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Total Amount (Rs.) : 1,000 (One Thousand only)

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)
AS SIGNED BETWEEN BIHAR RURAL LIVELIHOODS PROMOTION SOCIETY
(BRLPS)
AND
AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (INDIA)**

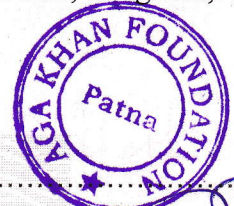
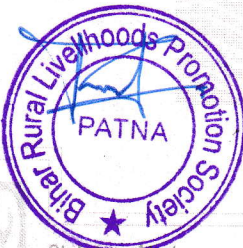
This Memorandum of understanding is entered into between

The **"Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society"** (BRLPS), Vidyut Bhawan, Annexe-II 1st Floor (Southern Wing), Bailey Road Patna, herein after called the **First Party**, which term and expression shall mean and include, unless repugnant to the context, its successors, assignees, administrators of the **First Party**

And

Aga Khan Foundation (India) hereinafter called the **Second Party**, which term and expression shall mean and include, unless repugnant to the context, its successors, assignees, administrators of the **Second Party**.

Do not write or type below this line



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Statutory Alert:

1. The authenticity of this Stamp certificate should be verified at 'www.shcilestamp.com' or using e-Stamp Mobile App of Stock Holding. Any discrepancy in the details on this Certificate and as available on the website / Mobile App renders it invalid.
2. The onus of checking the legitimacy is on the users of the certificate.
3. In case of any discrepancy please inform the Competent Authority.

RECITALS

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS) is an autonomous society under the Department of Rural Development, Government of Bihar. The Government of Bihar has entered implementing the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in Bihar through the Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), for which financial support comes from The Govt. of Bihar, Government of India and the World Bank. The program is being implemented in all the blocks of 38 districts of Bihar. The aim of the program is to improve rural livelihoods by enhancing social and economic empowerment of the rural poor. This also includes improving the livelihoods and quality of life of the rural poor with focus on women and other disadvantaged groups through social and economic empowerment. This is done by developing organizations of rural poor and producers to enable them to access Govt. entitlements and negotiate better services, credit and assets from public and private sector agencies and financial organizations. Under the program SHGs are formed in villages, which are federated as Village Organizations and subsequently as Cluster Level Federations. Using the 'saturation approach' (leaving no poor household from the loop of SHGs), the program intervenes in the selected sectors / sub sectors / commodities for income enhancement of the rural poor, who are or can be engaged in any critical point of the value chain deriving maximum income for their livelihood improvement.

The Aga Khan Foundation (India) has a history of implementing community-based poverty reduction and rural livelihood enhancement programs in some of India's poorest geographies. AKF has been active in India since 1978. Interventions are currently underway in rural and urban areas of a number of states in India. Livestock development is a priority activity, with ongoing projects on small ruminant productivity improvement in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. With its multi-faceted experience across states, AKF has a strong understanding of the rural livelihoods sector, including working with SHGs, and credible partnerships with state and national government.

Context

The Aga Khan Foundation (India), through its Project Mesha initiative, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, seeks to transform and improve the quality of life of landless and marginal farming households in four blocks of District Muzaffarpur, Bihar, through improvements in small ruminant production, increasing and strengthening the role of women in the small ruminant value chain and demonstrating an implementation model that can be expanded at significant scale in other districts of the state.

During the period between 27.10.2016 and 30.11.2020 when an MoU between BRLPS and AKF was operational, direct implementation of Project Mesha in the four blocks of Muzaffarpur District has enabled AKF to gather rich learning on the operationalization of the *pashu sakhi* model and income gains for women goat rearers through the adoption of improved goat rearing and management practices.



Over the past four years, the Aga Khan Foundation (India) (AKF) and JEEViKA worked closely to demonstrate a model for smallholder women goat rearers for scaling up learning of Project Mesha across 13 districts of Bihar and ensure its integration in JEEViKA's core livestock intervention plan, it is now proposed to have a fresh partnership for a total of 20 districts, facilitating the scaling-up of the *pashu sakhi* model and improving the incomes of women goat rearers.

