

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
U.S. Dairy Export Council
and the
World Farmers' Organisation

A Partnership to enhance the voice of farmers in global policy processes and multilateral fora and promote the critical role of livestock, animal-sourced foods and rules-based international trade in delivering sustainable food systems between the U.S. Dairy Export Council and the World Farmers' Organisation

The U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) and the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), hereinafter, the "the Parties", hereby agree to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that sets forth the basis of the Working Agreement between the Parties. The MOU is intended to support development of fruitful international cooperation between the Parties on issues the Parties mutually consider as priorities.

Overall Objectives

- Support a greater representation of farmers and advance joint priorities in areas of common interest in relevant global policy processes and multilateral fora, including, but not limited to HLPF, FAO, UNEP, UNFCCC, WOA General Session, and WTO.
- Promote the fundamental role of trade, alongside domestic production, to achieve stronger food security and better nutrition at all levels, including through the development and adoption of science-based international standards and guidelines that work for farmers and support the international trade of agricultural products.
- Elevate focus on food and nutrition security and ensure the centrality of farmers' needs and interests in the food systems conversation, advocating for a greater recognition of the livestock sector and the major contributions of animal-sourced foods and animal-based products to the social, economic and environmental sustainability of our food systems as well as the protection of dairy and meat terms.

Cooperative Actions

- Monitor information related to multilateral and global developments relevant to farmers, including in the areas of food and nutrition security, international trade, climate change, nature and biodiversity, and sustainable food systems, as well as political decisions and regulatory developments taking place at the national and local level that may serve or undermine the interests of farmers and the production and marketing of animal-sourced foods, livestock and other agricultural products.
- Support increased attendance by farmer representatives and secure their active involvement in priority relevant global policy processes and multilateral fora.

- Work to develop stronger alliances with likeminded organizations and initiate coordinated actions in order to promote common interests and enhance the role of farmers in international policymaking.
- Facilitate the organisation of events and seminars that promote the transfer of knowledge and improve mutual understanding on relevant issues within the scope of this MoU.

Specific Activities

The Parties will hold meetings at least once a year, in person or virtually, to identify priority areas of interest and collaboration leading to the development of an annual work plan outlining the specific activities to be carried out every solar year under this MoU and the related budget. The meeting shall take place every year before the 30 October.

Conditions of Cooperation

The Parties expect to conduct activities based on equality, reciprocity, and mutual benefit. This cooperation is entered into by the Parties voluntarily.

Funding

USDEC will make a payment of 25,000 U.S. Dollars to WFO to support the implementation of the activities planned for the period that goes from the entry into effect of the present MoU to the 31 December 2024. The above-mentioned activities will be outlined in a work plan based upon the priority areas of interest and collaboration identified by WFO and USDEC. Work plan and budget can be updated as needed based on mutual agreement by the Parties.

Use of logos, trademarks, copyright or other proprietary material

Nothing herein shall constitute a right for USDEC to use any of the logo, trademarks, copyright or other proprietary material owned by WFO except as authorized by this Agreement or otherwise expressly authorized in writing by WFO.

Nothing herein shall constitute a right for WFO to use any of the logo, trademarks, copyright or other proprietary material owned by USDEC except as authorized by this Agreement or otherwise expressly authorized in writing by USDEC.

Confidentiality of Information Exchanged

The Parties agree to exercise discretion and to act responsibly in the use of information derived from the MOU. While it is not anticipated that the MOU will require the sharing of confidential information or data that would otherwise be protected by relevant intellectual property law, written procedures will be agreed by the parties to protect the confidentiality of such data from disclosure should the exchange of such information between the parties be determined necessary in the future.

Compliance

Each Party shall perform all its obligations under this agreement in a manner consistent with all applicable laws and regulations including all applicable anti-bribery and antitrust laws and the organization and management model (if approved by the other party and providing also principles and rules of conducts of the first Party). Each Party has not made or provided, and will not make or provide, any payment or benefit, directly or indirectly, to government officials, customers, business partners, or any other person to secure an improper benefit or unfair business or commercial advantage, improperly affect private or official decision-making, or induce someone to breach professional duties.

Each Party will immediately report to the other in writing any potential, suspected or detected violation of the above principles in connection with this Agreement or another Party's business and, in such cases, will cooperate fully with the Parties concerned in reviewing the matter and taking any action appropriate. In the event that any Party believes, in good faith, that another Party has violated any of the principles, the former shall request a written statement concerning such allegations from the later Party and it shall provide such written statement without undue delay. If such written statement fails to remove the reasonable doubts of the requesting Party as to the violation of above principles, the requesting Party shall have the unilateral right to terminate this agreement with immediate effect where such action is, in the requesting Party's reasonable view, proportionate to the nature and significance of the violation as well as the likely legal or reputational implications for USDEC or WFO in case the contractual relationship continues.

Resolution of Difference

Any difference in the interpretation and/or implementation of this MOU is intended to be addressed amicably by means of direct consultations and negotiations between the Parties. The Parties may modify or terminate this agreement by mutual written decision with at least 60 business days' notice. Any activities ongoing at the time of modification or discontinuation may continue as mutually decided by the Parties.

Effective Period and Renewal

The agreement will be effective from the date of its signing until 31 December 2030 and may be renewed by written agreement of the Parties.

Agreed and Accepted:

USDEC



(Signature of Authorized Official)

Ms. Krysta Harden, President and CEO

April 30, 2024

WFO

Organizzazione Mondiale degli Agricoltori
World Farmers' Organisation
Via del Tritone, 102 - 00187 Roma
(Signature of Authorized Official)

Mr. Andrea Porro, Secretary General

April 30, 2024