

Memorandum of Cooperation
“Farming Future Together”
between
the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
of Japan
and
the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
of the Federal Republic of Germany

An Alliance for the Future between Japan and Germany –
Innovation Partnership for Transformation of Food Systems

On 28th September 2024, with the goal of further enhancing and deepening the cooperation in the agricultural and food sector, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany

– hereinafter referred to as "Sides" and individually as “Side” –
have come to the following recognition:

PARAGRAPH 1

OBJECTIVE

The Sides acknowledge that further efforts will be needed to create resilient and sustainable agricultural and food systems in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda 2030 under its pledge to “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB), and therefore emphasise the importance of partnerships to attain the SDGs.

They acknowledge the unique sectoral position of agriculture in that it is a driver of, but at the same time, is affected by, can contribute to and can mitigate the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss, and the need to urgently increase efforts to make them more resilient and sustainable as our legacy to future generations.

They emphasise that many forms of innovation are required in that respect. They acknowledge the importance of information exchange on innovations and technologies focusing on conserving biodiversity and improving the resilience of food systems as a necessary precondition for a sustainable and environmentally friendly development of the agricultural sector and rural areas.

They emphasise the importance of diversifying international, regional and local supply chains of agricultural products and inputs in order to improve their resilience and sustainability in the long term. They are dedicated to fair, open, transparent, predictable, non-discriminatory and rules-based trade.

The Sides recognise that a constructive dialogue between the public sector, the private sector, academia, and civil society that promotes participatory development of solutions at all levels will be conducive to the transformation of food systems. They also hereby wish to promote equality between women and men in the agricultural and food sector and in agricultural policy decision-making processes.

The Sides wish to further work on identifying concrete topics for bilateral cooperation to reach these common goals.

The Sides intend to benefit from the dialogue to identify common positions for multilateral formats.

PARAGRAPH 2

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Sides will seek opportunities to cooperate within an Agricultural Political Dialogue settled on vice minister / state secretary level in the following areas:

- a) political and technical cooperation in transforming agricultural and food systems;
- b) regulatory framework and standards that are applied in the agricultural and food processing sector including forest;
- c) export and trade.

The Sides will promote the participations of various actors at each stage of the food supply chains.

A deeper technical dialogue is intended to be established on the following topics:

- (a) Organic agriculture;
- (b) Innovative solutions to strengthen the agricultural sector and rural areas;
- (c) Knowledge transfer in agricultural and rural development research.

The bilateral cooperation will not cover technical cooperation on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

The Sides welcome and will support any scientific cooperation between their subordinated research institutions with regard to mutual exchange and joint sharing of knowledge with third parties.

PARAGRAPH 3

IMPLEMENTATION

A steering group, chaired by both Sides, will coordinate the activities and strive to ensure that they are implemented functionally. The steering group will meet once a year in principle, virtually or in person, and will consist of representatives of both Sides and of actors relevant to the delivery of the activities. The steering group will decide on specific annual project work plans, coordinate medium-term work assignments and offer a space for clarifying strategic issues.

The details of the cooperation will be defined in a separate annual project work plan, which will serve as the guideline for the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation.

The expenses for implementing the cooperation will be shared by both Sides. Further details regarding the respective contributions will be specified in decided activities on a case-by-case basis and will be in line with available budgetary resources.

PARAGRAPH 4
INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALITY

Each Side will observe the confidentiality in respect of information received from or supplied by the other Side at all times. The use of either Side for trademarks or logos and all other rights will be in line with their written consent.

PARAGRAPH 5
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE

Any dispute arising from or relating to this Memorandum of Cooperation will be amicably resolved by the Sides through mutual consultations.

PARAGRAPH 6
STATUS OF THIS MEMORANDUM, COMMENCEMENT,
DURATION AND DISCONTINUATION

This Memorandum of Cooperation may be modified at any time by mutual consent; modifications should be mutually consented in writing.

This Memorandum of Cooperation is not intended to constitute a treaty, nor to create rights or obligations for any Side under international law.

The cooperation under this Memorandum of Cooperation will commence on the date of signature by both Sides. Each Side may end cooperation under this Memorandum of Cooperation in writing at any time. It should provide notice to the other Side six (6) months in advance.

The discontinuation of this Memorandum of Cooperation will not affect any ongoing activity and/or work programme implemented under this Memorandum of Cooperation unless mutually determined by the Sides.

PARAGRAPH 7
INDEPENDENCE

The Sides retain their legal, regulatory and financial autonomy.

Signed in two copies in Siracusa, Italy, on 28th September 2024 in the English language.

For the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan	For the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany
(Mr. SAKAMOTO Tetsushi)	(Mr. Cem Özdemir)
(Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)	(Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture)
Signed in on	Signed in on