

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

and

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL FOOD AND
FORESTRY POLICIES**

OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

on

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL
DIVERSIFICATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the State of Israel and the Ministry of agricultural food and forestry policies of Italy (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”),

Recognizing the importance of agriculture and specifically of rural areas of both countries and in accordance with their policies relating to rural development programs, agree to develop, promote and increase the bilateral cooperation for the following purposes:

ARTICLE 1

- a) To strengthen the partnership in order to contribute to the achievement of national and institutional goals in the sector of agriculture and rural development;
- b) To promote the exchange of knowledge, data and experiences with the aim of improving the rural development policies and agro-tourism policies and their implementation in both countries;
- c) To support the cooperation between the respective national associations, organizations and institution from both the public and the private sector in the field of rural development, including the diversification in agriculture;

ARTICLE 2

Taking into account the relevant features and strong points of the Parties in the management of rural development policies, it is agreed to focus on the following areas of cooperation:

- a) Improvement of regulations promoting the diversification in agriculture, with a special emphasis on agritourism: stressing the Italian experience in the recognition of agritourism as an “economic activity”, thus enjoying regulatory advantages of the agricultural sector;
- b) Diversification of economic activities in rural areas;

- c) Exchange of scientific and agricultural Information Technology;
- d) Joint development of projects benefiting both Parties, such as “Wine-routes”, “Quality Products”, etc...;
- e) Exploring the Italian program “National Rural Network 2007-2013” (NRN), aimed at streamlining the exchange of knowledge and information between the relevant stakeholders in the rural areas;
- f) Promoting sustainable agriculture and the effective management of natural resources;
- g) Enhancing renewable energy practices in rural areas;
- h) Any other issues to be mutually decided upon.

ARTICLE 3

The Parties will share their knowledge and experiences in the field of rural development through an effective exchange of data regarding their particular legislation, regulations, statistics and any other matters of mutual interest.

ARTICLE 4

The Parties will jointly promote symposia, seminars, study tours, etc. on agriculture, rural development and agro-tourism based on the above mentioned topics.

ARTICLE 5

The Parties may conclude further implementation agreements on the basis of this MoU in the fields of agriculture, agricultural policies, food, agri-tourism, and rural development.

ARTICLE 6

The Parties declare that all bilateral programs and activities will be financed by each Administration, according to the allocated budget. The Parties will exchange experts on agreed subjects. Traveling expenses will be borne by the Administration which they belong to.

ARTICLE 7

The exchange of experts and know-how will be part of the implementation of this MoU.

ARTICLE 8

The activities envisaged in this Memorandum will be implemented by the Parties under the exclusive competence of the Parties and in accordance with their respective national laws and international obligations and, as far as the Italian Party is concerned, obligations deriving from being member of the European Union.

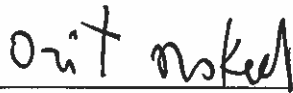
ARTICLE 9

This MoU may be amended at any time by mutual consent of the Parties and in writing. Any amendment shall come into force according to the provisions in article 10 of this MoU.

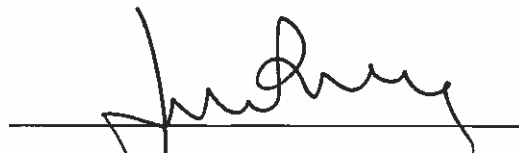
ARTICLE 10

This MoU shall produce its effects on the date of its signing and shall remain effective for a period of five (5) years. It will be automatically extended for additional periods of five (5) years each. However, either Party may terminate it at any time by giving written notice of termination to the other Party. In that case this MoU shall be terminated upon the expiry of six months from the date of the notification of the termination.

Done in Rome, on 13 June, 2011, in two original copies, in the English language.



FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL



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FOOD AND FORESTRY POLICIES
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