Objective of partnership

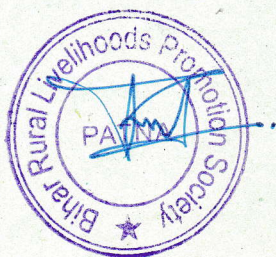
Under the proposed MoU, both parties plan to collaborate to scale up Project Mesha learning across 20 districts of Bihar, leveraging their respective strengths in establishment of the *pashu sakhi* model and increasing incomes of women goat rearers. The technical strength of AKF in sustainable community-led smallholder livestock rearing, complemented by the extensive outreach of JEEViKA with its robust community institutions is expected to contribute to transform the lives of women goat rearers through access to timely preventive goat health and management services through the technically trained cadre of *pashu sakhis* and thereby reduce goat mortality and increase the income of goat rearers, improving their leadership, decision making and negotiation skills to advance further up the goat value chain. The partnership will strongly focus on development of a sustainable, entrepreneur-based delivery of preventive health services for small ruminants through a cadre of trained *pashu sakhis*, who would be supported to emerge as entrepreneurs, earning a sustainable income and improving goat rearing and incomes thereof.

ARTICLE – I

OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

A. Aga Khan Foundation (AKF): AKF will be responsible for the following:

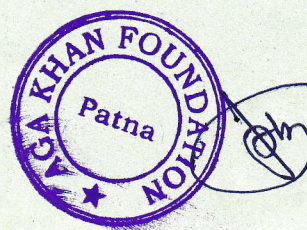
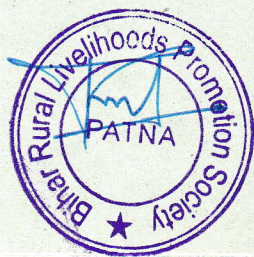
- Place three dedicated staff at each of the four clusters (Purnea, East Champaran, Nalanda, Bhojpur) (total 12 staff in 4 clusters) to provide regular support to JEEVIKA teams in training need assessment, training of staff and *pashu sakhis* on improved goat management practices, goat value chain development, engendering livelihoods and supporting the JEEViKA team to demonstrate activities related to improved goat health management and women's empowerment.
- Support JEEViKA teams in selection of *pashu sakhis* from the pool of *pashu sakhis* shortlisted by JEEViKA.
- Train and build the capacity of a pool of 150 JEEViKA staff across the 20 districts as facilitators by providing training of trainers (ToT), refresher ToT, develop and mentor a cadre of 200 master *pashu sakhis* who will further train and support a cadre of 4000 *pashu sakhis* in these 20 districts.
- Demonstrate refresher trainings for eight batches of *pashu sakhis* (total 200 *pashu sakhis*) based on the results of periodic grading exercise/learning assessment of *pashu sakhis*.



- Train a pool of 200 master *pashu sakhis* through close monitoring, supervision and handholding support. These master *pashu sakhis* will in turn provide handholding support to other *pashu sakhis* for key activities like castration, deworming, vaccination, and also lead the CRP drive, etc.
- Develop and digitize Information Education and Communication material, commencing with extension material for *pashu sakhis* and goat rearers. These extension materials will be shared with JEEViKA in the form of flipbooks, short video films and jingles.
- Provide 200 *pashu sakhi* kits as a buffer to enable *pashu sakhis* to start their activities immediately after the 2nd phase goat health and management training. This buffer stock will be replenished by JEEViKA with new sets to maintain the buffer stock at all times.
- Develop and support the scaling-up of an innovative digital platform for aggregating vaccines and de-wormer supplies to enable *pashu sakhis* to regularly procure these at competitive costs.
- Support the development of live goat marketing systems and goat value chain development to increase incomes from goat rearing for women goat rearers. This will include support for a possible Goat Producer Company in Muzaffarpur.
- Finalize indicators to track activities, outputs and the achievement of key outcomes.
- Share quarterly and annual progress report of 4 blocks of Muzaffarpur with JEEViKA based on a mutually developed common reporting template.
- Undertake evaluation surveys i.e., baseline, *pashu sakhi* grading, quick assessment, lean data survey, Woman Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) survey and learning assessments in the four clusters.

