



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH (OIRSA), THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FORESTRY, THE ENVIROMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND IMMIGRATION (MAFFESDI), BELIZE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (BAHA) AND THE BELIZE LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (BLPA)

The International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health hereinafter referred to as OIRSA, represented by its legal representative Mr. Efrain Medina Guerra, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration hereinafter referred to as (MAFFESDI), represented by its legal representative Hon. Godwin Hulse, the Belize Agriculture Health Authority hereinafter referred to as BAHA represented by its legal representative Mr. Emir Cruz, and the Belize Livestock Producers Association hereinafter referred to as BLPA, represented by its legal representative Dr. Henry Canton, hereby subscribe to the present Memorandum of Agreement, subject to the following clauses and obligations:

WHEREAS

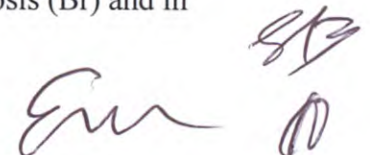
OIRSA is an International Regional Organization for Health in Agriculture which provides assistance to its member countries to develop their plant and animal health and strengthening the quarantine systems to prevent animal disease; OIRSA is assisting in the implementation of a traceability system for its member countries.

The MAFFESDI is legally in charge of Agriculture which includes responsibility for agricultural health which is administered by the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA).

The BAHA, Belize Agricultural Health Authority, as the competent authority, is responsible for the provision of regulatory and professional technical services in Food Safety, Quarantine, Plant and Animal Health.

The BLPA is a national, autonomous Association committed to safeguarding and promoting the Livestock Industry of Belize. The BLPA has been administering on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture the Belize Livestock Registry (BLR).

All the institutions, party to this agreement, share areas of common interest ensuring that Belize maintains its cattle herd status, free of Bovine Tuberculosis (Tb) and Brucellosis (Br) and in





which joint cooperation and collaboration on the further development, management and maintenance of the BLR as an essential component.

The joint and complementary efforts of the institutions will serve to protect the livestock industry in Belize.

THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

Clause One: General Objective

To cooperate and collaborate in efforts that contribute to the further development, management, maintenance and sustainability of the Belize Livestock Registry (BLR) system, to include: farmer registration, cattle identification and registering of establishments for the monitoring of Bovine Tuberculosis (Tb), Brucellosis (Br), surveillance of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), New World Screw Worm (NWS) to further enhance traceability.

Clause Two: Areas of Cooperation

The areas of cooperation covered by this Agreement shall be all those that contribute to achieving the objective set forth in Clause One, which may include but not limited to the following:

(i) Management of the BLR system

- Delegate the operations of the BLR system to the BLPA
- Authorize the BLPA to manage and control specific activities required by legislation for the declaration of free herd status of Bovine Tb and Br.

(ii) Data collection and management

- Capture on farm data to maintain the system updated
- Conduct sample testing as required by the World Organization for Animal Health for compliance of Bovine Tb and Br free status.
- Conduct farm audit as required by regulation.

(iii) Capacity Building

- Coordinate joint training in the maintenance and upgrading of the system
- Coordinate joint training of field personnel in the collection of data



(iv) Education and Public Awareness

- Sensitize and increase the awareness of stakeholders on the importance of the BLR system
- Develop effective measures and options in collaboration with all parties for greater support of the BLR at the local level.

(v) Surveillance and enforcement

- Control the movement of animal within farms, communities and out District movement as well.
- Preparation and sharing of reports on the Epidemiological Surveillance of Bovine Tb and Br.

(vi) Increase Collaboration among Partners:

- Create platforms for dialogue and discussions and find solutions to key issues that may arise with the implementation of the BLR.
- Identify areas of common interest and mechanisms to complement each other's work
- Establish information sharing mechanisms.
- Establish a joint roadmap that will serve as a guide for resource mobilization.

Clause Three: Cooperation Instruments

The Parties may decide on the most appropriate instruments and methods to carry out the specific areas of cooperation provided for in this present Agreement.

