



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES



Nationaal Instituut voor Voedselveiligheid Suriname
National Institute for Food Safety Suriname



***Five Year Cooperative Agreement between
The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries of the Government of Suriname (LVV)
And
The National Institute of Food Safety Suriname (NIVS)
And
The Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFORSS)***

Considering that:

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries of the Government of Suriname (LVV) is responsible for the policy regarding agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing, and beekeeping. Some of these responsibilities are: supervising the correct use for land and waters issued for the agricultural sector; research and information in the sectors; the determination of the need for and distribution of goods and services, in the sectors; matters relating to the production, storage, processing and marketing of products produced in the sectors; the prevention and control of animal and plant diseases and pests; the establishment of quality standards for and the exercise of quality control on products from the sectors; the investment and credit policy of the sectors, in cooperation with the relevant ministries; promoting, coordinating, regulating and controlling cooperatives and other organizations in the sectors; checking compliance with the legislation concerning the sectors; aquaculture and the agro-industry; the promotion of production in the sectors for the food supply and export; the effective management of national fishing capacities and the rational exploitation of fish resources.
- The National Institute of Food Safety Suriname (NIVS) is the primary food safety authority in Suriname. This institute has the full mandate of overseeing food safety compliance, as well as associated operational responsibilities, from standard setting to conformity assessment, including oversight of domestically produced products, import and export. NIVS aims to protect consumers and to ensure fair practices in the food trade in Suriname, through the regulatory functions.
- The Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFORSS) is a non-for-profit organization incorporated in Canada under the *Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* S.C. 2009, c. 23 including the Regulations made pursuant to the Act, registered federally under Corporation Number 1237611-3, hosted by the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform ([PARERA](#)), a joint endeavor of the Department of Food Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences and the Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF) of Laval University, Quebec, QC. Canada, with a registration number in the Province of Quebec, Canada, NEQ 1175821132 and location of incorporation at 2425 rue de l'agriculture, Québec (Québec), G1V 0A6, Canada ;

GFORSS is implementing food regulatory science capacity building initiatives with the aim to enhance food control systems worldwide as part of **GFORSS' mission** to promote the generation and dissemination of knowledge and competencies related to food regulatory sciences, and the organization's mandate to develop scientific networks, create communities of practice, generate, and disseminate knowledge related to food regulatory decision-making in alignment with international best practices.

The parties agree to develop and implement initiatives aiming to strengthen the food control system in Suriname, with emphasis on modernizing the food safety regulatory framework and help operationalize the NIVS as the primary food safety regulator in Suriname.

OBJECTIVES

This Cooperative Agreement has activities for collaboration at three levels: technical, policy and operationalization of the reliance on food regulatory science in support to enhancing the food control system in Suriname, namely:

- ❖ To support the review and modernization of the food safety legislative and regulatory environment in Suriname,
- ❖ To support the operationalization of the NIVS as the primary food safety regulatory body of Suriname,
- ❖ To support the development of competencies and capacities enabling food regulatory decision-making in accordance with the risk analysis principles and in alignment with international agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO), i.e., the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS) and the Technical Barrier to Trade Agreement (TBT),
- ❖ To enable the generation and use of scientific information including food surveillance and monitoring data, in support of food regulatory decision-making by the NIVS,
- ❖ To enable enhanced participation in international and regional food standard setting processes, in a manner that upholds the interests of the food production sector in Suriname,
- ❖ To develop and implement pilot and leading initiatives in support of the modernization of the food and agri-food production sector in Suriname and encourage innovation and the adoption of food processing technologies such that the sector becomes more competitive, more sustainable and, accesses and maintains new markets while contributing to the reduction of food loss and greenhouse emissions.

ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

GForSS and LVV and NIVS will develop project plans on an annual basis to serve as a guide for achieving the objectives stated.

Activities developed will include performance indicators related to achieving the objectives stated in this cooperative agreement.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

GForSS and LVV and NIVS will support the implementation of the cooperative agreement aimed to achieve the objectives stated above, through the development of implementation plans involving both organizations' existing staff and additional capacities funded through sources accessible to each of the parties.

Resources required to implement the activities agreed upon through the workplan will be assigned by parties, through the allocation of funds provided from funding sources that they access and oversee.

All parties agree to leverage additional resources that may contribute to achieving the objectives stated above through complementary sources to maximize effectiveness and return on investment.

REPORTING

All parties agree to develop the relevant governance structure to manage initiatives developed under this cooperative agreement, as well steering future directions of collaborations between parties.

Staff assigned to the implementation of activities agreed upon, under this cooperative agreement, from all parties, will report on a semi-annual basis the progress achieved to the leadership of all parties and/or the governance structure established between parties to manage activities and projects developed under the cooperative agreement.

DURATION, TERMINATION AND EXTENSION OF THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

This cooperative agreement may be extended for another defined period, as agreed between parties. This cooperative agreement may be terminated at the expressed request of one of the parties, notifying the other parties in writing. The remaining parties will discuss the future of the cooperative agreement in consideration of the request.

Upon agreement of all parties, this cooperative agreement may be terminated at the unanimous agreement of all parties.

This cooperative agreement is effective on the day it is signed by all parties and for a period of 5 years.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

For the ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Mr. Parmanand Sewdien

Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

For the NIVS

Mrs. Parveen Amritpersad

Chair of the Board of Trustees

For GFORSS

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Ph.D.

President and Chief Operating Officer

SIGNATURES

For LVV

For GFORSS

For the NIVS

Name

Mr. Parmanand Sewdien

Minister of Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Name

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Ph.D.

President and Chief Operating
Officer

Name

Mrs. Parveen Amritpersad

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Date

10 March 2022

Date

10 March 2022

Date

10 March 2022

