

MEMORANDUM OF INTENT

BETWEEN

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND
FISHERIES OF JAPAN**

AND

**THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

TO

COOPERATE IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, and the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of South Africa (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Participant” and collectively as the “Participants”);

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that it is in the interest of the Participants to maintain and strengthen their relations in the field of agriculture;

RECOGNISING the importance of drawing up a joint agricultural development programme for the effective utilization of resources of both countries in the agrarian field, considering especially the potential of the two countries;

WISHING to promote and develop trade in the field of agriculture;

BELIEVING that their bilateral relationship could be enhanced through agricultural cooperation;

AFFIRMING that such cooperation would serve the Participants’ common interest, benefits and aspirations;

PURSUANT to the prevailing laws and regulations of their respective countries;

HAVE reached the following recognition:

PARAGRAPH 1

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Intent (hereinafter the “Mol”) is to show the political intent of the Participants to establish a framework to strengthen cooperation in the field of agriculture on the basis of mutual benefit.

PARAGRAPH 2

COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

For the purpose of implementation of this Mol, the competent authorities will be-

- (a) on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, the Export and International Affairs Bureau; and
- (b) on behalf of the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of South Africa, the Office of the Deputy Director General for economic development, trade and marketing.

PARAGRAPH 3

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Participants intend to encourage collaboration in areas mutually decided upon under the following areas of interest:

- (1) cooperation on development of smallholder farmers;
- (2) promotion of trade in agricultural products;
- (3) food security including stable supply of grains for mutual benefit;
- (4) exchange of information relating to food processing, livestock and crop production, intellectual property rights, and other subjects of relevance;
- (5) cooperation on examination of plant varieties, including the exchange or training of examining personnel and exchange of information on plant variety protection systems; and

- (6) other related areas of interest that are mutually decided by the Participants.

PARAGRAPH 4

MECHANISM TO COOPERATE

- (1) The Participants may establish a Joint Agricultural Working Committee, which may meet alternately in the two countries, unless the Participants otherwise mutually decide to coordinate, facilitate and follow up on the implementation of this Mol.
- (2) The Participants may meet either in person or by teleconference to review the implementation of this Mol.
- (3) The Participants may ensure that their competent authorities report on all meetings in a timely manner.
- (4) Each Participant will bear their own costs incurred through activities under this Mol, subject to its budgetary appropriations.

PARAGRAPH 5

FORMS OF COOPERATION

The Participants intend to cooperate in the following forms-

- (1) exchange of information and experiences in agricultural and livestock production and agrarian development and small-scale farming public policies;
- (2) technical visits and exchanges;
- (3) training, symposia, seminars, forums and conferences on issues related to strategic interests;
- (4) carrying out strategic actions for trade promotion and investment in agriculture for mutual benefit of the Participants; and
- (5) other forms of cooperation mutually consented upon by the Participants in accordance with the domestic law of each country.

PARAGRAPH 6

NATURE OF MEMORANDUM OF INTENT

This Mol is non-binding and will not create any legally rights or obligations between the Participants

PARAGRAPH 7

MODIFICATION

The matters of this Mol may be modified at any time by mutual written consent of the Participants. Such a modification will form an integral part of this Mol.

PARAGRAPH 8

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute or differences between the Participants that may arise from the implementation or interpretation of this Mol will be settled amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Participants.

PARAGRAPH 9

COMMENCEMENT AND DISCONTINUATION

- (1) This Mol will commence on the date of the signature thereof.
- (2) This Mol will be continued for an initial period of three (3) years where after it will be automatically extended for further periods of three years, but may be discontinued by either Participant giving three months written notice in advance of its intention to discontinue this Mol, no later than six months before the discontinuation date.
- (3) Discontinuation of this Mol by a Participant will not affect the completion of any cooperative activity or programme carried out under this Mol and not fully implemented at the time of discontinuation of this Mol.

Signed in two originals at Cape Town, the Republic of South Africa on the 18th of September 2025 in English and Japanese languages, both texts have equal value. In case of difference in interpretation, the English text will prevail.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF	FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND	AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC
FISHERIES OF JAPAN	OF SOUTH AFRICA

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TAKINAMI Hirofumi	John Henry STEENHUISEN
State Minister of Agriculture, Forestry	Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of
and Fisheries	South Africa