

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE OF THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the United Mexican States (SADER) and the Department of Food and Agriculture of the State of California of the United States of America (CDFA), hereinafter jointly referred to as “the Participants”;

WHEREAS the United Mexican States and the State of California share a rich and common agricultural history that benefits their respective economies;

WHEREAS SADER promotes the comprehensive development of the agricultural, livestock and fisheries sectors within Mexico and provides for the sustainable use of its resources for balanced growth among economic regions to strengthen productivity and competitiveness of agriculture products in new markets;

WHEREAS CDFA serves the citizens of California by promoting and protecting a safe, healthy food supply, and enhancing local and global agricultural trade, through efficient management, innovation, and sound science with a commitment to environmental stewardship;

WHEREAS both Participants recognize the importance of the agricultural production, rural development, trade, climate adaptation, and research, and it is a priority to both Participants to provide farmers and ranchers in Mexico and California the resources to be sustainable, productive and successful in a global marketplace;

Therefore, the Participants have reached the following understanding:

**FIRST PARAGRAPH
Objectives**

The objectives of the present Memorandum of Understanding are establishing the basis of cooperation between the Participants to:

- a) Strengthen mutual communication to foster greater cooperation and to adhere to the intent of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- b) Promote cooperation and exchange of information on climate change adaptation for farmers and ranchers.

- c) Cooperate on food safety issues; plant and animal health; cross-border inspections; transportation logistics and trade issues.
- d) Promote cooperation in agricultural workforce development

SECOND PARAGRAPH

Activities of Cooperation

Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding may be developed through the following activities:

1. Establish an ongoing quarterly conference call between the Participants to have ongoing engagement on the topics of food safety, plant and animal health and other issues of mutual interest to further collaboration and provide a format for further cooperation.
2. Promote the sharing and exchange of information to better serve agricultural production and rural communities through community access to safe, affordable and nutritious food while sustaining natural resources. CDFA will work to coordinate with the University of California, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources and the USDA California Climate Hub to host a forum at Casa de California to better inform and establish future collaborative connections between California and Mexico in agricultural extension, research and climate-smart agriculture.
3. Recognize the need to make agriculture and rural communities part of the solution to combat the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, while also addressing the global needs of food security. This recognition aligns with the policies and initiatives of the Participants in addressing a changing climate. The Participants are decided to work together to elevate the importance of climate-smart agriculture within international discussions and promote further cooperation on this issue. It is the intent of Participants to encourage 1) 'Dissemination of Research' to improve agricultural adaptation on a global scale; 2) 'Farmer Connectivity' to further international on-farm implementation of adaptation and mitigation practices; 3) 'Advances in Agricultural Innovation and Technology' to improve the sustainability and security of food, farming and the environment.
4. The Participants will endeavor to conduct climate-smart agricultural policy missions to each other's respective country/state to learn about on-farm strategies and approaches that are assisting farmers and rural communities

in adapting to climate change. These missions will aim to include farmers, academics and government officials.

5. To further cooperate in agricultural workforce development, the Participants will be responsive to the needs of stakeholders in furthering connections and discussions among agricultural employers, farm workers, non-profits and local governments as appropriate.
6. Organize a trilateral (California, Mexico, Canada) symposium focusing on the issue of climate change adaptation for farmers and ranchers. The purpose of this symposium is to strengthen the connection and role that agricultural production has in a changing climate and support the USMCA (Agreement between the United Mexican States, the United States of America and Canada) region as a model for agricultural sector work (research and on-farm implementation) on climate adaptation. The venue for this symposium should be incorporated into an upcoming annual Tri-National Agricultural Accord Meeting in which the Participants participate.

The activities of cooperation and the terms by which those will be executed, will be described in the Working Programs decided by the Participants, which will be an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

THIRD PARAGRAPH Participating Personnel

Each Participant intends to carry out the necessary procedures with its competent authorities, in order to grant the necessary facilities for the entry, stay and exit of personnel participating officially in the activities of cooperation derived from this Memorandum of Understanding. Such personnel will be subject to the migratory, fiscal, customs, sanitary and national security regulations in force at the receiving country and will not be authorized to perform any activity different from their functions relating to the activities of cooperation without previous authorization from the competent authorities. The personnel will leave the visiting country in conformity with its laws and regulations in force.

The personnel designated by each of the Participants to carry out the activities of cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding will continue under the direction of institution to which he or she belongs, so no labor relation is created with the other Participant, which will not be considered an employer.

FOURTH PARAGRAPH Third Party Participation

If the Participants deem it helpful or convenient and by their common decision, they may invite individuals and entities from the private, public, academic, research, and other sectors to support the cooperative activities described herein, provided that they can directly and meaningfully contribute to the achievement of the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding.

FIFTH PARAGRAPH Assessment Mechanism

The Participants may prepare in a joint manner, reports and evaluations, considering comments from technical areas participating in the activities of cooperation, to assess the progress and achievements obtained based on this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Participants intend to inform their respective international affairs offices, on the progress achieved from the activities of cooperation referred to in this Memorandum of Understanding.

SIXTH PARAGRAPH Duration

Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the date of its signature. Unless otherwise extended by both Participants decision, in writing, this Memorandum of Understanding is applicable for a four (4) year period.

Either Participant may discontinue its participation in this Memorandum of Understanding, through written communication to the other Participant at least thirty (30) calendar days in advance of the intended termination. Any ongoing cooperative activity approved or initiated and not yet concluded would continue to completion, unless otherwise decided by the Participants.

SEVENTH PARAGRAPH Final Provisions

The Participants acknowledge that this Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to, and does not, create any legally binding rights or obligations, and will not be enforceable in any court of law or tribunal of any sort. The Participants declare in good faith their intent to implement this Memorandum of Understanding to the fullest extent practicable and feasible as determined by each Participant in its sole discretion.

Signed in Mexico City, on the fourth day of October of two thousand nineteen, in two original copies, in the Spanish and English languages, both texts being equally valid.

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE
UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

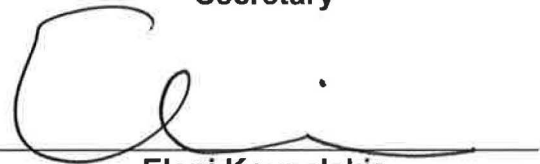


**Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula
Minister**

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE OF THE STATE
OF CALIFORNIA OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA**



**Karen Ross
Secretary**



**Eleni Kounalakis
Lieutenant Governor of the State of
California**