



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
The Government of the Republic of India
AND
The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
ON
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (hereinafter referred to as the Parties);

Desirous of further developing and strengthening friendly relations between the two countries;

Wishing to encourage and strengthen technical cooperation between the two countries for development of the rural sector;

Building on initiatives already underway to forge institutional links between relevant counterparts;

Have reached the following understanding:



ARTICLE I

The Parties agree, in accordance with their respective national legislations, to encourage, develop and strengthen technical cooperation between the two countries in the field of rural development.

The implementing agency on behalf of the Government of the Republic of India shall be the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD-GOI) and on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan shall be the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD-GOA).

In order to support the multi-dimensional approach for accelerating rural development in Afghanistan, both implementing agencies will act as the nodal points to coordinate and facilitate appropriate technical cooperation, including the access to Indian expertise and resources through other Ministries, public sector agencies and institutions that can assist in fulfilling the objectives of this MOU.

ARTICLE II

The areas of collaboration may include, but are not limited to the development and maintenance of rural access and connectivity; rural water supply and sanitation and village-based irrigation schemes; the development of rural enterprises and small-scale industries; the use of



non-conventional energy sources for rural electrification; expansion of rural finance; development of rural housing; establishment of sub-national administrative institutions; generation of wage and self-employment opportunities for the rural poor; development of rural infrastructure using the wage employment programme; and sector-specific human resource development, including assistance in setting up of a dedicated institution for rural development in Afghanistan.

ARTICLE III

The cooperation between the Parties will be implemented through:

- i. Technical assistance through consultancies, feasibility studies, exchange study visits and fellowships by sector specialists;
- ii. Transfer of appropriate technology, equipment and materials, including GIS/satellite imagery;
- iii. Sector-specific in-country training (in Afghanistan) and training in India through established institutions and customised short and medium term courses;
- iv. Institutional linkages and collaboration to establish training facilities in Afghanistan;



ARTICLE IV

This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented through biennial Work Plans that will be developed jointly by both Parties. The basis for the development of the Work Plans would be, but not limited to, the needs identified by MRRD-GOA. These Work Plans may be initiated by either party but will require the approval of both parties for implementation.

ARTICLE V

Research reports under the Memorandum of Understanding shall be published upon mutual agreement between the Parties. The publications may be joint or separate as determined by the Parties in each specific case, except in the case of annual reports.

The Parties agree to jointly publish annual reports on the progress of the cooperative programme.

ARTICLE VI

The expenditure towards the exchange of sector specialists and technicians on study visits, training and consultancies will be borne jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan respectively, with the



authentic. In case of any divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
AFGHANISTAN

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Minister for Rural Development

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