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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum is hereby signed on 22nd day of April, 2020 between the following parties:

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (hereafter referred to as TRIFED) is a national level Cooperative Society, established in 1987, under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, and is mandated with marketing and development of tribal products with ultimate objective of socio economic development of tribal communities in India.

AND

Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is an Autonomous Society promoted by Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers’ Welfare, Government of India registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 on 18th January, 1994 SFAC is an exclusive Society focused on increasing incomes of small and marginal farmers through aggregation and development of agribusiness including agri allied sector.

Whereas, TRIFED aims to improve the livelihoods of the tribal communities by creating a sustainable market and new business opportunities for them based on their culture, knowledge and traditional skills whilst ensuring fair and equitable remuneration. TRIFED has 15 regional offices spread across the country.

Whereas, TRIFED as part of its activities is interested to work for the tribal communities as a focused group to improve their livelihood.

Whereas, TRIFED is taking measures to ensure better earning for tribals. Involvement of tribals in the implementation of PMVDY (who gather or cultivate Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), which involve capacity building of the tribal people through sensitization, mobilization through Self Help Groups (SHGs) / Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVKs) and imparting training to them through the producer companies in states having a number of tribal members as shareholders and shall drive capacity utilization of equipment established in SHGs / VDKVs and exploring marketing possibilities in national as well as international markets, creating opportunities for marketing tribal products i.e. value added NTFP, Agriculture and Artisanal products on sustainable basis, creating brand and providing other services. The aim is to bring them to common premises allocated to them to do sorting, grading and value addition to realize higher prices for their produce. The groups will also identify local/district/ state level buyers and markets to produce through
appropriate branding and attractive packaging. To ensure scale, it is proposed that these VDKVs are further aggregated as NTFP, agriculture and artisanal products based Producer Companies.

Whereas, SFAC has pioneered the formation and growth of Farmer Producer Organizations / Farmer Producer Companies, which is now being implemented across the length and breadth of the country. SFAC is implementing various central sector schemes. EGFS to improve the share capital base of FPCs and CGF scheme for promoting credit linkage to FPCs and National Agriculture Market Scheme for direct marketing through eNAM portal covering Agricultural commodities including some NFTP. SFAC is progressing towards establishing an eco system for FPOs/FPCs to make them sustainable and viable in the long run.

Whereas, TRIFED has approached SFAC to work jointly to undertake various initiatives for promoting both agriculture and NTFPs with a purpose of improving the livelihood of tribal people. Further the linkage with SFAC will leverage the advantages of both the organisations.

Interactions between the officials of two institutions resulting in identification of a number of initiatives which can be undertaken jointly. In order to institutionalize these arrangements for sustained effort in the field of development of tribal products both parties decided to enter into an MOU which defines the broad framework of association between TRIFED and SFAC.

1. Scope:

Both TRIFED and SFAC shall jointly identify areas of cooperation for development and promotion of tribal products in a holistic manner and undertake activities within their mandate as per mutually agreed terms and conditions to be decided.

2. Areas of Association:

2.1 SFAC and TRIFED would earmark their existing tribal dominated farmers producer companies (FPCs) to take advantage of Van Dhan scheme of TRIFED.

2.2 SFAC at the behest of TRIFED would form new FPCs in remaining tribal dominated areas to undertake the work and responsibilities of Van Dhan by taking financial grant from TRIFED and / on behalf of TRIFED. At the outset apart from forging alliances in state where FPOs have been formed and functional, SFAC & TRIFED will also work together to form FPOs in States were previously no FPO or Van dhan SHGs have been formed till date.
2.3 TRIFED to decide on the states which do not confirm to the route of State Nodal Department (SND) or their State Implementing Agency (SIA) mode, that would be covered without any intervention/ interception/participation by state governments.

2.4 SFAC to promote producer companies under Van Dhan scheme in accordance with extant guidelines of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare and as per any additional requirement under scheme through decision of joint working group. Joint working group shall have liberty to inspect and report on the achievement of work milestone.

2.5 TRIFED will fund the formation of FPOs as per norms laid under Van Dhan programme of TRIFED. Similarly, the new FPOs will be promoted under Part IX A of the Companies Act and as per guideline Issued by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

2.6 Areas covered include agriculture & Agri-allied sector, forestry & NTFP, Medicinal and Aromatic plants (MAP) and other related areas wherein promoting Agri diversification for generating regular source of income to tribal members of FPOs.

2.7 Monitoring of the projects will be undertaken by a Joint Working Group comprising of Experts from SFAC & TRIFED.

2.8 SFAC’s shall encourage and guide FPCs to avail Equity and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme besides venture capital scheme of SFAC.

2.9 TRIFED shall onboard tribal FPOs on eNAM platform for sale of their produce.

3. Review:

The signatories to the parties will review at their level, at least once in three months the activities undertaken under this MOU. A joint review by the chief executives of both the organizations shall be held once in six months.

4. Procedure for amendment, cancellation, dispute resolution and exclusivity:

No amendment, modification or addition to this MOU shall be effective or binding on any of the Parties unless the same has been set forth in writing and executed by them through their duly authorized representatives.

Either of the two parties can, at any time during the period of the MOU, rescind the same after giving a notice in writing recording cogent reasons for doing so. The notice will not be less than three months.
All disputes or difference, whatsoever arising between the parties within or relating to the construction / meaning / operation / effect and/or dispute with regard to this agreement or the breach of contract thereof shall be referred to an independent Arbitrator, jointly appointed by the Managing Director SFAC and Managing Director, TRIFED and in case of non-agreement about the name of the independent Arbitrator, the same shall be appointed by the Delhi International Arbitration Centre. The award made in pursuance thereof shall be binding on both the parties in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 at New Delhi.

In witness hereof, the parties hereto have signed this MOU in 2 original copies in English on the date and place indicated below.

For and on behalf of SFAC

[Signature]

Name and signature

WITNESS

[Signature]

(Dr. Sumanthil, S.)

For and on behalf of TRIFED

[Signature]

Name and signature

WITNESS

[Signature]

(S. Shailendra)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS, GOVT. OF INDIA