DECLARATION
ON COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Aiming at close and trusting cooperation in the fields of agriculture and the food industry between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of India,

the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India – hereinafter called “parties” – want to promote the deepening of bilateral relations.

For this purpose, the German-Indian Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation established a bilateral Working Group on Agricultural Issues that took up its work on 12 November 2008.

The Parties agreed on using this Working Group as a platform for engaging in an intensive dialogue. The Working Group on Agricultural Issues will convene as the need arises. It is intended that the Working Group will meet on an annual basis. The locations of the meetings shall alternate between Germany and India.

In the Working Group, the Parties will

- hold an exchange of views on questions relating to agricultural policy and agricultural economy,

- exchange information on current issues of mutual interest that could be of benefit to the development of agriculture, food processing, veterinary, commercial matters as well as issues of cooperation in agricultural affairs, including with regard to phytosanitary issues and agricultural cooperatives.

- intensify the dialogue with enterprises and, in particular, arrange contacts with the aim of expanding technical and economic cooperation and intensifying two-way trade between the two countries,

- exchange information on international fairs held in Germany and India.
The Parties intend to involve the embassies of both countries in Berlin and New Delhi in the bilateral dialogue.

This declaration has been drawn up in two identical copies in German and in English and signed by the respective parties.

Hanover, 12 November 2008

For the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India

[Signature]
Shri T. Nanda Kumar
Secretary

For the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany

[Signature]
Dr. Gerd Müller
Parliamentary State Secretary
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ENGAGEMENT DURING THE FIRST MEETING OF INDO-GERMAN WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Following the visit of German Parliamentary State Secretary both the countries have set up the Indo-German Working Group on agriculture with the approval of competent authority. The first meeting of the Working Group is scheduled during 10th – 14th November 2008.

The German side has proposed the following terms of engagement.

1. Pooling of marketing measures – Nils Ehle, member of the working group, will present a proposal for pooling of marketing measures penetrating the Indian market

2. Collaboration in seed sector and possible joint projects of plant breeders, especially in the field of potato breeding – Dr. Ferdinand Schmitz, BDP, member of the working group, will present his project in the field of potato breeding

3. Active involvement of German farm machinery manufacturers, Jan Tobias, representative of Claas International India, will present the active involvement of his concern in India and his business planning for a deeper cooperation with India.

4. Protection of Regulatory Data (PRD) and Need for Harmonization of Registration process/ Data requirement in India as per International Norms (OECD) – Norbert Lemken, Bayercropscience, will discuss these issues putting the cooperation on a broad basis

5. Dr. Katrin Langner, national association representing the interests of foreign and wholesale trade at the Hamburg Exchange will give a presentation on the EU import requirement for foodstuffs

The issues proposed to be flagged by the Indian side are as follows -

1. Agriculture continues to be an area of priority for the Indian Government and a target of 4.1% growth had been kept for the sector during XI Plan which is to be realized through emphasis on increasing investment in rural infrastructure, improving productivity of agriculture, diversification to high value crops and allied activities without jeopardizing food security, strengthening post harvest infrastructure, encouraging value addition and agri-processing and linking agriculture to markets.

2. Engaging German corporate to invest in various areas in Indian agriculture particularly in the field of post harvest infrastructure, cold chains, wholesale
and terminal markets and food processing sector as these areas offer enormous opportunity for collaboration between the two countries.

3. With Government giving emphasis on productivity and quality issues in agriculture India offers an attractive market for good quality seed and planting material and has the potential to become a hub of R&D for international seed industry and.

4. Exploring cooperation in agriculture machinery and technology suitable to Indian conditions and possibilities of cooperation in capacity building particularly in the field of testing and training of farm machinery and personnel.

5. 15 areas of research were identified in the Indo-German Joint Commission meeting. Cooperation in these areas could be the starting point in bilateral cooperation in the field of agricultural research under the Joint Working Group on agriculture.

6. Cooperation in animal science including angora rabbit germplasm exchange, research in entrepreneur veterinary medicine, nano-bio-technology specially bio immuno sensor and neutraceuticals for identifying disease resistant genes and developing new generation diagnostics & vaccine and animal disease modeling. Improving bio-availability of nutrients in both conventional feed including industrial by-products. Biotechnological/stem cell research to improve reproductive efficiency in bovines and porcines including sperm sexing and combating disease like mastitis. Pig production and health.

7. Cooperation in agricultural engineering including exchange of scientific delegations, bilateral seminars/workshops on identified topics and joint J&D programmes in the areas of post harvest management and value addition technology for horticultural and animal produce, protected cultivation, horticultural mechanization, ergonomics and safety in agricultural operations and biomass based renewable energy.

Food Processing Sector - Exploring the possibilities of benchmarking / certifying food testing laboratories in India by Germany to facilitate the Food Processing Industries / Exporters of food products to adhere to required standards of Germany so that the consignment of food products are accepted by that country. Transfer of food processing technologies and undertaking some joint research programmes with counterpart institutes in Germany.
Establishing Mega Food Parks for sectors on need basis such as fruits and vegetables, dairy, meat and poultry etc. These parks would serve as sourcing hubs for retail Chain for fresh produce/processed products.

8. EU is India’s largest trading partner. Impressing upon EU through the forum to address the difficulties in market access for Indian agricultural products in Europe and Germany.

Hanover, 12 November 2008

For the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India For the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany

Shri T. Nanda Kumar Dr. Gerd Müller
Secretary Parliamentary State Secretary