

Memorandum of Association

between



Self Employed Women's Association  
Ahmedabad 380001 (Gujarat)

and



Agro Economic Research Centre,  
Sardar Patel University,  
Vallabh Vidyanagar 388120, Anand (Gujarat)



## Terms of Reference

This Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] executed on this March 7, 2023 between Self Employed Women's Association, [hereinafter called "SEWA"/ First Party] having its registered office at SEWA Reception Center, Opp Lok Manya Tilak Baug, Bhadra, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 380001, which expression shall unless it be repugnant to the subject or context thereof, includes its successors and assigns, of the FIRST PART:

AND

Agro-Economic Research Centre (AERC), Sardar Patel University (SPU), Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand [hereinafter called "AERC, SPU"/Second Party] as SECOND PART

WHEREAS SEWA and AERC, SPU are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individual as the "Party".

### 1 Background

**Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)** is a registered national trade union of over 2.5 million of poor self-employed women workers from the informal economy across 18 states in India. It has also spread its wings in 7 South Asian countries.

With Gandhian philosophy of Self-reliance at the core of its activities and initiatives, SEWA has been working for over 5 decades with its rural members to help them improve their livelihood through various initiatives in fields like but not limited to technical training, microfinance, market linkages, natural resource management etc. across number of trades.

The Agro-Economic Research Centre (AERC) for the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan was established in July 1961 at the Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar 388120, Anand, Gujarat by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi. It was late Shri H.M. Patel (ICS ret'd.) who not only provided the vision for establishing such an Institute but also ensured the much-needed support and encouragement for its growth at Vallabh Vidyanagar.

The Centre has crossed a milestone of 62 years as an institution. AERC is mandated to provide feedback on the ground reality to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India for policy formulation in the areas of agriculture and rural development. AERC has done this work very effectively over a period of last six decades and has emerged as a leading research Centre of its kind in the country. AERC has been providing independent and objective feedback to the GOI and it has been serving as its eyes and ears. Centre has prepared 209 impact evaluation reports covering almost all major aspects and programs on agricultural and rural development. These research studies have emerged with useful findings and policy implications for agriculture and rural development in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. During the period of the last decade, AERC has covered topics of national importance such as soil health card, pressurized irrigation system, impact of check dam, break-even point in milk production, fodder development under National Dairy Plan I, electronic national agriculture market, solarization of agricultural water pumps, Ration Balancing Program in Dairy, Direct Benefit Transfer in Fertilizer.



During last six-decade period, Centre has published 17 books and organized 41 seminars/ conferences/training programmes, most of those were organized jointly with Post Graduate Department of Economics of our University. AERC has been publishing a monthly magazine 'Agriculture Production and Market Approach' in Gujarati and English language covering recent policy initiatives at the government level. This magazine contains updated information on government assistance and interventions to farmers in agriculture and rural development. Besides, the Policy Briefs and Policy Alerts are submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GOI & others [Compiled and Edited by Center for Management in Agriculture (CMA), Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (based on Research & Contributions of: 15 Agro-Economic Research Centres and Units, supported by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare) for policy formation at national level. AERC is also engaged in continuous study of the changes taking place in the rural economy through village survey studies. It also conducts research on fundamental problems related to the country's agricultural economy, leading to better policy formulation oriented towards sustainable development, covering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

AERC undertakes research-driven work (interdisciplinary research, qualitative research, participatory research, needs assessment, baseline studies, program evaluation, impact assessment) to achieve lifelong learning for all. It facilitates the bridge between academic research, innovation and adoption and policy development.

## 2. Purpose of the MOU

The aim of this MOU is

- to undertake a collaborative academic and extension activities such as organisation of conclave, seminar and conferences, exposure visits, undertaking research studies (impact analysis, case studies, comparative analysis, focusing on gender perspectives-related to agriculture and allied, rural development, processing and marketing of commodities through their network); undertaking the collaborative field experiments; training and building the capacity of informal sector women to be involved in decision space, and other related mutually agreed areas.
- In furtherance of the aforesaid, both Parties shall endeavour to collaborate in capacity building, value-added services, research and publications.
- Workout and establish an “**Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**” at AERC, for training and building the capacity of informal sector women.
- Organise the ‘**Farmer Hut**’, ‘**Millet Hub**’, ‘**SEWA Bazar**’, and collaborative promotion of production and marketing activities.
- There would be no financial dealings or implications under this MOU.

## 3. Use of name and logo

- Save as expressly permitted herein, each party shall use the name, logo and trademarks of the other party only for the purpose of this MOU as defined herein.
- Each Party is permitted to use the other Party's name, logo and trademarks for the purpose of publicizing the agreement and subject to the confidentiality obligations stated herein, when making reference to this MOU, each party undertakes to use the other's name in good faith reflecting accurately the agreed upon nature of the collaboration contemplated hereunder, and only in relation to or in furtherance of this agreement.



#### 4. Correspondence:

All correspondence regarding this agreement shall be addressed to:

For SEWA :	For AERC, SPU
Mansi Shah Coordinator, SEWA SEWA Reception Center, Opp Lok Manya Tilak Baug, Bhadra, Ahmedabad 380001 Email: <a href="mailto:mansishah@sewa.org">mansishah@sewa.org</a>	Dr. S.S. Kalamkar Director and Professor, Agro-Economic Research Centre, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Email- <a href="mailto:aerc@spuvvn.edu">aerc@spuvvn.edu</a> , <a href="mailto:directoraercgujarat@gmail.com">directoraercgujarat@gmail.com</a>

#### 5. Termination Clause

Each party shall have the right to terminate the MOU by giving 30 days' notice in writing to the other party, at any time. Termination by either side shall not affect any prior obligation, project or activity already in progress.

#### 6. Disputes:

Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with laws of India. In the event of any dispute, the parties shall endeavour to resolve the dispute by amicable discussions within 30 days of either party calling for amicable settlement of disputes. Should this fail, either party may refer the matter to arbitration by a single arbitrator to be appointed with the consent of both parties. The arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India in the English / Gujarati language. The arbitration decision shall be final and binding. The arbitration shall be governed by the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 (India). The courts in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India shall have exclusive jurisdiction for any matter or issue arising out of agreement

7. The Parties have caused this agreement to be signed by their duly authorized representatives. This agreement shall be made in two sets and signed by both the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly appointed representatives of SEWA and of AERC, SPU, respectively, have on behalf of SEWA and AERC, SPU signed the present consultancy agreement on the dates indicated below their respective signatures.

On behalf of  
SEWA:

On Behalf of Agro-Economic Research Centre (AERC), SPU, VVN



Ms. Rehana Riyawala  
Vice President, SEWA  
SEWA Reception Center,  
Opp Lok Manya Tilak Baug,  
Bhadra, Ahmedabad  
380001, Gujarat



Dr. S. S. Kalamkar  
Director and Professor,  
Agro-Economic Research  
Centre, Sardar Patel  
University, Vallabh  
Vidyanagar 388120,  
Anand, Gujarat



Dr. Bhailalbhai Patel  
Registrar  
Sardar Patel University,  
Vallabh Vidyanagar,  
388120, Anand, Gujarat



Dr. Niranjan Patel  
Offg. Vice Chancellor,  
Sardar Patel University,  
Vallabh Vidyanagar  
388120, Anand, Gujarat

Date: 07.03.2023

