

Special Program for Talent Cultivation in Rural Revitalization

COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTHWEST A&F UNIVERSITY (CHINA) AND IRKUTSK STATE AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY NAMED AFTER A.A. EZHEVSKY (RUSSIA)

Northwest A&F University ("NWAFU", Yangling, China) and Irkutsk State Agrarian University named after A.A. Ezhevsky ("ISAU", Irkutsk, Russia), hereinafter referred to as the "Parties" or singular "Party", are committed to foster additional collaborations in academic training and research developed and benefiting from their long standing partnership.

This Cooperation Agreement sets out the commitments and understandings of the Parties' to collaboration and has the purpose of providing a framework to enable and encourage both Parties to continue and further strengthen their academic and research cooperation, particularly in predominant research areas, specifically:

a) The Parties agree to collaborate in delivering a joint research and academic training project in response to the China Scholarship Council's "Special Program for Talent Cultivation in Rural Revitalization", in particular, for frontier research in rural revitalization.

b) After approval of the project proposal by China Scholarship Council, a detailed Implementation Plan, in accordance with the requirements and guidance prescribed by the China Scholarship Council's "Special Program for Talent Cultivation in Rural Revitalization", will be developed by the Parties.

1. Graduate Student Training Opportunities and Admission

In each year, for up to three years, the ISAU will receive applications for up to eleven (11) graduate students program training opportunities. These will be in the field of rural revitalization.

It is the right of any faculty member at the ISAU to select specific students to supervise. Although the ISAU cannot guarantee the admission of any applicant, the ISAU is fully committed to accept qualified students from the Special Program for Talent Cultivation in Rural Revitalization. The graduate management institution from ISAU will facilitate admission into the ISAU graduate programs-based on ISAU entrance criteria of qualified applicants from NWAFU, and in accordance with ISAU admission policies.

a) The acronym of the graduate management institution from ISAU recognizes the degrees granted by NWAFU, and, the grades of students from NWAFU will be accepted at par.

b) All students will meet the admission requirements, including Language proficiency, for the ISAU graduate Program to which they have applied.

c) The acronym of the graduate management institution from ISAU working with the Project Leaders, will annually provide to NWAFU a list of research supervisors and their areas of specialty who are seeking graduate students under the terms of this agreement.

d) NWAFU will promote the agreement to potential students and will annually publish the provided list of graduate training opportunities.

e) Wherever possible, participating students will be co-supervised by a faculty member from the ISAU and a faculty member from NWAFU, who will jointly oversee the research project in a shared research theme.

f) A joint advisory committee will be formed for each student at the ISAU, and, at least one committee member will be appointed from the faculty at NWAFU.

2. Graduate Student Funding

All students who are admitted into a joint program and attend the ISAU under the terms of this agreement and the "Special Program for Talent Cultivation in Rural Revitalization" will receive from the China Scholarship Council:

One international return air ticket to Russia;

Living allowance for accommodation, meals, health insurance, visa application fees and other costs as prescribed from time to time by the China Scholarship Council, for up to twelve (12) months.

3. Visiting Scholar Opportunities and Appointments

Each year, for up to three years, the ISAU will receive applications for two (2) visiting scholar opportunities; for a total of six (6) fellowships over the term of this agreement. Each visiting opportunity will be for a period of up to one (1) year, and, they will be in the field of rural revitalization.

The graduate management institution from ISAU and the International Office from ISAU will work together to assist recommended applicants with securing an appropriate faculty supervisor. Applications and appointments for visiting scholar will be in accordance with ISAU admission policies.

NWAFU will promote the agreement to potential candidates for visiting scholar fellowships, and, will solicit applications for annually publishing the provided list of graduate training opportunities.

All visiting scholars who come to the ISAU under the terms of this agreement and the "Special Program for Talent Cultivation in Rural Revitalization", will receive the following:

a) From the CSC, up to twelve (12) months living allowance as prescribed from time to time by the China Scholarship Council (which includes health insurance), a return international airfare and visa application fees.

b) From the ISAU, annual supplemental funding as required to ensure the appointed fellow receives the minimum posted annual rate for visiting scholar fellowships as required by ISAU policy.

4. Financial Considerations

This Agreement will not be guided by any commercial considerations and nothing in this agreement entails transfer of financial resources between the Parties. Neither Party will incur any financial obligations resulting from the actions of the other Party without a prior agreement in writing to accept specific financial obligations.

In implementing the envisaged collaborative program, the Parties shall seek financial support through their respective, or shared, sources of funding. Representatives of the Parties will maintain an effective communication channel to review specific program progress and negotiate financial obligations, if applicable.

5. Intellectual Property

The Parties recognize that any activity arising from this Cooperation Agreement which involves running processes of research, training, implementation and evaluation of projects, etc. may involve intellectual property. In such cases, intellectual property rights will be negotiated separately, and in a manner that recognizes the participation and contribution of both institutions, as well as the respective policies and regulations in place at each partner university.

6. Requirements

a) The Parties agree to submit to the law of their respective countries and this agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with any applicable agreements between Russia and China.

b) The participants taking part in the cooperation programs, and the staff overseeing the administration of this Agreement, shall operate within the policies and regulations of their university of origin.

c) The participants taking part in the cooperation programs shall comply with the immigration requirements of the country of the host university.

7. Conclusion

a) Each Party will assign a "project leader" for the aforementioned program. These individuals will be responsible for working the assigned parameters and meeting the project goals. At the ISAU this person will be Repetckii Oleg V., (Professor, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Irkutsk, Russian Federation) and at NWAUFU this person will be Lixin Zhang (Professor, Director of the Shaanxi Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Dryland Biological Resources and Green Smart Agriculture, Northwest A&F University, The People's Republic of China).

b) This Cooperation Agreement shall commence on the date of last signature and shall remain in force until December 31, 2029. This agreement may be amended or extended by mutual agreement in writing by the Parties.

c) Either Party can terminate the agreement by giving six months of written notice to the other. In the case of early termination of the agreement, the Parties agree that any previously approved trainees shall continue to complete as if the Agreement had remained in force.

In WITNESS HEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of each institution agree to the provisions of this agreement.

Signed for and on behalf of

Shaanxi Belt and Road Joint Laboratory
on Dryland Biological Resources and
Green Smart Agriculture, Northwest
A&F University, China

Director
Prof. Lixin Zhang

Signed for and on behalf of

Irkutsk State Agrarian University named after
A.A. Ezhevsky, Russia

Vice-Rector for international relations
Prof. Repetckii Oleg V.

