

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

### **Between**

**The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics  
(ICRISAT), Patancheru – 502324, Telangana State, India**

### **AND**

**Kaveri University (KU), Gowraram 502279, Telangana State, India**

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics (ICRISAT), an International Organization under the provisions of the United Nations (Immunities and Privileges) Act, 1947, is a non-profit, non-political public organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. ICRISAT and its partners help empower poorest of the poor people to overcome poverty, hunger and a degraded environment through better agriculture. ICRISAT is headquartered in Greater Hyderabad, Telangana State, India, with two regional hubs and six country offices in sub-Saharan Africa.

Kaveri University (KU) is a Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU) established on the outskirts of Hyderabad at Gowraram, under the provisions of Telangana State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment) Act No. 11 of 2018 and recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) vide No. F.8-35/2024(CPP-I/PU), dated 23rd December 2024. The university is aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with a strong emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and societal relevance.

KU's unique academic and research ecosystem is deeply integrated with Kaveri Seeds research institutes, enabling a robust, transdisciplinary approach that combines applied agriculture, life sciences, social sciences, and Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies such as artificial intelligence, data science, robotics, cyber security and digital platforms. This powerful synergy accelerates the translation of scientific knowledge into both academic advancement and practical on-ground solutions. As one of India's youngest and most dynamic AgriTech universities, KU is committed to addressing emerging complex challenges in agriculture through sustainability-focused, innovation and impact-driven education and research. The university connects all stages of the knowledge chain—from fundamental research to field-level application—placing farmers, rural communities, and ecological resilience at the center of its mission. Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), KU seeks to build transformative pathways in partnership with global institutions like ICRISAT, contributing to more resilient, inclusive, and climate-smart agri-food systems.

## **Clause: Scope and Terms of Collaboration**

1. **Intent of Collaboration:** the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and Kaveri University (KU), hereinafter referred to as “the Parties,” desire and intend to develop cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual interest including research for development (R4D), skilling and capacity building, academic exchange, and other jointly agreed activities that further the vision, mission, and objectives of both institutions.
2. **Scope of Collaboration:** The collaboration shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas:
  - 2.1 Promotion of ICRISAT’s mandate—to conduct agricultural research for development in the semi-arid tropics (SAT) with a focus on improving livelihoods, and reducing poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and environmental degradation.
  - 2.2 Advancement of Kaveri University’s vision to nurture next-generation global leaders in science and technology through a confluence model of high-quality AgriTech education, translational research and innovation for societal well-being.
  - 2.3 Facilitation of reciprocal visits and exchanges of academic, research, and technical staff for the purposes of teaching, skilling & capacity building, research collaboration, and knowledge dissemination—subject to the availability of resources and in accordance with institutional policies.
  - 2.4 Development of collaborative work plans that outline specific activities, objectives, implementation mechanisms, timelines, roles and responsibilities, and resource commitments—within the framework of institutional policies and availability of funds.
  - 2.5 Jointly pursue external funding opportunities by co-developing project proposals aimed at expanding and sustaining collaborative efforts.
  - 2.6 Provide opportunities for student exchange and research engagement, enabling students from one institution to access research programs, academic projects, or certificate, diploma and degree-linked learning opportunities at the other institution—subject to applicable policies and academic eligibility.
  - 2.7 **Innovation & Entrepreneurship:** Jointly support the incubation and mentorship of agri-startups through innovation platforms, fostering a shared innovation ecosystem focused on scalable, sustainable and impact-driven agri-enterprises.
  - 2.8 **Policy Advocacy and Impact:** Collaborate in the development of policy briefs and thought leadership on seed systems, digital agriculture, and climate-smart practices. Co-organize conferences, roundtables, and stakeholder consultations and promote evidence-based policy advocacy informed by joint research and field-level insights.



- 2.9 Encourage the exchange of scientific materials, publications, data, and information, as mutually agreed upon. The sharing of any biological or proprietary materials shall be governed by appropriate Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) or other applicable legal instruments.
3. **Regulatory Compliance:** The Parties acknowledge that all staff and student exchanges shall comply with the visa and entry regulations of the host country, and meet the respective institutional criteria for admission or visitation.
4. **Financial Responsibilities:** Unless otherwise agreed in writing, each Party shall bear the costs related to its personnel's salary, travel, accommodation, and incidental expenses incurred under this MoU.
5. **Non-Binding Nature and Future Agreements:** This MoU represents a record of intent and is not legally binding. Prior to the implementation of any specific activity under this MoU, the Parties agree to enter into formal, binding agreements that will detail the terms, deliverables, timelines, funding mechanisms, and legal responsibilities for each collaborative initiative. Such agreements shall be developed in good faith and in accordance with applicable laws and institutional protocols.
6. **Duration, Review, and Termination:** This MoU shall come into effect from the date of the last signature and shall remain valid for a period of three (3) years, unless terminated earlier by either Party. The MoU may be terminated by either Party by giving three (3) months' prior written notice, or by mutual consent at any time. The Parties agree to review the progress and relevance of this MoU six (6) months prior to its expiry, and may amend, extend, or renew it through mutual written consent.
7. **Provision for Future Collaboration:** This MoU does not preclude the development of additional collaborative initiatives beyond the areas mentioned herein. Any such ventures shall be subject to separate mutually agreed terms.

On behalf of  
ICRISAT



Dr. Himanshu Pathak  
Director General

Date: 30/8/25

On behalf of  
KAVERI UNIVERSITY



Dr. Velchala Praveen Rao  
Vice Chancellor

Date: 30th July, 25