Due consideration shall be given to the following instruments:

- a. Direct advisory services, provided by technical missions or individual experts;
- b. Technical cooperation for the development, management and maintenance of the BLR
- c. Training and capacity building;
- d. Dissemination of information

Clause Four: Responsibilities of Each Party

(i) Responsibilities of OIRSA:

OIRSA agrees to the following deliverables:

- a. To provide the Belize Livestock Registry System in accordance to the harmonized SARB (Sistema Armonizado de Rastreabilidad Bovina).



- b. To provide maintenance and upgrades of the platform as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Belize Livestock Producers Association.
- c. To provide Technical support on the ground as required by BLPA with a cost sharing agreement.
- d. To assist in the acquisition of ear tags for bovine identification at competitive prices under the Regional Traceability Fund.
- e. To coordinate activities in compatibility with the Regional traceability program and its harmonization.
- f. To host the OIRSA server where the BLR system is operating at no cost to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Belize Livestock Producers Association.
- g. To secure confidentiality of the server and access to its content only as authorized by Belize.

(ii) Responsibilities of BAHA:

- a. To share the responsibility for the maintenance of the Santa Elena Northern Border Corral with Belize Livestock Producers Association
- b. To provide oversight of field activities as the competent authority related to the sampling of Bovine Tb and Bovine Br and the traceability system.
- c. To restrict the movement of cattle from farms that is not in compliance with the Bovine Tb and Br Program.
- d. To restrict the movement of the cattle from farms that is not in compliance with the Animal Identification Regulations. (Eg. Not willing to tag newborns, not reporting movement or reduction)
- e. To provide free herd certificate to farmers for Bovine Tb and Bovine Br farms that are in full compliance with pertinent legislation.
- f. To enforce compliance of the Animal Identification Regulations.
- g. To verify and collect ear tags at slaughter houses for animals registered in the BLR and to facilitate it to the Authorized Local Agent (ALA).
- h. Report all imports of Bovine to the BLR.
- i. To provide monthly Epidemiological Surveillance report to the Ministry of Agriculture and BLPA on Bovine Tb and Bovine Br.
- j. To continue effectively carrying out the BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) Surveillance Program as per Legislation in order to advance in category from an undetermined to a controlled status as per OIE Terrestrial Code.
- k. To continue conducting Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) activities to ensure the maintenance of country free status as per the OIE Terrestrial Code.
- l. To coordinate with the Ministry of Health (Public Health) to support for a better implementation of meat inspection under the Food Safety Policy.



- m. To ensure there is a sustainable monitoring system after sweep 4 and 5 to maintain free status.
- n. To develop the sampling protocol for the epidemiological surveillance for Bovine Tb. and Bovine Br. for sweeps 4 and 5 in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Code.
- o. To conduct post-mortem on suspect cases of Bovine Tb. for sample taking and submission to the reference laboratory for confirmatory testing.
- p. To conduct laboratory screening testing for Bovine Br.
- q. To submit samples for confirmatory testing for Bovine Br. to the reference laboratory.
- r. To incorporate field and laboratory test results of Bovine Tb. and Bovine Br. into the BLR.
- s. To enforce compliance of the Bovine Tuberculosis Regulations.
- t. To enforce compliance of the Bovine Brucellosis Regulations.

(iii) Responsibility of MAFFESDI

- a. To provide oversight on the Management of the BLR system including approval of changes or necessary modifications.
- b. To assign Technical Personnel to periodically monitor and evaluate the BLR system
- c. To coordinate quarterly meetings of the administrative body as designated in clause 5 number 1 of this MOA.
- d. To collaborate with the Solicitor General Office to support the approval of supporting regulations/legislations required to support traceability, free status and trade of cattle.
- e. Facilitate office space within the Ministry's facilities for BLPA Authorize Local Agents at the district level (ALA).
- f. To maintain the current BLR system as the ONLY Traceability system for cattle.

(iv) Responsibilities of BLPA:

BLPA agrees on the following deliverables:

- a. To continue the management of the BLR system.
- b. To assign Technical personnel to continue operating and managing the BLR.
- c. To be in charge of tagging all bovine animals that are newly born and those that have lost their ear tags in accordance to the traceability manual.



