

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
IFAP - the International Federation of Agricultural Producers
and
AGRICORD - the Alliance of Agri-Agencies

Madrid, 13 October 2003

CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING:

- ✓ IFAP is the representative body of the world farmers. Through its membership and governance structures, it has a mandate to develop policy positions, and to speak for farmers, on all matters that affect their livelihoods.
- ✓ IFAP DCC is the body within the IFAP structures that has the mandate for policy-making on development cooperation matters (capacity building and strengthening of farmers' organisations in developing countries). Members of IFAP DCC are farmers' organisations accepted as DCC members, and full members of IFAP; individual agri-agencies¹ linked to IFAP member organisations are partners of the DCC.
- ✓ AGRICORD is the alliance of agri-agencies, which are partners of the IFAP DCC, and can include farmers' organisations – members of IFAP – that are involved with development cooperation programs and committed to the objectives of AGRICORD. Its mandate is the facilitation of development cooperation for the strengthening of farmers' organisations in developing countries.

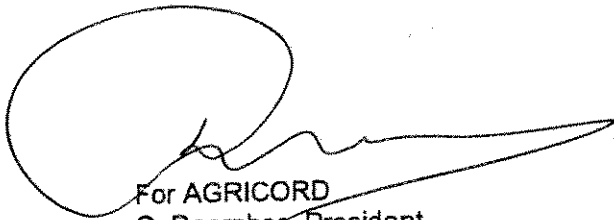
THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK FOR WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN IFAP, IFAP DCC AND AGRICORD HAS BEEN AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. AGRICORD is mandated to implement all IFAP DCC development programs. Programs implemented by AGRICORD are solely for the strengthening of full IFAP member organisations from developing countries and IFAP DCC member organisations. Exceptions can be only be made upon approval by the IFAP Secretary General.
2. The General Assembly of AGRICORD consists of:
 - Representatives mandated by the agri-agencies, partners in IFAP DCC
 - Representatives of farmers' organisations involved with development cooperation programs and committed to the objectives of AGRICORD.
 - Representatives of farmers' organisations elected within IFAP (*normally: the President of IFAP, the Chair of the IFAP DCC, Chairs of IFAP's Regional Committees in developing countries*).
 - IFAP Secretary General.


¹ Unlike other development NGO's, agri-agencies have structural links to and are controlled by the genuinely representative rural people's organisations of farmers, rural people and the co-operative enterprises started or directed by these organisations. The policies and activities of AgriCord and its relation with IFAP DCC are bound by the "farmer-led" principle. This means that the aforementioned genuinely representative rural people's organisations are setting the priorities.

3. The Board of AGRICORD consists of:
 - Representatives of the agri-agencies
 - The Chair of the IFAP DCC and the Secretary General of IFAP
4. The Chair of AGRICORD shall be a farm leader who is either the IFAP DCC Chair or the Chair of a participating agri-agency.
5. The Managing Director of AGRICORD will participate in the Executive Committee Meetings of IFAP, as well as in the regional and global DCC meetings, to report about current and future activities of AGRICORD. The Board of AGRICORD will elaborate a statute for the Managing Director, with details of his/her responsibilities. In general, the Managing Director assumes the preparation and management of the programs within the policy framework set by the Board, and in an open communication with the Secretary General of IFAP.
6. AGRICORD shall mobilise funds and implement programs for strengthening farmers' and rural people's organisations in cooperation with the IFAP DCC. All funds raised by IFAP DCC must be spent for the strengthening of IFAP member organisations (full members as well as DCC members). AGRICORD members can entrust the operations of their bilateral programs to AGRICORD. The operation of these programs must not contradict or jeopardize IFAP DCC objectives.
7. For implementation of AgriCord programs, the Managing Director can contract individual agri-agencies, the IFAP Secretariat and selected third parties, provided that they commit the institution to the appropriate administrative and procedural handling of activities in the project cycle.
8. Policy positions emerging from farmers' organisations and formulated in the course of activities supported by IFAP DCC, are to be considered as inputs to the regular policy formulating activities of the IFAP and of its relevant committees. AGRICORD has no mandate to formulate policies or to represent farmers on (agricultural) policy issues.

Madrid, 17 Oct. 03.



For AGRICORD
G. Doornbos, President



For IFAP
J. Wilkinson, President