

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

AGROBIO - Portuguese Association of Organic Agriculture - hereinafter **AGROBIO** - with headquarters in Alameda das Linhas de Torres, nº 277 - 1750-145 Lisboa, represented by President Jaime Ferreira

AND

International Network of Eco Regions (Rede Internacional de Bio Regiões) - hereinafter **INNER** - with registered office in Largo Dino Frisullo snc - 00153 Rome, represented by President Salvatore Basile and operational headquarters in Portugal in Rua Dom Fernando Guerra 38 - 4715-18 Braga, coordinated by Custódio De Sousa Oliveira

GIVEN THAT

AGROBIO - Portuguese Association of Organic Agriculture, established in 1985, represents a pioneering institution that guides the spread and development of organic farming in Portugal, operating in accordance with the principles and values of IFOAM - International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements;

INNER - International Network of Bio-districts and Ecoregions - represents the first world's network of bio-districts and eco-regions: local communities located in territorial areas of variable size that choose, based on the principles, methods and techniques of organic agriculture and agroecology and responsible consumption, to adopt an integrated approach and active participation of the different territorial actors to the implementation, enhancement and development of sustainable agri-food systems, in coherence with the 2030 UN and EU Agenda orientations and recommendations;

AGROBIO promotes organic farming in Portugal by providing education, training and technical assistance services, as well as action plans for research and innovation, in order to support consumers and producers towards the best choices and decisions in order to guarantee environmental sustainability, safety and nutritional quality, well-being and fairness;

INNER provides technical assistance to public and private entities for the implementation and development of the bio-districts model as an integrated system able to improve the profitability and quality of typical local agri-food and zootechnical products, guarantee consumers food safety, traceability and healthy food, safeguard and enhance biodiversity, landscape and natural resources, increase resilience to climate change, promote and sustain processes of sustainability of the local system of small and medium-sized industrial enterprises, of crafts, trade and tourism, encourage in the public administration the adoption of practices that favor the reduction of food production and distribution chains, as well as waste, and in general favor *green public procurement*, incentivize and support new forms of community welfare through social agriculture;

Considering that

Agrobio and INNER are both engaged in Portugal to promote the development of a sustainable national agri-food system through the dissemination of the principles, methods and organic techniques, as a strategic choice able to improve operations, performance and competitiveness in terms of productivity, efficiency and profitability of companies in the agri-food sector;

Agrobio and INNER believe that the realization of the Eco-Regions (Bio-districts) constitutes an innovative governance, that allows to accelerate the necessary rural development processes through integrated, multi-sector and multi-fund territorial strategies, based on a broad and articulated public, private and social partnership, directed to improve the quality of life and work of the population, reduce the demographic depopulation trend, increase the attractiveness of these areas as places of innovation, research and experimentation, social inclusion, resilience to climate change, directed to protect and safeguard biodiversity and to develop agro-biodiversity, enhance traditional culture and knowledge, promote sustainable consumption and lifestyles, ensure the effective exercise of citizenship rights (education, health, mobility and connectivity);

Agrobio ed INNER share the IFOAM - International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – principles and guidelines - and have synergic action strategies in the promotion and support of experiences of innovation and research, in the implementation of training activities of social actors in order to shape sustainable agri-food systems consistent with the objectives and methods of the Agenda UN 2030;

Agrobio ed INNER agree that the integrated sustainable and internationalized territorial approach to the development of new agri-food systems is the operational tool for implementing the key changes able to overcome the limits of the current model of economic and social development, which constitute the space of action to be implemented in the various territories.

IT IS AGREED AND PROVIDED THAT

Article 1

The premises are an integral and substantial part of this memorandum of understanding.

Article 2

Agrobio and INNER agree on the opportunity to stipulate a memorandum of understanding, within which to identify areas of joint collaboration with the intent to execute and implement joint projects, programs and events, drafting of dossiers on issues of mutual competence, including in the international context.

In particular, the system of joint action of the two Associations that is divided into the different territories, in which they are constituted or are in the process of being established or where they will be constituted Bio-districts, concerns the following fields:

- modification of **production practices** by introducing organic and agroecological methods and techniques, with the participation of public and private institutions, organization of producers, universities and research centers, NGO's, centers of integrated education and training services for all public, private and private social actors involved in the bio-district

processes, research and innovation, technical assistance and marketing to individual and associated producers, credit and finance, etc.;

- the generation and **dissemination of knowledge** and innovations through the enhancement of the skills of local producers and knowledge, the implementation of transdisciplinary research and action research, open living labs that organize visits and practical activities of school students of all levels; researchers, teachers and social actors using interactive and participatory learning methods and techniques; training actions on the integrated and internationalized territorial approach of the new sustainable agri-food systems in agronomic, horeca and tourism higher education institutions and universities; training actions of managers, managers and technicians on the processes of bio-districts and new food production practices of producers' organizations, environmental associations and consumer organizations;
- social and economic relations between the different actors of the local communities in the direction of promoting **social cohesion**, favoring forms of food distribution in the short supply chains, to facilitate collaborative and fairer relationships in the production chains between the various actors, to promote and strengthen producer and consumer organizations, to create opportunities for citizens' active participation in strategic decisions on agri-food systems, also in relation to the reduction of losses and waste, to the best quality and accessibility of food, etc.;
- the **regulatory and institutional framework**, national and international: the meaning of this field of action, aiming at organizing support for policies at local, national and international levels, which should facilitate innovative governance structures based on participation, access to land, water, forests, common resources, credit and seeds, encouraging the multi-functionality of agricultural businesses and eco-system services, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and family farming;
- the dissemination of the **organic culture and agroecology** through the production of publications, newsletters, manuals and the organization of national and international seminars, meetings, conferences and forums.

Article 3

The Parties agree to undertake joint actions with a view to:

- defining a multiannual operational plan in the different territories of Portugal,
- develop initiatives and events directed to the promotion, dissemination and development of experiences that have adopted the territorial biological and agro-ecological model for sustainable production and consumption systems in areas of specific vulnerability and value, such as parks and protected areas,
- the improvement of territorial governance and the active participation of citizens in decisions on sustainable development,
- the consolidation of multi-fund and multi-level coordination strategies,
- support actions of partnerships for co-development and exchange and transfer of innovative know-how in international, transnational and territorial cooperation programs and projects.

Article 4

- For each action to be carried out, under the protocol, there will be a specific contract of action concluded between the parties.
- When agreed, the parties may use their logos in the context of initiatives and documents subject to communication and content.

Article 5

Each party undertakes to appoint a contact person as a reference figure within one month from the signature of this protocol. The latter will work, on an annual basis, to draw up a work plan related to the initiatives of joint interest to be undertaken.

Article 6

As part of the presentation and / or publication of the results of the joint work pursuant to art. 2 the contributions of each of the two institutions involved must be explicitly mentioned.

Article 7

This agreement, made of four pages, will enter into force on the date of the signature by the two contracting institutions and will have a duration of five years. Within this period, the agreement may be amended or terminated by request of one of the parties, to be mutually communicated at least three months before the date on which one part intends to adopt the changes or terminate the agreement. However, this interruption will not concern any activities in progress whose conclusion, on the basis of agreements previously made by the two parties, was scheduled for a date subsequent to the date of the request for termination.

20/07/2019 / / 2019

AGROBIO

President Jaime Ferreira



IN.N.E.R.

President Salvatore Basile