B. JEEVIKA: JEEViKA will be responsible for the following:

- Place at least one dedicated staff in every cluster who will work as point person for the three members of AKF team.
- Identification and profiling of candidates for *pashu sakhi* selection.
- Collect and share all necessary data required for program strengthening i.e., survey data of goat rearers, goat population including kid data, profile of *pashu sakhi* & staff, and training assessment data.
- Provide mobile sets to all the *pashu sakhis* to collect data using the *pashu sakhi* app whereas AKF will provide training and handholding support to *pashu sakhi* to ensure the regular collection and updating of field level data.
- Arrange, plan and implement training activities with *pashu sakhis* in coordination with the AKF team, as per the agreed annual work plan.
- Ensure that goat rearing households adopt at least two improved practices from the basket of services provided by *pashu sakhis*. At least one of these services should be vaccination (annual vaccination of PPR and ET). Only those goat rearers who have received at least two services (vaccination and one more service) each year (over the course of 3 years) will be considered as a beneficiary.



- Organize exposure visits for demonstration of best practices on goat health and management to JEEViKA staff and *pashu sakhis* in the Project Mesha direct implementation areas in Muzaffarpur and outreach districts i.e. Nalanda, Gaya and Araria.
- 150 JEEViKA staff who will receive the ToT training across the 20 districts will build the capacity of a cadre of 4000 *pashu sakhis* with support from the AKF cluster team. A pool of 150 trained JEEViKA staff will develop 200 additional master *pashu sakhis* across 20 districts.
- In collaboration with AKF, will organize an annual *pashu sakhi sammelan/* event. All expenses related to organizing the event will be met by AKF. JEEViKA will ensure representation and participation of *pashu sakhis* in the *pashu sakhi sammelan/* annual event, and will meet the costs of *pashu sakhis* travel etc to participate in the event.
- Share quantitative quarterly and annual progress reports of 20 districts including 3 blocks (Motipur, Meenapur and Paro) of Muzaffarpur district with AKF based on a mutually developed common reporting template.

C. Both parties will jointly be responsible for the following:

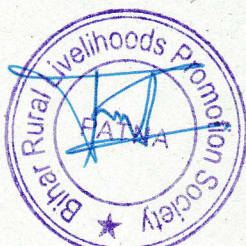
- JEEViKA and AKF have collaborated to develop a common reporting template. AKF will share the monthly progress update of 4 blocks (Sakra, Muraul, Musahri and Bochaha) of Project Mesha direct implementation and JEEViKA will share the monthly progress of 20 outreach districts including 3 blocks (Motipur, Meenapur and Paro) of Muzaffarpur district on a mutually developed common reporting template. This can also be done using a google sheet so that each team can access and review it as per need.
- Based on mutual dialogue between JEEViKA and AKF, some pilot interventions and assessments can be undertaken based on emerging field needs (eg assessments of goat kid mortality reduction, Business Plan Development, etc.)
- Establish a project monitoring and steering committee to be chaired by the CEO, JEEViKA. The committee will meet every six months during the term of this agreement. The frequency of meetings may be increased or decreased based on project needs and mutual agreement between the Parties. Need based additional review meetings may be organized on mutual agreement between the parties.

ARTICLE – II

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME

2.1 Overview

Since 2016 Project Mesha has been implemented through a dual strategy of direct implementation support at the community level covering SHGs established by JEEViKA in four blocks of district Muzaffarpur (237 villages which may increase to work with over 50,000 women SHG members) and an outreach and technical support intervention, where Project Mesha staff has been training and sharing knowledge and emerging project learning with JEEViKA to facilitate scaling up of learning of Project Mesha to other districts. Direct



implementation sites in district Muzaffarpur have emerged as demonstration/immersion areas to facilitate replication and scaling up.

Modus Operandi:

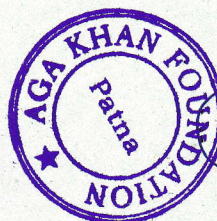
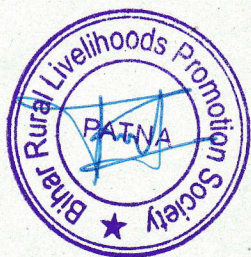
AKF would engage a team of experienced professionals to support the cluster of DPCU (District Project Co-ordination Unit) across 20 districts and provide ongoing technical support to the project teams in the facilitation of activities at the field level and in overall evaluation and learning. In addition to the learning gathered from the four blocks of Project Mesha, the team would also leverage JEEViKA's community institutions which offer a robust institutional platform and social architecture that can be used to support replication and scaling-up of project learning.

To intensify the support in 20 outreach districts, 4 clusters have been mapped. The focal districts in each cluster have also been mapped as **Purnea** (Araria, Purnea, Katihar & Kishanganj) in eastern Bihar, **East Champaran** (W. Champaran, E. Champaran, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur & Gopalganj) in northern Bihar, **Bhojpur** (Bhojpur, Kaimur, Rohtas & Aurangabad) in south-western Bihar and **Nalanda** (Patna, Nalanda, Gaya, Jamui, Banka & Nawada) in south eastern Bihar. These clusters were identified based on a central location to base the team and ease of movement to all districts within the cluster.

In each cluster, at least one dedicated staff of JEEViKA and a three-member team from AKF would jointly work to achieve the objectives of this partnership. The key task of this small team would be to facilitate the processes and provide support to *pashu sakhis* and other JEEViKA field teams to scale-up and facilitate adoption of goat rearing best practices ensuring improved income for women goat rearers. The team will support in analyzing implementation gaps, facilitate in training planning, provide support in training, and support the JEEViKA team for timely payment of *pashu sakhi* honorarium.

Regarding support in demonstration of services and handholding support like castration, deworming, vaccination, etc., two levels of support have been outlined as a key strategy – (i) demonstrations during the *pashu sakhi* training programme and (ii) regular handholding and mentoring support to *pashu sakhis* at the field level through master *pashu sakhis*. AKF will design and deliver a master *pashu sakhi* training module and carry out demonstration training to develop a cadre of 200 master *pashu sakhis* and the 150 JEEViKA staff who will receive the ToT will further develop 200 additional master *pashu sakhis*. A pool of 400 master *pashu sakhis* will provide handholding support to *pashu sakhis* across the 20 districts for ensuring sustainability of project efforts.

AKF will also support the strengthening of local supply chain linkages. With the objective of sharing learning from Project Mesha areas (and recommendations from the goat market study) on business planning and goat marketing, AKF and JEEViKA will jointly convene



workshops with staff of Project Mesha and JEEViKA who can execute the learning of AKF and JEEViKA in their respective districts.

2.2. Details of Key Activities

2.2.1. All the *pashu sakhis* in 20 outreach districts will receive a complete package of training including three phases of training on goat health and management that includes modules on entrepreneurship, and two phases of training on engendering livelihoods to improve their skill on negotiation, decision making and leadership. All the *pashu sakhis* will also receive refresher training at regular intervals. JEEViKA district teams will ensure these trainings in coordination with cluster teams of JEEViKA and AKF.

