

MAKERERE



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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF CROP SCIENCE AND HORTICULTURE

December 18th, 2025

Subject: Expression of intent to participate alongside the Quadrilateral MoU (FAO–EUSL–UoJ–Uppsala University) in academic collaboration supporting SS-SFPSEI and EFFORT

Background and purpose

Makerere University Regional Centre for Crop Improvement (MaRCCI), hereby expresses its intent to participate as an academic collaborator in activities implemented under, or in parallel with, the quadrilateral Memorandum of Understanding between FAO, EUSL, University of Juba, and Uppsala University, specifically to support the South Sudan Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (SS-SFPSEI) and related capacity-building through the EFFORT model.

This Letter of Intent ("LoI") sets out our shared understanding and good-faith intentions to engage in academic and research cooperation that advances crop improvement, seed systems, and climate-smart agriculture relevant to South Sudan.

1. Non-binding nature

This LoI is non-legally binding and does not create financial obligations, enforceable commitments, or transfer of intellectual property. Any funded activity, student sponsorship, laboratory access agreements, field trials, commercialization, or data-sharing will be addressed under separate written agreements between the Parties and/or relevant third parties.

2. Indicative scope of participation

Subject to availability of resources and institutional procedures, MaRCCI is willing to:

- Co-supervise MSc/PhD candidates affiliated with UoJ whose thesis work aligns with SS-SFPSEI priorities, using a sandwich training approach with short research rotations at MaRCCI facilities and field sites, and primary registration remaining with the home institution.

- Host short courses and method schools (e.g., plant breeding, seed systems, statistical analysis, biosafety), and share selected teaching materials for capacity building at UoJ.
 - Facilitate faculty and researcher exchanges for supervision, seminars, and joint design of field protocols and seed system pilots connected to SS-SFPSEI implementation zones.
 - Collaborate in joint proposals to development partners for scholarships, laboratory strengthening, and field research—without prejudice to institutional approvals.
3. Coordination with the quadrilateral MoU
Participation under this LoI is intended to complement Annexes on joint academic programs and digital/innovation platforms under the FAO–EUSL–UoJ–Uppsala University MoU. MaRCCI’s role will be coordination-friendly, ensuring academic quality and avoiding duplication, while respecting FAO’s lead on programmatic governance.
4. Focal points and communications
- For Makerere/MaRCCI:
Professor Richard Edema, Director, MaRCCI, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES)
Email: redema@caes.mak.ac.ug | Tel: +256 414 674 308
 - For University of Juba:
Office of the Vice Chancellor / Directorate of International Cooperation
Email: info@uoj.edu.ss | Tel: +211 920 505 851

Each Party may update focal points by written notification.

5. Ethics, biosafety and regulatory compliance
All academic activities will comply with applicable research ethics, biosafety, and national regulatory requirements. Where human, plant, or environmental subjects are involved, appropriate approvals will be sought before commencement.
6. Duration and review
This LoI will take effect on the date of last signature and remain valid for eighteen (18) months, renewable by mutual written consent. The Parties will review progress at least biannually and may refine the scope as needed, including by referencing this LoI in the quadrilateral MoU’s academic annexes.

8. Signatures (non-binding)

For Makerere University (MaK), via MaRCCI
Name: Dr. Richard Edema
Title: Director, MaRCCI

Signature:  _____
Date: 18th December, 2025

For the University of Juba (UoJ)

Name: _____

Title: Vice Chancellor

Signature: _____

Date: _____