

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE MINISTER FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES OF DENMARK**  
**AND**  
**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, NATURE AND FOOD QUALITY OF THE NETHERLANDS**  
**ON COOPERATION IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**  
**SYSTEMS**

The Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark and the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Participant” and collectively as the “Participants”);

Have come to the following arrangement:

**Paragraph 1 – Objective**

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a non-juridically binding framework for mutually beneficial cooperation between the Participants in the field of climate adaptation and mitigation of agriculture and food systems, including the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal.

**Paragraph 2 – Areas of Cooperation**

The following topics have been identified as possible areas of cooperation between the Participants under the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding, where a few areas will be selected by consultation between the Participants.

1. In general, policy-making for climate mitigation and adaptation, addressing imported deforestation (e.g. palm oil and soya beans), circular solutions, and preserving biodiversity in the agriculture and food sector, whilst bearing in mind security of supply and cost efficiency;
2. Circular agriculture and precision farming, especially the aim to produce food and biomass with less external inputs, less emissions and the efficient management of food waste streams. The goal here will be minimizing resource wastage and closing the economic farming and food circles, with minimal strain on the environment and biodiversity;
  - a. Best practices on managing soil fertility, nutrient balance, water quality, contribution to carbon sequestration in agricultural soils, searching for alternatives and reducing the usage of pesticides, preserving biodiversity, and reusing biowaste;
3. Building pandemic resilient agricultural sectors. The COVID-19 crisis has stressed the vulnerability of agri-food value chains. This trend applies to many countries. Efforts to strengthen the resilience and to prevent future pandemic are necessary;
4. (Plant) Breeding and genetics;
5. Combining farming and sustainable energy production;
6. Innovation and CO<sub>2</sub>-reduction of greenhouse horticulture;

7. Improvement of management of agricultural soils and plants as means for carbon sequestration and CO<sub>2</sub> uptake;
8. Animal husbandry, especially the aim to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses (e.g. nitrogen and methane);
9. Animal welfare, ensuring optimal conditions for livestock (and including transport and slaughter);
10. Usage of big data sets in the development of integrated food systems revolving the principles of sustainability and carbon neutrality;
11. Development of alternative protein sources from marine (e.g. algae, shellfish, jellyfish and seaweed), insect or plant-based sources (e.g. grass protein);
12. Joint agenda-setting to increase the European climate ambitions, including the European discussions on legislation and policies to implement these ambitions, such as the EU Green Deal, and its components the EU Farm2Fork strategy and European Biodiversity Strategy, and the SDGs;
13. Additional areas of cooperation as the Participants may decide upon in writing.

Crosscutting themes in the abovementioned topics are the promotion of innovation, sector coupling and cooperation with like-minded ambitious countries within the EU-context.

### **Paragraph 3 – Forms of Cooperation**

The Participants plan to encourage cooperation between policy makers and technical experts from the Danish Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (hereinafter: the Ministries) and their implementing agencies, on mutually beneficial agriculture and food climate mitigation and adaptation related research and work opportunities in both countries. Also cooperation between scientific institutions and between companies from both countries will be encouraged and supported.

Since the areas listed above range widely in content, and significant steps have already been taken in some areas, the structure and approach should be customized from topic to topic.

### **Paragraph 4 – Governance**

Experts of the Ministries or their implementing agencies will meet on a basis of need to work on selected areas of cooperation set out in this Memorandum of Understanding and to share information on general developments in their agriculture and food policies which are of relevance for the climate goals.

The Directors-General of the Ministries responsible for agriculture and food policy will meet annually to assess the progress on the areas identified for closer cooperation and to assess general follow-up action to this Memorandum of Understanding. Preferably, they will meet in the margin of an event they both already attend to limit their travel-related CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions.

The Participants intend to meet annually to discuss the progress of the areas selected for cooperation. Preferably, they meet in the margin of an event they both already attend to limit their travel-related CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions.

This Memorandum of Understanding is aimed at strengthening existing cooperation in international networks such the EU, not replacing them.

**Paragraph 5 – Costs**

Each Participant will bear its own costs associated with the cooperative activities intended under this Memorandum of Understanding unless the Participants jointly decide otherwise in writing. Activities under this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of appropriate funds, in conformity with budgetary provisions and the relevant laws of each Participant.

**Paragraph 6 – Final Provisions**

This Memorandum of Understanding comes into effect on the signature date and will be jointly reviewed upon written request of one of the Participants.

At any time, a Participant may propose amendments to this Memorandum of Understanding, which may be jointly decided upon in writing by the Participants.

This Memorandum of Understanding will continue to have effect until 2026 and may be extended for a further period of time if jointly decided upon in writing by the Participants.

Either Participant may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by means of a three months' written notice to the other Participant. In such case, the Participants will in consultation seek to finalize the activities already under implementation.

Any difficulties or misunderstanding that may arise about the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved through consultations between the Participants.

This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any rights or obligations under international law and does not impose any financial obligations on the participants.

Signed simultaneously in Copenhagen, Denmark and The Hague, The Netherlands on the 25th of March 2021 in two (2) original copies each in the English language.

The Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark

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Rasmus Prehn

The Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands

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Carola Schouten