- d. To acquire official Bovine ear tags for the farmers at competitive market price through the Regional Traceability Fund.
- e. To conduct field sampling for Tb and Br for sweep 4 and 5.
- f. To conduct ear tagging of bovine animals in Sweep 4&5 and thereafter.
- g. To assign Technicians as ALA's to conduct farm registry and compliance to BLR.
- h. To authorize responsibility of ALA to collect ear tags from the BAHA Inspector at the respective BAHA District Offices.
- i. To destroy damaged ear tags and tags of animals that have been slaughtered, as per manual
- j. To implement a Mechanism of Movement Control as per Protocol to be agreed upon.
- k. To provide weekly reports to BAHA on Bovine Tb and Br surveillance program.
- l. To provide to the Ministry of Agriculture an annual technical report including a financial audit report on the BLR. The first such report is to be provided 15 months after the signing of this MOA and annually thereafter.

Clause Five: Operational Mechanism

The parties shall observe the following guidelines in executing the present Agreement, in so far as it is possible and advisable by the institutions:

- (i) The Country Representative of OIRSA, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment Sustainable Development and Immigration, the Managing Director of the BAHA, and the Chairman of the BLPA, shall appoint an individual directly responsible for implementation of all matters relating to this Agreement and the activities that arise from it. The first appointment should be made on the signing of this MOA and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and annually thereafter.
- (ii) Together they will execute annual revisions of the advances and achievements, which will allow making the necessary adjustments to the Agreement through the signature of Addendums.
- (iii) When deemed necessary, the Parties may create groups or technical missions to study the activities that are being carried out, or could potentially be carried out, under the present Agreement, and make such recommendations and proposals as may be necessary to lead to specific Agreements or Letters of Understanding.



- (iv) The Parties shall extend reciprocal invitations for the designation of observers to attend regular and special meetings of the respective bodies and other meetings held to review matters of mutual interest.

Clause Six: Reciprocity

Each of the parties to the agreement agrees to recognize the contributions of the other in executing the activities agreed upon, in publications, reports, information materials, messages or any other means used to disseminate information on these activities. Related documents that are intended for publication or broad dissemination would be subject to review and acceptance by all parties.

Clause Seven: Resolution of Controversies

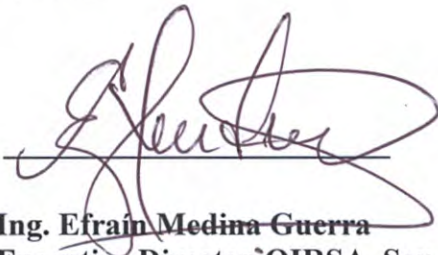
Once accepted and signed, this MOA shall not be modified or changed without written consent of all parties to the MOA. In case of any dispute arising between leading organizations and collaborators relating to the interpretation or application of the MOA, these disputes shall be resolved by mutual negotiation within a period not more than 60 days after which the Minister with responsibility for agriculture may decide a final resolution taking into consideration the views of all parties concerned.

Clause Eight: Entry into Force, Duration, Renewal and Amendment

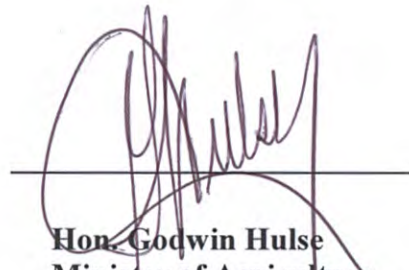
- (i) This Agreement shall enter into effect on the date it is signed by all parties and shall remain in effect for a period of five years unless either party, after due consideration and by means of official notification, gives a notice of ninety days of its desire to terminate it.
- (ii) Early termination of the present agreement shall not affect the progress of the activities being carried out by each party.
- (iii) The present agreement will be renewed by mutual consent of the parties, by official notification, within three months prior to its conclusion. However, such a renewal can only occur following the conduct of a review that showed that the results of the activities undertaken under this agreement were positive.
- (iv) The terms of this agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the parties; such amendments shall be appended hereto.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the legally authorized representatives of the parties sign **four** copies of the present agreement, each version being equally authentic, on the 28 day of the month of April, 2017.



Ing. Efraim Medina Guerra
Executive Director-OIRSA, San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.



Hon. Godwin Hulse
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development & Immigration Belize



Dr. Henry Canton
The Chairman
Belize Livestock Producers Association



Mr. Emir Cruz
Managing Director
Belize Agricultural Health Authority