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AGREEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

between

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF ALBANIA

Shëtitörja Murat Toptani, Tiranë 1000, Albania

(Hereinafter referred to as “ASA”)

and

CIHEAM – MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC INSTITUTE OF BARI

Via Ceglie 9, 70010 Valenzano (Bari), Italy

(Hereinafter referred to as “CIHEAM Bari”)

Hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties”

Background

WHEREAS CIHEAM Bari is the Italian headquarter of the intergovernmental organization CIHEAM (Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes), gathering 13 Mediterranean countries.

Established in 1962, CIHEAM Bari is a Center for post-graduate higher education, applied research and development cooperation.

All the activities of CIHEAM Bari concern issues linked to sustainable agriculture at large, such as: food security, poverty reduction, strengthening institutional capacity, efficient use of natural resources, exploitation of agricultural production and productivity, promotion of organic farming, development of sustainable food systems, climate change adaptation, integrated management of coastal areas, women empowerment, fishing and aquaculture.

CIHEAM Bari works in about 40 Mediterranean, African, Latin America and Asian Countries and has hundreds of partnerships with institutions, academia, civil society and enterprises located in various Countries.

Among its assets, CIHEAM Bari has an International Campus located in Valenzano (Bari, Italy) and a seat in Tricase (Lecce, Italy) where capacity building actions are continuously carried out with both in presence and distance learning methodologies.

WHEREAS ASA is the highest public institution of scientific research and intellectual authority in the Republic of Albania. It serves as a central institution for science, culture, and public life in the country.

Officially established in 1972, the Academy evolved from earlier structures, including the Institute of Sciences (founded in 1948) and various research sectors developed throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Its founding marked a significant milestone in the institutionalization of science in Albania, and since then, it has played a leading role in shaping and advancing the nation's academic and scientific development.

The Academy promotes and coordinates scientific research in the natural, technical, social and Albanological sciences, supports high-level scientific studies, publishes scientific works, preserves and develops the national scientific and cultural heritage, and provides scientific expertise for public institutions and society on issues of national importance.

The Academy of Sciences of Albania maintains extensive cooperation with academies of sciences, universities, research institutes and international scientific organizations through joint research projects, scientific conferences, academic exchanges and other collaborative initiatives. The Academy is an active member of major international scientific networks, including the All European Academies (ALLEA), the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) and the International Science Council (ISC), thereby contributing to the advancement of international scientific cooperation and the promotion of scientific excellence.

Considering their mutual interest in promoting scientific research, innovation, knowledge transfer and institutional capacity building in the fields of agriculture, plant protection, biotechnology, food safety and related disciplines;

Recognising the strategic importance of strengthening scientific cooperation in response to current and emerging challenges affecting sustainable agriculture, plant health, phytosanitary resilience and agri-food systems, particularly in the Mediterranean and Balkan regions;



Acknowledging the value of coordinated scientific action, advanced research methodologies, specialised training, exchange of expertise and participation in joint national and international initiatives;

Desiring to establish a structured framework for cooperation in areas of common scientific and institutional interest;

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Object and Purpose

1.1 The object of this Agreement of Scientific Cooperation is to establish a general framework of cooperation between the Parties with the aim to promote and support joint scientific, technical, academic and capacity-building activities in areas of mutual interest.

1.2 Within the framework of this Agreement, the Parties may cooperate in, but shall not be limited to, the following fields:

- a. agriculture, agronomy and sustainable crop production;
- b. plant protection, plant pathology and phytosanitary systems;
- c. biotechnology and advanced diagnostic methods;
- d. food safety and quality assurance;
- e. certification of plant propagation material;
- f. quarantine plant pathogens and phytosanitary risk management;
- g. agrobiodiversity, climate-resilient agriculture and innovation in agri-food systems;
- h. any other field falling within the institutional mandates and scientific expertise of the Parties.