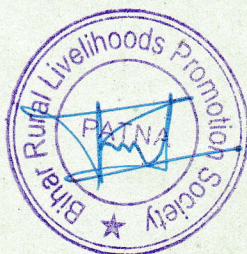
2.2.2. 300 staff of JEEViKA will be given basic training on goat health and management and engendering livelihoods across 20 districts supporting *pashu sakhis* at the field level. In addition, 150 JEEViKA staff will be trained, and their capacity built as trainers to provide training to *pashu sakhis* across the 20 districts. These 150 staff would be shortlisted from amongst the 300 staff who received the basic training. Further, 40 of these 150 staff will be trained as master trainers who will provide basic training/refresher training to JEEViKA staff on goat health and management and engendering livelihoods across 20 districts.

2.2.3. Strengthen and further build a model of health services delivery through a cadre of 250 women small ruminant health workers (*pashu sakhis*) in the four Project Mesha blocks in district Muzaffarpur. Additionally, AKF will support JEEVIKA block level teams in an additional three blocks in district Muzaffarpur developing a cadre of a minimum of 100 *pashu sakhis*, benefiting at least 20,000 women goat rearers.

2.2.4. JEEViKA and AKF will collaborate for the establishment of a Goat Producer Company in district Muzaffarpur, prioritising membership from goat rearers from the seven blocks in district Muzaffarpur to increase the role of women in goat marketing. Efforts will be made to build cohesiveness and affinity among members to facilitate group-based activities such as goat value chain development etc.

2.2.5. To monitor the progress, challenges and learning across the districts, six-monthly learning sharing meetings will be convened at the SPMU. Furthermore, ongoing monitoring through monthly cluster level joint zoom meetings will be organized to overcome the bottlenecks in the field and to discuss the progress and action plans. If required, special meetings, either in-person or online, would be convened with the concerned DPMs to mitigate any concern.

2.2.6. Baseline, assessments, WEAI survey, Lean data survey with *pashu sakhis*, validation exercises, grading/learning assessment of *pashu sakhis* will be undertaken to know the status of the programme and to gauge any plausible shift or change in the outreach and income



status of *pashu sakhis* along with the project activities and income from goat rearing impacting the households in the outreach districts.

2.2.7 *Pashu sakhi* grading/learning exercise will be carried out with two-fold objectives: a) identification of A-grade *pashu sakhis* eligible for further capacity building as master *pashu sakhis* and b) to identify the low performing *pashu sakhis* and better understand the challenges faced to support them with customized refresher training or handholding support. Grading tools will be developed mutually.

2.2.8 AKF will facilitate rapid assessments to monitor the progress across the 20 districts through a third-party agency, with the objective of empirically informing decisions in the programme and strengthening implementation.

2.2.9 While AKF will directly provide inputs in technical support and capacity building of JEEViKA staff and the establishment of a robust and sustainable *pashu sakhi* cadre across the 20 districts, the joint and collaborative efforts of JEEViKA and AKF are expected to positively impact goat rearers' income, reduce mortality of goats and contribute to the economic and social empowerment of *pashu sakhis* and women goat rearers.

2.3 Expected Outputs of JEEViKA and AKF partnership:

- Build the capacity of 150 JEEViKA staff as trainers to train and empower a cadre of 4,000 *pashu sakhis* across the 20 districts who will provide sustainable preventive health care services to 500,000 women goat rearers in these districts.
- Train 300 JEEViKA staff on goat health and management and engendering livelihoods to provide regular handholding and mentoring support to *pashu sakhis* across the 20 districts. From amongst these 300 staff, 150 staff will be identified and trained as Trainers. Further, 40 staff from amongst this will be trained as master trainers who will provide training/refresher training to JEEViKA staff across the 20 districts.
- Train and build the capacity of 400 *pashu sakhis* as 'master *pashu sakhis*' who will provide handholding support like castration, deworming, vaccination, etc. to other *pashu sakhis* across the 20 districts.

2.4 Expected Outcomes of the JEEViKA and AKF partnership:

- 1) Increase in goat rearers income from goat rearing by 30 percent.
- 2) Reduce goat mortality to less than 15 %.
- 3) *Pashu Sakhis*, who have worked for at least three years will earn an average income of Rs.3000 per month.

