



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This MOU is made and entered into on **3rd day of March 2025**

BETWEEN

Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, Gujarat, India

AND

Department of Biology, College of Science, University of Hail, Saudi Arabia.

Department of Biosciences is a premier academic and research institute of the Veer Narmad South Gujarat University in the field of life sciences established under the developmental grants of UGC during the IV Five-year plan in 1977. The department offers M.Sc., and Ph. D. courses in Biosciences with specialization in subjects of Botany, Zoology and Microbiology. The department also runs skill based and entrepreneur programs like add-on course PG Diploma in Toxicology and Post Graduate Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology. More than 160 Ph. D. students have been passed out since the establishment of the department. The department has completed several research projects funded by the State, National, and International funding agencies. The department is well-equipped with the sophisticated instruments to research the identified areas of life sciences. The department has also comprehensively developed the core research facility in the Microbiome, Bioinformatics, Ecogenomics, Toxicology, industrial waste, Medicinal Plant, traditional agricultural practices, ethnobotany etc. The achievement of the department includes various central government-funded projects *i.e.*

1. UGC-SAP-DRS-I (2011 to 2016): Thrust Area: Toxicity Evaluation of Textile Industry Effluent
2. UGC-SAP-DRS-II (2018 to 2023): Thrust Area Environmental Toxicology and Ecogenomics
3. DST-FIST-Level-I (2018 to 2023): Host-Microbiome Interaction,
4. In 2017, the department awarded state-of-the-art Bioinformatics and Supercomputer facility from the state government.

Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (hereinafter referred to as VNSGU, and the expression shall include all its present and future Units) was originally established under the South Gujarat University Act, 1965 passed by the Gujarat State Legislative Assembly. It became functional from the academic year of 1966 and was incorporated as a University on 23 May, 1967. Recognized by the University Grants Commission in 1968, it was renamed as Veer Narmad South Gujarat University in 2004 after the great Gujarati poet Narmad, Narmadshankar Lalshankar Dave. The vision of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, as envisaged in the University Act, is to contribute to the field of higher education in the region and enable its inclusive development in all walks of life by making available trained



personnel in various branches of human knowledge, keeping in mind the larger goals of nation-building. The University is committed to maintaining high standards in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, promoting research and undertaking the requisite extension activities that would reach out to every section of society. The vision of VNSGU is to be an institute of excellence in the higher and technical education segment, sensitive to its regional needs and changing global realities.

Details of partner Institute

University of Hail has achieved a significant milestone. It has been included in the prestigious Times 2022 World University Ranking, securing a position between 351-400. This recognition reflects the institution's commitment to excellence in education and research. As a result, entering into an MoU with the University of Hail is a matter of great pride for us. Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to the eligibility criteria set by the UGC for the eligibility of Assistant Professor. Candidates who have completed their Ph.D. from a foreign university or institution are eligible for exemption from certain essential criteria. Specifically, if their Ph.D. is among the top 500 in the World University Ranking any time by any of the following reputable organizations: Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), Times Higher Education (THE), Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) by Shanghai Jiao Tong University. We encourage prospective candidates to explore this opportunity and consider the University of Hail as a valuable partner for collaborative research, student exchange programs and joint initiatives.

The Department of Biosciences of VNSGU and Department of Biology, College of Science, University of Hail, Saudi Arabia shall hereinafter, where the context so permits, be collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually as "Party".

It is now duly communicated and hereby agreed by and between the parties as follows:

1. NATURE AND SCOPE OF THIS MOU

The purpose of this MOU is to provide the best quality education to students, academicians & other staff of both parties as well as external stakeholders through various activities such as technical training, workshops, fast-track course batches & internship training. The Parties shall work towards collaborative research, education & training in the fields of Bioscience, biotechnology, biomedical technology, Environmental Toxicology and related interdisciplinary areas. For this purpose, Parties shall identify mutually agreeable specific research, education, training, and awareness programs after due consideration of respective financial means and practical feasibility. The List of the training programs is specified in Annexure 1. Name of institute may amend the Programs/courses from time to time.



2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Undertake collaborative Research, Education, to impart advanced training and workshops and Awareness programs for the students, faculty, officers, scientific & other staff of both the parties as well as external stakeholders.
- 2.2 Jointly conceptualize collaborative research proposals for funding and publications. Financial arrangements for each specific collaboration will be decided on a case-to-case basis.
- 2.3 Collaborate in the supervision of students and undertaking joint research in disciplines of mutual interest and for pursuing higher degrees like M. Sc. and Ph.D.
- 2.4 Extend the laboratories and other infrastructure facilities for specified collaborative Research, Education, Training and Awareness Programs.
- 2.5 Any other appropriate mode of interaction agreed upon between Department of Biology, College of Science, University of Hail, Saudi Arabia and Department of Biosciences, VNSGU.

3. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

- 3.1 Each of the above areas of interaction will be initiated by entering into a separate agreement between the two parties with the details of implementation including financial considerations. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to obligate either party to enter into any further agreements with each other.
- 3.2 Parties shall appoint one member of its senior scientific staff/faculty as a coordinator to jointly identify, plan, coordinate implementation of collaborative programs and activities. The Coordinators shall interact on regular basis.
- 3.3 Programs and activities shall be planned through mutual consultations with the consent of appropriate authorities of both parties.
- 3.4 The coordinator shall utilize its strength to align with various skill development programs and initiatives to meet the objectives of the workshop/Training program.
- 3.5 The coordinator shall design, develop and provide required course materials & practical training to the participants.
- 3.6 The quality delivery is the responsibility of the coordinator and the coordinator would have to have in-house or engage the required manpower and the faculty as per the requirement, in conjunction with the Department of Biology, College of Science, University of Hail, Saudi Arabia. Both parties can use the logo, trade name, course modules & other related materials for the promotion of the courses to be conducted jointly within the scope of this MoU. Both parties shall promote the arrangement and courses through respective websites
- 3.7 There is no financial commitment on the part of the Department of Biosciences, VNSGU, the Department of Biology, College of Science, University of Hail, Saudi



Arabia to take up any program mentioned in the MoU. If there is any financial consideration, it will be dealt with separately.

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

Department of Biosciences, VNSGU and Department of Biology, College of Science, University of Hail, Saudi Arabia shall enter into a non-disclosure agreement if and when dealing with confidential information.

5. NON-EXCLUSIVITY

The relationship of the Parties under this MOU shall be non-exclusive and both Parties, including their affiliates, subsidiaries and divisions, are free to pursue other MOUs or agreements or collaborations of any kind.

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

No rights of any kind whatsoever in any invention, copyright, trade secret, or any other form of intellectual property (collectively defined as “IP”) are granted or transferred under this MOU. Any IP exchanged under this MOU shall be governed by the terms of a separate written agreement between the parties.

7. TERMS AND TERMINATION

This MOU, unless extended by mutual written agreement of the Parties, shall expire 5 (five) years after the Effective Date. This MOU may be amended or terminated earlier by mutual written agreement of the Parties at any time. Either party shall have the right to unilaterally terminate this MOU without stating any reasons, upon 30 days prior written notice to the other party. In the event of termination, the parties will take steps to bring the activities under the MOU to a prompt and orderly conclusion. However, no such early termination of this MOU, whether mutual or unilateral, shall affect the obligations of the participants under any Research Agreement, or any other agreement entered into pursuant to this MOU, which obligations shall be independent of any such termination.

8. RELATIONSHIP

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to make the party a partner, an agent or legal representative of the other for any purpose. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to obligate either Party to enter into any further MOU/agreements or any Research Agreement with each other. This MOU does not create any other business arrangement, including but not limited to any partnership, agency or joint venture,



between the Parties. A Party shall not quote the other Party's name or reproduce its logo in any form or medium without the prior written consent of the other party.

9. ASSIGNMENT

It is understood by the Parties herein that this MOU is based on the professional competence and expertise of each party and hence neither Party shall transfer or assign this MOU, or rights or obligations arising hereunder, either wholly or in part, to any third party.

10. SIGNED IN DUPLICATE

This MOU is executed in duplicate with each copy being an original version of the MOU and having equal legal validity.

11. GOVERNING LAW & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

This MOU shall be governed by the laws of India. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this MOU shall be mutually resolved. In case such resolution is not possible, the dispute shall be finally settled through arbitration by a sole arbitrator mutually appointed by the Parties as per the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act (India), 1996, as amended from time to time. The arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in English language and held at Surat and shall be considered binding and final on the Parties.

BY SIGNING BELOW, the parties, acting by their duly authorized officers, have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed, effective as of the day and year first above written.



For and on behalf of
Department of Biology, College of Science,
University of Hail, Saudi Arabia

Department of Biology,
College of Science, University of Hail,
Saudi Arabia

In presence of:

Witnesses 1:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Witnesses 2:

Name:

Signature:

Date:



For and on behalf of
Veer Narmad South Gujarat University
Surat.

Registrar: Dr. R. C. Gadhvi
Veer Narmad South Gujarat University
Surat.

Witnesses 1:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Witnesses 2:

Name:

Signature:

Date: