

Memorandum of Understanding on fishery and aquaculture products
between
The Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India
And
The Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India;
And the Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic (hereinafter referred to as the Parties);

Having regard to the expectation of the two Parties to strengthen mutual cooperation in fishery and aquaculture production in order to prevent the risks of transmission of infectious diseases and parasites among fisheries species and to prevent the transmission of fisheries diseases (zoonoses) and/or seafood-borne diseases or contaminants to the consumers;

Whereas both Parties are members of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) and members of Codex Alimentarius Commission;

Agree to sign this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 1
Aims of Memorandum

In order to strengthen the effectiveness of preventive measures for epidemic diseases for fisheries animals and to prevent the transmission of fisheries diseases or contaminants to the consumers, the Parties agree to assure the following:

1. To maintain the relationship and cooperation between the Parties in bilateral exchange of information, legal technical documents relevant to health inspection and certification for fishery and aquaculture products being exported to Italy towards a mutual recognition.
2. To assist each other in professional education and training for the staff, particularly in risk assessment, inspection, sampling and analysis of quality and safety parameters, including standards on parameters and their limits in order to assure health safety of fishery products.
3. To assist each other in the development of monitoring programmes on health conditions of fishery and aquaculture products.

- 4 To cooperate in the development and implementation of a Rapid Alert System and of a fisheries quality management, health safety and disease control system in India.

Article 2

Authorities in charge of implementing the Memorandum

1. The Parties designate as competent Central Authorities for the implementation of the dispositions deriving from the Memorandum, respectively the Export Inspection Council of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the Indian Government and the General Directorate of Veterinary Health and Food of the Ministry of Health for the Italian Government.
2. The Parties commit to exchange information about organizational structure, authorities and duties of respective Parties; legal system on quality control and safety of fishery products; legislation on fishery veterinary control; and principles and systems for monitoring and controlling fisheries diseases.

Article 3

Financial issues

1. The mutual exchange of technical experts and managing officers in certain fields should be agreed by respective bodies of the two Parties for every single case. The expenses relating to this activity will be borne by the Party sending experts.
2. The commitments of the Parties deriving from this Memorandum, shall depend on the authorization and availability of funds intended to be used for these activities.

Article 4

Issues relevant to international right and rules

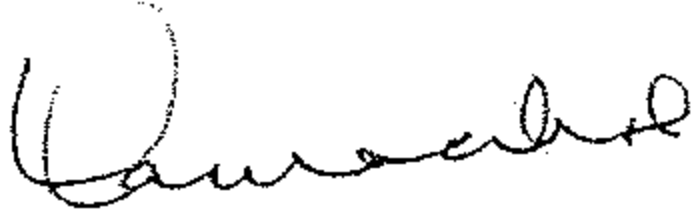
1. This Memorandum of Understanding will not prejudice commitments and responsibilities of each Party in other international treaties, conventions, agreements and memoranda to which they are Parties.
2. Difficulties related to interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved through direct discussion between the Parties.

Article 5
Application of the Memorandum

- 1 This Memorandum of Understanding shall be applied on the date of signing and will have the validity period of five (5) years, at the end of which, its validity will be extended for other five years.

Done in New Delhi on 14th February, 2005 in two originals, each one in Hindi, Italian, and English, all the texts being equally authentic. In the case of divergence of interpretation, the text in English shall prevail.

For the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
of the Republic of India



For the Ministry of Health
of the Italian Republic

