

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT**  
**INSTITUTION (ARDSI) OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**  
**AND**  
**THE D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION (THE D-8)**

The Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution (ARDSI) of the Republic of Turkey and the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) (hereinafter will be referred to as “the Parties”);

Subject to the provisions of this MoU, the Articles of Law establishing the ARDSI, the Articles of Agreement establishing the D-8 and the resources of both Parties and without prejudice to the existing bilateral relations between the States of common interest and both the Parties,

Have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE 1**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MoU is to carry out cooperation for the transfer of knowledge and experience gained by the Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution in the area of agriculture and rural development during the process of Turkey’s candidacy for the European Union to the D-8 Member States through the D-8 Secretariat, and this MoU will provide the legal basis for the actions and proceedings to be carried out from now on within this respect.

**ARTICLE 2**

**MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES**

The Parties have agreed on the following mutual obligations within the scope of the purpose stated in Article 1.

***The obligations of the Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution (ARDSI) within the scope of this MoU are as follows:***

Regarding the European Union Rural Development Support (IPARD Program); to transfer information and experience to the representatives of the D-8 Member States in the areas of agriculture and rural development policies, legal framework, current application systems, institutional structures, project preparation, project evaluation, project cycle management, on-the-spot controls and monitoring of project applications, and payment and accounting,

- (1) In order to execute the works effectively, to determine the contact points of responsible persons and to authorize expert personnel to the working groups to be established when necessary,
- (2) To authorize expert trainer personnel for meetings, conferences, round table meetings and trainings to be organized under this MoU and to prepare printed/ visual training materials,
- (3) To prepare programs about the trainings to be organized under this Protocol,
- (4) In the event that the content of the training program is suitable and if there is a demand, to organize study visits for rural development projects supported by ARDSI under the content of trainings to be organized in Turkey,

***The obligations of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation within the scope of this Protocol are as follows:***

- (1) In order to execute the works effectively, to establish contact points of responsible persons in the Member States as well as within the Secretariat and to authorize expert personnel to working groups to be established when necessary,
- (2) To assist ARDSI organize meetings, conferences, round table meetings and trainings to be held under this MoU,
- (3) To inform the Member States about content and timing of the activities to be organized under the MoU and to ensure participation,
- (4) To reproduce printed and visual materials required in activities organized under the MoU,
- (5) To issue certificate of attendance or certificates to the participants at the end of the training to be held under the MoU,
- (6) To encourage Member States to provide convenience in areas such as visa, accommodation and travel for participation of ARDSI personnel to activities to be held in the Member States within the scope of the MoU.

**ARTICLE 3**

**STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Parties have agreed to establish a Steering Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) to monitor and review the implementation of the cooperation under this MoU.

The Committee consists of three members from each Member State including the head of the delegation.

The Committee shall meet semiannually or at a time as mutually agreed upon.

The Committee shall be responsible for:

- Monitoring and evaluation of activities to be carried out under the MoU,
- Determining the program, schedule, location and content of the trainings to be organized after the determination of the needs and demands of the D-8 Member States,
- Evaluation of specific training requests outside the annual action plan that may come from the Member States and implementation of this trainings in accordance with this MoU,
- Evaluation of the subject in case of participation/contribution of third parties to the activities under the MoU,
- Submitting proposals on further development and improvement of cooperation;
- Recommending possible solutions to overcome difficulties arising from the cooperation.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

##### **RESPONSIBILITY**

The Parties are jointly responsible to perform the works to be made under the MoU in compliance with their own legislation, other legislation they have to comply and the activities to be executed. This MoU shall not affect the rights and liabilities of the Parties arising from any international agreement.

#### **ARTICLE 5**

##### **FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

This MoU does not create any financial commitments for or between the Parties. Any specific activities under this MoU shall be subject to the availability of funding or voluntary contributions, and shall be subject to the regulations and procedures in force in the ARDSI and the D-8.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

##### **SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

Any disputes or disagreements arising out of the interpretation or application of this MoU shall be settled amicably through mutual consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

#### **ARTICLE 7**

##### **AMENDMENTS**

This MoU may be amended or additional protocols may be made by mutual written consent of the Parties. Such amendments shall enter into force in accordance with the same legal procedure set forth in Article 8 of this MoU and shall constitute an integral part of this MoU.

## ARTICLE 8



### ENTRY INTO FORCE, VALIDITY AND TERMINATION

This MoU shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall remain in force for a period of 2 (two) years. If none of the Contracting Parties notifies the other of its intention to terminate this MoU 1 (one) month before its expiration date, the MoU will be automatically renewed each time for an additional period of 1(one) year.

This MoU is concluded with a view to enhancing and developing cooperation between the Parties and does not constitute an agreement under international law. No provision of this MoU shall be interpreted and implemented as creating legal rights or commitments.

This MoU may be terminated by a written notification of the Parties. However, the Parties will agree on measures required for the orderly conclusion of ongoing activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Acting President of ARDSI and Secretary General of D-8 have signed this Memorandum in two originals in English and on the date herein below indicated.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>On behalf of</b> <b>The Agriculture and Rural Development</b> <b>Support Institution (ARDSI) of the</b> <b>Republic of Turkey</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ali Recep Nazlı</b> <b>President</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>On behalf of</b> <b>D-8 Organization for Economic</b> <b>Cooperation (D-8)</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi</b> <b>Secretary General</b></p>
--	---