Article 2

Forms of Cooperation

2.1 Cooperation between the Parties may take, *inter alia*, the following forms:

- a. joint research projects and scientific activities;
- b. joint preparation, submission and implementation of national, regional, European and international projects and programmes;
- c. organisation of scientific conferences, workshops, seminars, summer schools, training courses and expert meetings;
- d. exchange of researchers and experts shall be conducted in accordance with the respective regulations of both the sending and the host institutions;
- e. co-supervision of scientific work, short-term scientific missions and technical visits;
- f. exchange of scientific information, research results, methodologies, academic materials, publications and best practices;
- g. preparation of common studies, reports, protocols, guidelines and scientific outputs;
- h. development of specialised activities aimed at strengthening scientific and institutional capacities in Albania and in the wider region.

2.2 The implementation of any specific activity under this Agreement may be regulated, where necessary, through separate written arrangements, protocols, addenda, or project-specific instruments defining the objectives, scope, responsibilities, duration, financial arrangements and other relevant conditions applicable to such activity.

Article 3

Implementation Arrangements

3.1 Each Party shall designate, through its internal procedures, the appropriate contact person(s) or unit(s) for the coordination and facilitation of cooperation under this Agreement.



3.2 The Parties shall consult regularly, as appropriate, regarding the identification, development and implementation of activities of common interest.

3.3 Any activity implemented under this Agreement shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable laws, regulations, institutional rules and internal procedures of each Party.

3.4 Nothing in this Agreement is intended to run counter to or modify the terms of each Party's specific mandates, privileges or their statutory rules.

Article 4

Financial Provisions

4.1 This Agreement does not, in itself, create any financial obligation on either Party.

4.2 Unless otherwise expressly agreed in a separate written agreement or cooperation protocol for a specific activity, each Party shall bear the costs, expenses, and financial commitments arising from its participation in activities carried out under this Agreement, in accordance with its own budget.

4.3 For the purpose of implementing joint initiatives, the Parties may seek financial support from national, European Union, international or other eligible funding sources.

Article 5

Intellectual Property, Publications and Use of Name

5.1 All intellectual property rights owned by one Party and used for the implementation of this Agreement shall remain property of that Party. Intellectual property rights arising from joint activities carried out under this Agreement shall, where applicable, be regulated by separate written arrangements concluded between the Parties in accordance with the nature of the relevant activity and the applicable legal framework.

5.2 Scientific publications, dissemination materials and other outputs resulting from joint activities shall acknowledge the contribution of each Party, subject to prior mutual agreement and to the applicable academic and ethical standards in accordance with the regulations in force.

5.3 Neither Party shall use the name, logo, emblem or other official designation of the other Party for advertising, publicity, commercial purposes or public communication without the prior written consent of the other Party, except where such use is strictly necessary to identify cooperation activities agreed between the Parties.

Article 6

Confidentiality

6.1 Each Party undertakes to treat as confidential any non-public information received from the other Party in the context of cooperation under this Agreement, where such information is identified as confidential or where its confidential nature is evident from the circumstances.

6.2 Confidential information shall not be disclosed to third Parties without the prior written consent of the disclosing Party, unless disclosure is required by law or by a competent authority.

6.3 The confidentiality obligations set out in this Article shall continue to apply, where relevant, after the termination or expiry of this Agreement.

Article 7

Legal Nature of the Agreement

7.1 This Agreement constitutes a framework for cooperation based on mutual goodwill and common scientific interest.



7.2 Unless otherwise expressly provided in a separate written instrument signed by the Parties, this Agreement shall not be construed as creating legally binding obligations under national or international law with respect to the implementation of specific activities, funding commitments, or the execution of projects.

7.3 Any legally binding rights and obligations, where intended by the Parties, shall be established exclusively through separate written agreements or instruments duly signed by the authorised representatives of the Parties.

Article 8

Duration, Amendment and Termination

8.1 This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature by both Parties and shall remain in effect for a period of **five (5) years**.

8.2 This Agreement may be renewed for additional periods upon mutual written consent of the Parties.

8.3 This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties. Any amendment shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

8.4 Either Party may terminate this Agreement by giving the other Party at least **six (6) months' prior written notice**, provided that termination shall not affect the completion of ongoing activities already agreed between the Parties, unless otherwise mutually decided in writing.