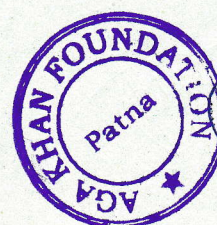


2.6 Timeline and Work plan

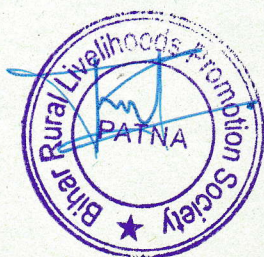
The project duration will be from June 2021 to November 2023 and is expected to benefit over 500,000 goat rearing households in 20 outreach districts, in addition to the 70,000 households in the seven blocks of district Muzaffarpur.

The Work-plan of JEEViKA and AKF for the partnership is provided below:

Work-plan of JEEViKA and AKF for the partnership								
S. No	Activities	Unit	No	Year of commencement			Primary Responsibility	
				2021	2022	2023	AKF	JEEViKA
1	Placement of staff in the outreach district clusters	Staff	16				12	4
2	Baseline study on status of <i>pashu sakhis</i> and goat rearers	Districts	20					
3	Basic trainings on goat health and management	Staff	300	200	100			
4	Training of trainers (TOT) on <i>pashu sakhi</i> training modules	Staff	150	150				
5	TOT refresher training on <i>pashu sakhi</i> training modules	Staff	150	100	50	150		
6	Screening and final selection of <i>pashu sakhis</i>	<i>Pashu Sakhi</i>	4000	2000	1500	500		
7	<i>Pashu Sakhi</i> training and capacity building through trained staff and master <i>pashu sakhis</i>	<i>Pashu Sakhi</i>	4000	2000	1500	500		
8	<i>Pashu Sakhi</i> Grading Assessment	<i>Pashu Sakhi</i>	4000	1500	2000	500		
9	Master <i>pashu sakhi</i> training - 200 by AKF and 200 by JEEViKA	<i>Pashu Sakhi</i>	400	200	200			
10	Refresher training to master <i>pashu sakhi</i> . -200 by AKF and 200 by JEEViKA	<i>Pashu Sakhi</i>	400			400		
11	Demonstration refresher training of <i>pashu sakhis</i> with a customised training module	<i>Pashu Sakhi</i>	200	100	100			
12	Refresher training of <i>pashu sakhi</i>	<i>Pashu Sakhi</i>	3800	1500	2000	500		
13	Staff training of trainer (ToT) on staff training module	Staff	40		40			
14	Exposure visit of staff for capacity building.	Staff	40		40			
15	CRP drive through master <i>pashu sakhis</i>	Districts	20					



Work-plan of JEEViKA and AKF for the partnership								
16	Learning assessment with Staff, <i>Pashu Sakhi</i> and Goat Rearers (on engendering livelihoods)	Districts	20					
17	Provide <i>pashu sakhi</i> kits (50 kits in each cluster)	No. of Kits	200					
18	Ensure distribution of <i>pashu sakhi</i> kits during 2nd phase <i>pashu sakhi</i> training	No. of Kits	4000	1500	2000	500		
19	Provide printed copies of flipbook etc. 50 sets/ district	No. of sets	1000	1000				
20	Annual <i>pashu sakhi</i> sammelan	Event	2					
21	Six-monthly learning and sharing meeting with JEEViKA SPMU	Event	6					
22	Input supply chain development (vaccine, dewormer)	District	20					
23	Workshop on business planning and goat marketing	Staff	100	50	50			
24	End line and Impact Assessment	Assessment	1					
25	Sharing of blended learning films on goat health management and women's empowerment	films	15					
26	Sharing of jingles on goat health management and women's empowerment	Jingles	15					
27	Promotion of goat producer company in District Muzaffarpur	company	1					
28	WEAI survey, Lean data survey with <i>pashu sakhis</i> and quick assessments	Districts	20					
29	Provide mobile sets to all the <i>pashu sakhis</i>	<i>Pashu sakhi</i>	4000	2000	1500	500		
30	Ensure each goat rearer should adopt at least two services from services provided by <i>pashu sakhis</i>	Goat rearers	5,00,000					
31	Ensure participation of <i>pashu sakhis</i> in the <i>pashu sakhi</i> sammelan	Event	2					
32	Share Physical quarterly and annual progress reports with each other	Reports	12					



ARTICLE – III

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as granting either party any right, title, license or other interest in any patents, trademarks, copyrights or other intellectual property of the other party.

