



**Memorandum of Agreement
on Scientific & Technological Cooperation**

between the

Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria

(CREA)

(The Italian Republic)

and the

Chinese Academy of Forestry

(CAF)

(The People's Republic of China)

This Agreement on Scientific & Technological Cooperation (hereinafter also referred to as the "Agreement") is between the Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria (Council for Agricultural Research and Economics), a public non-profit research organization with legal office in Rome, Italy, via Po 14, 00198, and represented by Special Commissioner and Legal Representative Cons. Gian Luca Calvi and the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), a non-profit research organization, with legal office in Beijing, Wan Shou Shan, People's Republic of China, represented by its President, Prof. Liu Shirong

PURSUANT TO the prevailing laws and regulations in their respective Countries;

CONSIDERING that the Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria (CREA), hereinafter also referred to as "CREA", is the main research organization in Italy, operating of the Ministry of agricultural food, forestry policies and tourism, with scientific competence in the fields of agriculture, agroindustry, food, fishery and forestry, rural development and economics research, that promotes and conducts fundamental, applied and development research on a broad range of knowledge areas;

CONSIDERING that the Chinese Academy of Forestry, hereinafter also referred to as (“CAF”), is the national forest research organization of the People’s Republic of China, affiliated to the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, and conducts fundamental, applied and development research on forestry, with a view to solving major scientific and technical problems in the forest economy;

CONSIDERING that the CAF and the CREA have signed an Agreement on Scientific & Technological Cooperation in 2011;

BEING AWARE OF the significant role of agriculture, agroindustry, food, fishery and forestry, rural development and economics research in the economic development of the two countries;

AIMING TO promote economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries in the fields of agriculture, agroindustry, food, fishery and forestry, rural development and economics research;

CONSIDERING that both the CAF and the CREA are involved in a broad range of scientific fields of common interest, including the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation and the improvement and exploitation of energy tree species for wood production and environmental use in bio-economy in particular, but not exclusively;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the importance of strengthening cooperation between Organizations and Institutions involved in the fields of agriculture, agroindustry, food, fishery and forestry, rural development and economics research of the two Countries;

BEING AWARE of the rapid expansion of scientific knowledge and its positive contribution in promoting bilateral and international cooperation;

WISHING to broaden the scope of scientific and technological cooperation in a number of areas of common interest through the creation of a productive partnership for mutual benefits;

NOTING that such cooperation and the application of the results of such cooperation will contribute to the economic and social development of Italy and China;

WHEREAS CREA and CAF could be joint partners in the application for potential cooperation projects and collaborative research activities on agriculture, agroindustry, food, fishery and forestry, rural development and economics research;

NOW THEREFORE, CREA and CAF, inspired by their common objectives to further promote and accelerate forestry and economic research, have entered into this Agreement under the terms and conditions set forth in the following articles:

Article 1

Purpose

This Agreement is a statement of intent. The Parties do not intend this Agreement to be legally binding.

The main purpose of this Agreement is to promote and encourage economic, scientific and technical cooperation between CREA and CAF, their research Institutes or Centres in the field of forestry.

The activities envisaged in this Agreement will be implemented by the Parties under their exclusive competence and in accordance with their respective national laws and international obligations and - as far as the Italian Party is concerned - the obligations deriving from its being member of the European Union (EU).

The failure of the Parties to reach an agreement on the matters under negotiation shall neither expose either Party to any liability to the other Party nor give to any Party the right to claim damages whatsoever.

Article 2

Principles

The cooperative activities under this Agreement shall be carried out on the basis of the following principles:

Mutual and equitable contributions and benefits;

Mutual access of the research and technological development programmes, projects and facilities of each Party by visiting researchers of the other Party;

Timely exchange of information which may concern cooperative activities;

Promotion of a knowledge-based society for the benefit of the economic and social development of the Parties; and

Protection of intellectual property rights in accordance with Annex I of this Agreement.

Article 3

Cooperative activities

The cooperative activities under this Agreement may include:

Meetings of various forms, including those of experts, to discuss and exchange information on forestry scientific and technological topics of a general or specific nature and to identify research and development projects and programmes that may be undertaken on a cooperative basis;

Exchange of information on activities, policies, practices, laws and regulations concerning forestry research and development;

Visits and exchanges of scientists, technical personnel and other experts on general or specific subjects;

Implementation of cooperative projects and programmes which may be decided

upon by the Joint Committee, referred to in Article 5 in accordance with the respective laws and regulations of the Parties;

Other forms of activities in the areas of forestry science and technology, which may be decided upon by the Joint Committee, referred to in Article 5 in accordance with the respective laws and regulations of the Parties.

The cooperative research activities will be focused on the development of forest products industrial uses and energy production in bio-economy with the following main objectives:

- Increasing productivity and environmental adaptability;
- Increasing resistance and tolerance to biotic and abiotic stress factors;
- Improving wood technological properties and biomass chemical characteristics;
- Developing and applying molecular genetics methods for the optimization of breeding programmes.

Article 4

Implementation of the Agreement

The implementation of this Agreement will be set out through specific, subsequent, executive agreements regulating cooperative projects and programmes in accordance with their respective national laws and international obligations and - as far as the Italian Party is concerned - the obligations deriving from its being member of the European Union (EU).

Subsequent implementation arrangements, which set forth the details and procedures of cooperative activities under this Agreement, may be concluded between the Parties, by defining topics, capacity and effectiveness for such cooperation and the level of available financial resources of the joint initiatives as well as the scientists involved.

The Parties will decide on matters concerning the implementation of the provisions of the present Agreement through meetings at technical level, unless otherwise agreed.

Aiming at assuring the fruitful implementation of collaboration, contacts and working sessions between the Parties will be carried out also in online conference.

Scientific and technological cooperative activities not based on specific agreements that have been encouraged, developed and facilitated by the Parties and have been commenced and not completed by the date of entry into force of this Agreement, shall be incorporated under this Agreement as of that date.

Article 5

Joint Committee

For the purpose of ensuring the effective implementation of this Agreement, the Parties establish a Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Joint Committee").

The Joint Committee consists of official representatives of each Party and shall be co-chaired by the representatives of both Parties. The Joint Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure by mutual consent.

The representatives named for the current program are:

- Prof. Piermaria Corona, as Director of the Research Centre for Forestry and Wood of the Council for agricultural research and economics and Dr. Giuseppe Nervo (giuseppe.nervo@crea.gov.it), as Head Office, for the Research Centre for Forestry and Wood site of Casale Monferrato and scientific referee;
- Ms. Chen Yujie, as Acting Director of the Division of International Cooperation, Chinese Academy of Forestry and Ms. Gu Yali (guyalicaf@163.com), as program officer, for the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

The functions of the Joint Committee shall be:

Exchanging views and information on scientific and technological policy issues;

Reviewing and discussing the cooperative activities and accomplishments under this Agreement;

Making recommendations to the Parties with regard to the implementation of this Agreement, which may include the identification and proposal of the cooperative activities hereunder and the encouragement of their implementation;

Providing an annual report to the Parties on the status, the achievements and the effectiveness of the cooperative activities under this Agreement. The report shall be written in the English language.

Decisions of the Joint Committee shall be reached by mutual consent.

The expenses of participants to the meetings of the Joint Committee, such as travel costs and accommodation shall be borne by the Parties to whom they relate. Any other costs associated with these meetings shall be borne by the host Party.

The Joint Committee shall meet alternately in Italy and China with the time of the meetings arranged upon mutual agreement, preferably annually, or by videoconferencing.

Article 6
Financial arrangement

This Agreement is not a funds obligating document. By signing this Agreement, the parties are not bound to take any action or fund any initiative.

Each Party will cover the costs of its participation to the joint activities. The activities set up by this Agreement are subject to the availability of funds and personnel and to the laws and norms in the respective Countries.

Any cost that may arise from the implementation of this Agreement does not imply further additional expenses to the respective State budgets.

Implementation of this Agreement by subsequent specific arrangements referred to in article 4 shall be subject to the availability of appropriated funds and the applicable laws and regulations of each Party.

The costs of the cooperative activities under this Agreement shall be borne as decided upon by mutual consent.

Article 7
Information and intellectual property rights

Scientific and technological information having non-proprietary nature arising from direct cooperative activities may be made available to the public by either Party through customary channels and in accordance with its general procedures.

Intellectual property rights and other proprietary rights created or introduced in the course of the cooperative activities under this Agreement shall be treated in accordance within the provisions of Annex I of this Agreement, which constitutes an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 8
Research material transfer agreement

In case the transfer of research materials is required for collaboration activities to be carried out within this Agreement, such materials may be transferred in accordance with laws and regulations in force in the countries of the Parties through separate Material Transfer Agreements concluded between the Parties and/or Enterprises, Institutions and economic Agents from the two Countries subject to approval by the Parties.

