

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**between**  
**The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and**  
**Technology**  
**Government of the Republic of India**  
**and**  
**The Ministry of Education and Research**  
**of the Republic of Estonia**  
**for**  
**Cooperation in the field of Biotechnology**

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The Department of Biotechnology, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Education and Research, Government of the Republic of Estonia (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”).

Recognising the importance of international co-operation in the field of biotechnology, to promote and develop the possibilities of scientific co-operation in both countries;

Reaffirming the benefits that Science and Technology can have in the Indo-Estonian bilateral relations;

Recognising the importance of the cooperative efforts which can be made between India and Estonia in the areas of biotechnology;

Desiring to strengthen the co-operation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit between the two countries in the fields of biotechnology, and are convinced that such cooperation will promote and consolidate the friendship between the two countries and contribute to their development.

HAVE reached the following understanding:

**ARTICLE I**

- (i) This present Memorandum of Understanding is a framework agreement encouraging individual research institutions of India and Estonia to develop scientific collaboration.
- (ii) The Parties therefore decide to promote development of long term cooperation in the field of biotechnology between the two countries and to facilitate joint collaboration on specific topics of

mutual interest for the two countries in the areas of biotechnology in which such cooperation is desirable, taking into account the experience which the scientists and specialists of the countries have gained and the possibilities available.

- (iii) Other Agencies of the Government of India and the Government of Estonia may be associated with this programme with mutual consent of the Parties.

## **ARTICLE II**

- (i) The Parties will cooperate in scientific research and technological development for exclusively peaceful purposes in accordance with their respective national laws, rules and procedures. The cooperation will cover the field of biotechnology. Specific areas will be agreed between individual institutions.
- (ii) The cooperation may include the exchange of information but will exclude any confidential information which the contracting Parties are not free to disclose.
- (iii) The cooperation may also include the exchange of scientists and technicians, training of young scientists as well as the joint execution of scientific research and development projects.
- (iv) The cooperation could further include the organisation of joint seminars, symposiums and workshops covering fields agreed upon by the participant institutions in advance.

## **ARTICLE III**

The collaborative activities to be carried out under the Memorandum of Understanding should meet the following requirements:

- (i) All collaborative activities must be of high scientific standard and be beneficial to the advancement of science
- (ii) Each collaborative activity should be significant, from a scientific point of view, and as a bilateral co-operative project, performed on a basis of mutuality and equality

- (iii) Specific collaborative agreements, and details hereof, will be agreed between individual participating institutions in India and in Estonia
- (iv) All collaborative agreements may include industry participation after consultation and agreements of individual participating research institutions

#### **ARTICLE IV**

With respect to any invention or discovery made or conceived in the course of the execution of the cooperation according to Article I, the Parties agree that issues relating to inventions, discoveries and patent rights shall be agreed by the participating institutions prior to signing any individual agreements between the institutions in accordance with existing laws and regulations in India and Estonia.

#### **ARTICLE V**

- (i) Expenses related to the activities undertaken within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding will be borne by the individual participating research institutions.
- (ii) The Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the applicable laws and regulations on each side. This Memorandum of Understanding does not create rights and obligations under international law.

#### **ARTICLE VI**

Each individual research institution participating in collaborative work under this Memorandum of Understanding is solely responsible for all its acts and omissions.

#### **ARTICLE VII**

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified or amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.

#### **ARTICLE VIII**

- (i) This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated at any time by either party by giving 6 months advance written

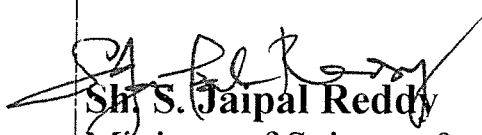
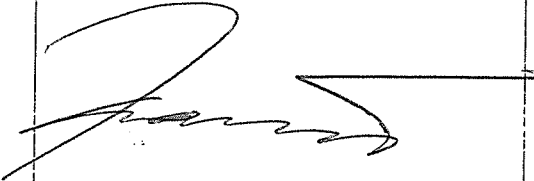
notice to the other Party of its intention to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding.

- (ii) Any activity that is already initiated pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding prior to its termination shall be pursued by the Parties till its completion and will not be affected by termination.

### ARTICLE IX

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into operation on the date of its signature by both Parties and will be valid for a period of five years with the possibilities of its extension for another five years at a time through a written notification exchanged between the Parties prior to the expiry of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed at .....Delhi..... on October 14, 2013.....in two originals in the English language, both texts are equally authentic

 <p><b>Sh. S. Jaipal Reddy</b> Minister of Science &amp; Technology and Earth Sciences The Republic of India</p>		 <p><b>Mr. Jaak Aaviksoo</b> Minister of Education and Research The Republic of Estonia</p>
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