as to 'NC(A)']

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1. Preamble

Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat, Assam, a constituent Institute of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, came into being in 1988 to cater to the forestry related research & extension needs of the North Eastern states including Sikkim, through the facilities at Jorhat and two centres under this institute, viz. – the Forest Research Centre for Bamboos & Rattan (FRC-BR) located at Aizawl (Mizoram) and the Forest Research Centre for Livelihood Extension (FRC-LE), Agartala (Tripura).

Nowgong College (Autonomous) [(NC (A)], Nagaon, Assam, is an Autonomous Institute established in 1944 and was affiliated to Calcutta University in its inception and Gauhati University since 1949. The Autonomous status was conferred to this premier institute of higher education of Assam by University Grants Commission (UGC) on 2020. The college provides quality education through undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, certificate and distant learning programmes to meet the needs of the society. The college has been reaccredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) for the third time and awarded 'A' grade with CGPA 3.27.

- **2. Purpose**: The purpose of this MoU is to establish the terms and conditions under which both the parties agree to engage in an effort to promote academic and research activities by expanding the mutual relationship.
- 3. Responsibilities: Under this MoU responsibilities will be identified through consultation between the two parties. RFRI and NC(A) mutually agree to provide technical assistance in terms of teaching, research, training and to organise academic programmes like Interactive Lecture, Workshop, Seminar, Webinar, Conference, Symposium etc. Both the parties may conduct joint research and extension activities from submitting proposals jointly to various funding agencies.

4. General provisions:

- i) Amendment: Either party may request changes to this MoU. Any change, modification, revision or amendment to this MoU which are mutually agreed upon by the parties to this MoU shall incorporated by a written instrument and the amendment shall be effective when executed and signed by both the parties to this MoU.
- ii) Period of Validity: This agreement shall be initially for five years from the date of signing the agreement and can be renewed subsequently by mutual consent of both the parties.
- iii) Extension and Renewal: The participants may extend or renew this MoU by agreement in a written amendment signed by each participant's authorised signatory.
- iv) Implementation: Each institution shall designate a Nodal Officer to develop and coordinate specific activities or programmes. The terms of such mutual assistance and the necessary budget for each specific programme and activity that is to be implemented under the terms and conditions of third MoU shall be discussed and agreed prior to the initiation.
- v) Agreement: The rights or/and liabilities arising to any part to this MoU shall not be assigned except with the written consent of the other party and subject to such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the involved parties.

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- vi) Arbitration: Any dispute arising with regard to any aspect of this Agreement shall be settled through mutual consultation and agreement by the parties to the Agreement.
- vii) Termination: Both the parties have right to terminate this agreement in case any party fails to abide the conditions of the MoU, through a written notice of at least three months.
- viii) Force majeure: Neither party shall be held responsible for non-fulfilment of their respective obligations under this MoU due to the exigency of one or more of the force majeure events such as, but not limited to acts of God, War, Floods, Earthquake, Strikes, Lockouts, Epidemics, Pandemics, Riots and Civil Commotions etc.
- ix) Communication: The parties to this MoU must give all information/notices under this MoU in writing only, and all communications must be sent to the official e-mail addresses or to such other address designated by the both of the institutions.

5. Agreement

- i) RFRI and NC(A) are agreed to collaborate in research and extension in areas of mutual interest, and agree to include co-investigators in their respective research projects from the partner organization, and also agree to formulate collaborative projects jointly for funding from other national and international agencies.
- ii) RFRI and NC(A) agree to share their resources of books, journals, reports, maps, digital resources, in their GIS lab and any other educational resources, in areas of mutual interest, subject to the relevant rules of copyright.
- iii) RFRI and NC(A) agree to get their personnel trained in the subjects of mutual interest in their organizations, and also encourage their scientists/faculty/students of either institute to attend lectures, workshops and conferences conducted in their respective areas of interest.
- iv) RFRI and NC(A) agree to promote long and short-term staff and student exchanges in workshops, seminars, conferences, leadership programmes and other academic activities, and also agree mutually to send students for internship to the other party.
- v) RFRI and NC(A) agree that all the compilations arising out of the collaborative projects will be the joint property of both the parties, and also agree to acknowledge each other's contribution in their publications, arising out of the collaborative projects.
- vi)RFRI and NC(A) agree that none of the parties shall file any application seeking intellectual property right in its own name or in the name of its associate or any other person on any matter relating to the information gathered/ disclosed to it by the other party, and that IPR and publication policy will be followed by both the parties.
- vii) RFRI and NC(A) agree that the agreement concerning any programme shall provide details of the specific commitments by each party and shall not become effective until they have been reduced to writing and executed by the duly authorised representatives of the parties, and the scope of the activities under this agreement shall be determined by the funds available to the parties, as may be either party from external sources and student admissions.
- viii)RFRI and NC(A) agree that this MoU is not binding on either institution but is proposed to facilitate discussions related to areas of mutual interest, and the specific activities and

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programmes implemented under this MoU shall be subject to availability of funds and the approval of each institution's authorized representatives.

- ix) RFRI and NC(A) agree that each party shall be responsible for expenses incurred by its employees under this MoU.
- x) RFRI and NC(A) recognised and understand that this MoU is subject to all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to transfer of certain technical information or items, research materials and no party may export or allow the export or re-export of any information or item when to do so would constitute a violation of those laws or regulations.
- xi) RFRI and NC(A) agree to follow adequate safeguards/ procedures while using human or animal subjects in research, and to follow all the applicable laws and policies regarding the use of human and animal subjects.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed, sealed and delivered this agreement on the day, month and year first above written in the presence of:

Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj,

(Name of the Authorised Signatory)

Designation: Director

Rain Forest Research Institute

Jorhat, Assam – 785001

THE CHAN DIRECTOR मर्च दा उन्हांकान संस्थान

Witnesses: -

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1. RAJIB KUMAR KALITA

2. Dr. FARISHTA YASMIN

3. Ar. Bhuban a. Chules

Dr. Sarat Borkataki

(Name of the Authorised Signatory)

Designation: Principal

Nowgong College (Autonomous)

Nagaon, Assam – 782001

Principal

Nowgong College (Autonomous)

Nagaon Assam

Pin-782001

(Nodal Officer, RFRI)

[Nodal Officer, NC (A)]

Coordinator, IQAC, NC(A)]