ARTICLE- IV

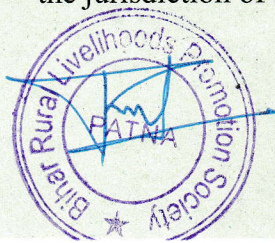
CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidential information shall mean the confidential information of a Party including but not limited to operational, financial, strategic and technical information including patent, copyright, trade secret, proprietary information, techniques, sketches, drawings, models, inventions, know-how, processes, apparatus, equipment, algorithms, software programs, software source documents and formulae related to the current, future and proposed products and the services of a Party (“Confidential Information”). A Party may disclose its Confidential Information (“Disclosing Party”) to the other Party (“Receiving Party”) for purposes of this MOU. In such event the Receiving Party shall not, either during the period of this MOU or following the expiration or termination of this MOU disclose to any person, either directly or indirectly (orally, in writing or by any other means), without the prior written consent of the Disclosing Party. The Receiving Party also agrees not to use or make available any such Confidential Information for the Receiving Party’s benefit or the benefit of others. The obligations of confidentiality imposed by this MOU shall not apply to information the Receiving Party can show (a) was already known to Receiving Party as evidenced by written records, (b) is or becomes part of the public domain through no fault of Receiving Party, (c) is legitimately disclosed to Receiving Party by a third party not under an obligation of confidentiality, (d) is independently developed by the Receiving Party without the benefit of the Confidential Information as evidenced by written records, or (e) is required by law or under the terms of agreement for grants received to be disclosed by Receiving Party, except that Receiving Party shall provide Disclosing Party with prompt notice and consult Disclosing Party prior to any disclosure.

ARTICLE – V

MISCELLANEOUS

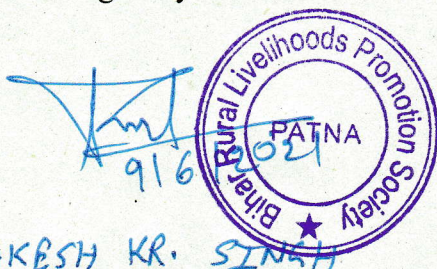
1. This MOU is nonexclusive in nature and does not affect either party’s ability to enter into agreements or affiliations with other Parties.
2. In case of any disagreement or differing viewpoints and interpretations between the parties, attempt shall be made to resolve the dispute through amicable consultations between the parties. All disputes which cannot be amicably settled will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts in Patna only.



3. If any of the provision of this Agreement is invalid, all other provisions shall remain unaffected thereby. Any gap resulting there from shall be filled by a provision consistent with the purpose of this Agreement and settled by mutual consultation.
4. Any matter not covered specifically in this memorandum of understanding may be settled by mutual discussions and agreement in writing thereupon.
5. This MoU can be terminated at any time by giving three months notice in writing of intention to do so, from either party to this MoU.
6. This MOU shall commence on ...09...June 2021, and unless terminated earlier by either Party, shall remain in effect till 30th November 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereby execute this Memorandum of Understanding in duplicate and acknowledge they are authorized to execute the same.

For BRLPS:



Name: Dr. RAKESH KR. SINGH

Title: SPM - LIVESTOCK

AKF (India):



Name: Pawan Ojha

Title: State Program Manager
Bihar

Witness

Name: SUMIT KAPOOR

Title: PM - LIVESTOCK

Date: 9/06/2021

Witness

Name: Haridwar Prasad Chaurasiya

Title: Programme officer

Date: 09/06/2021