

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTS, IRRIGATION AND COOPERATIVES
OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
IN RESEARCH ON RICE AND RICE-BASED FARMING SYSTEMS

This Memorandum of Understanding is between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Irrigation and Cooperatives of the Lao People's Democratic Republic hereinafter called the Ministry and the International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Philippines, hereinafter called IRRI;

WHEREAS, the Ministry is interested in rapidly increasing the production of rice and other food crops in Laos as well as the economic well-being of rice farmers;

WHEREAS, IRRI, a non-profit international organization supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, has likewise its primary goal of increasing the quantity and quality of rice produced through research and training on all aspects of rice including rice-based farming systems and through scientific and technical cooperation with national programs;

NOW THEREFORE, the Ministry and IRRI, inspired by their common objectives to further promote and accelerate research on rice and rice-based farming systems and strengthen national and regional rice research and production programs, wish to enter into an agreement on research

collaboration on rice and rice-based farming systems. The two parties have reached a mutual understanding as set forth in the following paragraphs:

ARTICLE I

1. The collaboration on rice research will be decided on the basis of joint planning of collaborative research and training between the Ministry and IRRI. Annual work plans will be developed to supplement this agreement.

2. It is mutually agreed that IRRI's cooperation will generally aim at enhancing the national capability in research on rice and rice-based farming systems in Laos. High priority will be given to (a) Rice varietal improvement, (b) Seed production, (c) Intensifying rice-based farming systems, (d) Plant protection, (e) Integrated nutrient management, (f) Participation in graduate degree and short-term training programs as well as mutual exchange of scientists, where appropriate, through conferences, symposia, workshops, and other means, (g) Mutual exchange of publications and technical information, (h) Translation, publication and distribution of IRRI publications and (i) Mutual exchange of traditional and improved germplasm.

3. The scale of collaborative research and training activities between the Ministry and IRRI will be determined by a joint evaluation, from time to time, of Laos' needs and IRRI's capacity for undertaking collaborative activities, and by the level of financial resources available for this purpose.

ARTICLE IV

Subject to personnel and budgetary limitations, and as mutually agreed upon, IRRI will:

1. Assist Lao scientists to receive degree and non-degree training;
2. Invite Lao scientists, after consultation with the Ministry to attend international research conferences, symposia and workshops, and to join in monitoring international network activities of interest to them;
3. Make available seed materials, publications, and research information to support collaborative activities.

ARTICLE V

In order to facilitate the implementation of collaborative activities, the Ministry, in accordance with the existing laws and regulations in force in Laos will:

1. Designate national scientists who will work in Laos on specific collaborative projects.
2. Undertake necessary clearance for Lao scientists to participate in conferences, workshops, training programs, and collaborative research.
3. Authorize the free movement of germ plasm in and out of Laos as may be required by collaborative work subject to normal quarantine procedures;
4. Assist in obtaining necessary visas and completion of formalities connected with the visits of IRRI scientists in Laos.

ARTICLE IV

Both parties agree that:

1. Results of collaborative research will be published in the public interest as mutually agreed upon;

2. Although in most cases the results of collaborative research will be published jointly by scientists working for the two organizations, each party may publish the results separately if so determined by mutual consultation in specific cases. Either party publishing any research findings will give credit to the other party's contributions but would at the same time be entirely responsible for the conclusions and interpretations reported;

3. Breeding materials, germ plasm, etc. will be freely exchanged between the Ministry and IRRI with due recognition for the sources of the seed material. Either party may use such materials but will give full credit to its source of origin.

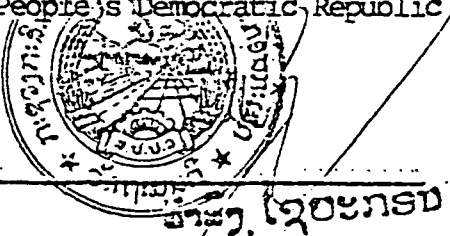
ARTICLE V

1. The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding may, by mutual consent, add, modify, amend or delete any words, phrases, sentences, or articles in this Memorandum of Understanding;

2. The Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective on the date of signature by both parties and shall be valid for a period of 5 years, and can be extended as agreed upon by both parties;

3. Either party may at any time give notice to the other party of its intention to terminate the validity of the Memorandum of Understanding, in which case the Memorandum of Understanding will terminate six months after such notice has been issued.

For the Ministry of Agriculture,
Forests, Irrigation and Cooperatives
Lao People's Democratic Republic



Date:

11/12/1987

For the International Rice
Research Institute
Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

M. P. Iwanickian

Date:

May 6, 1987