Article 9

Privacy

9.1 The Parties mutually declare that they are informed, (and *mutatis mutandis*, expressly grant their consent) that the "personal data" provided, even orally, for the pre-contractual activity or however collected as a consequence or during the execution of this Agreement, are exclusively processed for the purposes of the agreement, through consultation, processing, interconnection, comparison with other data and/or any further manual and/or automated processing and, also, for statistical purposes, with exclusive data processing in anonymous form.

9.2 Through specific implementing agreements entered from time to time, the Parties shall specify any personal data processing and the respective privacy roles.

9.3 The Parties acknowledge that the CIHEAM, on 5 July 2019, adopted the "Security of the Information and Personal Data Protection Policy", inspired by the same principles listed in the EU Regulation 679/2016 – General Data Protection Regulation and subsequent additions.

Article 10

Dispute Settlement

10.1 Any disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be resolved amicably through dialogue and consultation between the Parties at the internal level.

Article 11

Notice

11.1 Any notice or information relating to the activities and other documentation in the framework of this Agreement shall be addressed to:

For CIHEAM Bari:

Biagio Di Terlizzi

Director



Via Ceglie 9 - 70010 Valenzano (BA), Italy

e-mail: iamdir@iamb.it

For ASA:

Acad. Anila Hoda

Scientific Secretary

Shëtitörja Murat Toptani, Tiranë 1000, Albania

e-mail: anila.hoda@akad.gov.al

Article 12

Final Provisions

12.1 This Agreement contains the final and entire agreement between the Parties and all future projects and/or contracts, including Funding and Co-fundraising opportunities, shall be in a separate operational agreement based upon mutual agreement of the Parties.

12.2 This Agreement is executed in two original counterparts, each Party retaining one original.

12.3 The Annex attached to this Agreement shall form an integral part hereof (Annex I).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Agreement in four original copies in the English language.

For the Academy of Sciences of Albania

Acad. Prof. Dr. Skënder Gjinushi

President / Head of ASA

Signature: _____

Date: 11.09.2026

For CIHEAM – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari

Dr. Biagio Di Terlizzi

Director of CIHEAM Bari

Signature: _____

Date: 03/09/2026



ANNEX I

Background of Cooperation and Prospective Areas of Collaboration

The Parties acknowledge that the cooperation between **CIHEAM Bari** and the **Academy of Sciences of Albania** has already developed through a number of scientific and capacity-building initiatives supported by the **Academy of Sciences of Albania** and by **NASRI through the Academy of Sciences of Albania**.

This cooperation has been focused, in particular, on projects related to the application of **advanced methods for the diagnosis of plant pathogens in Albania**, including modern laboratory, molecular and other specialised approaches for the detection, identification and characterisation of plant pathogens of economic and phytosanitary importance.

The Parties further acknowledge that cooperation has also extended to scientific and technical support in the field of **certification of plant propagation material**, including activities related to the assessment of plant health status, the strengthening of diagnostic reliability, and the promotion of improved practices and standards relevant to certification systems.

The experience gained through these joint initiatives has contributed to the reinforcement of scientific expertise, institutional cooperation, technology transfer and research capacities in Albania, while strengthening links between Albanian researchers and international scientific networks.

Building upon this experience, the Parties recognise the value of expanding their cooperation in the future in areas consistent with the mission, programmes and scientific expertise of **CIHEAM Bari**, as well as with the expertise of **Albanian researchers**, particularly in the fields of:

- a. agronomy and sustainable agriculture;
- b. food safety and quality;
- c. plant protection and plant health;
- d. quarantine plant pathogens and phytosanitary preparedness;
- e. certification of plant propagation material;
- f. crop production systems and agricultural innovation;
- g. applied biotechnology and advanced diagnostic methods;
- h. any related area of common scientific and institutional interest.

Future cooperation may include, inter alia, joint research initiatives, expert exchanges, scientific networking, specialised training, development of methodologies and protocols, and participation in national and international programmes relevant to the advancement of agriculture, plant health and food systems.

Through such cooperation, the Parties intend to promote scientific excellence, strengthen national and regional capacities, and contribute to sustainable and resilient agricultural development in Albania and beyond.