Article 9
Amendments

Any amendment to this Agreement shall be made upon mutual consent of the Parties and in written form.

Article 10
Settlement of disputes

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

This Agreement shall not prejudice any rights and/or commitments of the Parties resulting from any other bilateral or multilateral international agreement concluded by the People's Republic of China and the Italian Republic or following their membership in international Organizations and in the European Union (EU) as far as the Italian Party is concerned.

The failure of the Parties to reach an agreement on the matters under negotiation shall neither expose either Party to any liability to the other Party nor give to any Party the right to claim damages whatsoever.

Article 11
Confidentiality

Each Party shall undertake to observe the status of confidentiality and secrecy of documents, information and other data received or supplied to the other Party during the period of the implementation of this Agreement or any other agreements made pursuant to this Agreement.

The Parties agree that the provision of this Article shall continue to be binding for 3 (three) years for the Parties after the termination of this Agreement of Understanding.

The provision of this Article shall not prejudice the prevailing laws and regulations of the Parties.

Article 12
Entry into force and duration

This Agreement shall take effect on the date the authorized representative of the last party affixes his/her signature and shall remain valid for five (5) years. The Agreement may be terminated earlier when one of the parties notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate the Agreement, in which case the Agreement will terminate six months from the date of such notification.

Unless otherwise decided by the Parties, the termination of the Agreement will not affect existing programs or programs which are under implementation.

An extension of the provisions of this Agreement will take the form of a new signed Agreement between the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by the Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria (CREA) and the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) respectively, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in three copies in English.

Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)

Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi
dell'economia agraria (CREA)

Prof. Ye Zhi
Vice President

Cons. Gian Luca Calvi

Special Commissioner

Date(dd/mm/yy)
Place

Date(dd/mm/yy)
Place

Annex I
Agreement CREA/CAF

Principles concerning the allocation of intellectual property rights

1. DEFINITION

For the purpose of this Agreement, “intellectual property” shall have the meaning given in Article 2 of the Convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organisation, signed at Stockholm on 14 July, 1967.

2. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE PARTIES IN DIRECT COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

A. Except if otherwise specifically agreed by the Parties, the following rules shall apply to intellectual property rights, except copyrights and related rights, generated by the Parties in the course of cooperative activities carried out under this Agreement:

- a. The Party generating intellectual property shall have full ownership. In case the intellectual property has been jointly generated and the respective share of the work by the two Parties cannot be ascertained, the Parties shall have joint ownership of the intellectual property;
- b. The Party owning the intellectual property shall grant the other Party the access rights to carry out any direct cooperative activities. Such access rights shall be granted on a royalty-free basis.

B. Except if otherwise specifically agreed by the Parties, the following rules shall apply to copyrights and related rights of the Parties:

- a. When a Party publishes scientific and technical data, information or results by means of journals, articles, reports, books or in other forms, including video tapes and software, arising from and relating to cooperative activities under this Agreement, the Party shall make utmost efforts to obtain, for the other Party, non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free licences in all countries where copyright protection is available, in order to translate, reproduce, adapt, transmit and publicly distribute such works;
- b. All publicly distributed copies of a copyrighted work under the provisions of paragraph B.a. shall indicate the name(s) of the author(s) of the work unless the author(s) explicitly declines to be named. They shall also display a clearly visible acknowledgement of the cooperative support of the Parties.

C. Except if otherwise specifically agreed by the Parties, the following rules shall apply to the undisclosed information of the Parties:

- a. When communicating to the other Party on the information necessary to carry out direct cooperative activities, each Party shall identify the information which it wishes to remain undisclosed;
- b. The Party receiving the information may, under its own responsibility, communicate undisclosed information to its agencies or persons employed through these agencies for the specific purposes of implementing this Agreement;
- c. With the prior written consent of the Party providing the undisclosed information, the other Party may disseminate such undisclosed information more widely than otherwise permitted in paragraph C.b. The Parties shall cooperate

with each other in developing procedures to request and obtain prior written consent for such wider dissemination, and each Party shall grant such approval to the extent permitted by its laws and regulations;

d. Information arising from seminars, meetings, assignments of staff and of the use of facilities arranged under this Agreement shall remain confidential when the recipient of such information is requested by its provider to protect its confidential or privileged character at the time such communication is made, according to paragraph C.a.;

e. If one Party becomes aware that it will be, or may be reasonably expected to become, unable to meet the restrictions and conditions of dissemination of Article 2.C., it shall immediately inform the other Party. The Parties shall thereafter consult to define an appropriate course of action.