



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Between

**Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Engineering & Technology
Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand – 246194
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Uttarakhand)
Department of Biotechnology**

And

**Gramothan Project (REAP)
(Rural Enterprise Acceleration Project)
Department of Rural Development,
Government of Uttarakhand**



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**Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Engineering & Technology (GBPIET),
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(Rural Enterprise Acceleration Project)
Department of Rural Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand**

1. Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into on this **04 January 2026**, between the **Department of Biotechnology, Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Engineering & Technology (GBPIET), Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand** (hereinafter referred to as "GBPIET"), and the **Gramotthan Project (REAP)**, implemented under the **Department of Rural Development, Government of Uttarakhand** (hereinafter referred to as "REAP").

Whereas, REAP aims to enhance rural livelihoods through the promotion of agro-based, value-added, and processing enterprises involving Self Help Groups (SHGs), women collectives, farmer producer groups, and rural entrepreneurs;

Whereas, GBPIET, through its Department of Biotechnology, possesses expertise in biotechnology, food processing, fermentation technologies, biochemical and microbial quality analysis, research and development (R&D), standardization, quality assurance, and capacity building;

Now, therefore, both parties hereby agree to collaborate under this MoU to provide technical support, quality control, research and development, training and capacity building, student engagement, and value addition of agricultural and horticultural produce under the REAP framework.

2. Objectives of the MoU

The objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding are as follows:

- To provide scientific, technical, and research & development (R&D) support for agro-processing and value-added products promoted under the REAP initiative.

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ननपट पीडी महवाल

- To strengthen fruit-, crop-, and millet-based processing units through quality control, standardization, and scientific validation.
- To undertake biochemical, nutritional, and microbiological quality control (QC) analysis of products supported under REAP.
- To develop and promote agro-forestry and agricultural waste processing units for the sustainable utilization of biomass and to contribute towards the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- To facilitate capacity building, student internships, skill development, and technology transfer for Self-Help Groups (SHGs), women collectives, and rural entrepreneurs.
- To provide students with exposure through internships and field-based experiential learning aligned with REAP-supported production and processing units.
- To promote innovation, sustainability, food safety compliance, and market readiness of products developed under the REAP initiative.

3. Scope of Collaboration

The collaboration under this MoU shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

3.1 Technical, R&D and Quality Control Support

- Development and optimization of processing technologies (drying, fermentation, preservation, packaging and storage).
- Biochemical analysis (proximate composition, antioxidants, phenolics, sugars, proteins, fats, bioactive compounds, etc.).
- Microbial analysis (total plate count, yeast and mold count, pathogen screening, probiotic evaluation, as applicable).
- Nutritional profiling and shelf-life studies of REAP-supported products.
- Establishment of quality control (QC) parameters, benchmarks and testing protocols.
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and scientific processing guidelines.

3.2 Capacity Building and Training

- Organization of training programmes, workshops and hands-on demonstrations for SHGs, farmers and REAP staff.
- Preparation of training manuals, technical notes and processing guidelines in simple and local-friendly formats.
- Capacity building on food hygiene, sanitation, quality assurance and good manufacturing practices (GMP).

3.3 Academic, Student and Research Collaboration

- Exposure visits of GBPIET students and faculty to REAP-supported production and processing units.
- Student internships, project work, dissertations and field-based studies aligned with REAP activities.
- Joint research projects, pilot studies and field trials relevant to rural agro-processing.
- Preparation of joint technical reports, research publications and policy briefs, subject to mutual consent.




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3.4 Advisory, Consultancy and Compliance Support

- Technical advisory for the establishment, upgradation and diversification of processing units.
- Guidance on food safety standards, quality compliance and regulatory frameworks (including FSSAI, wherever applicable).
- Support for product standardization, labelling, branding and packaging improvement.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Responsibilities of GBPIET

- Provide technical expertise, laboratory facilities and scientific guidance for QC and R&D activities.
- Conduct biochemical, microbial and nutritional analysis as per institutional norms.
- Nominate qualified faculty members, researchers and technical experts for training, testing and advisory support.
- Facilitate student visits, internships, research work and faculty engagement with REAP activities.

4.2 Responsibilities of REAP

- Identify beneficiary groups, processing units, products and field-level requirements.
- Facilitate logistics, coordination and participation of SHGs, farmers and entrepreneurs.
- Provide samples, production data and access to processing units for analysis and research.
- Support implementation of recommended technologies, SOPs and QC practices at the field level.

5. Financial Arrangements

- This MoU does not imply any direct financial commitment by either party.
- Any funded activity or project shall be governed through separate project-specific agreements with mutually agreed terms and conditions.

6. Publication

- Any publication, document, technical report/thesis/monographs/research paper/proceedings, etc. and/or paper arising out of joint work conducted by the parties pursuant to this MOU will be jointly owned, and the contribution of respective agencies will be acknowledged duly.
- The use of the name, logo and/or official emblem of the parties on any publication, document and/or paper will require prior permission of all the above parties. It may, however, be ensured that the official emblem and logo are not misused.




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7. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

- Intellectual property generated through joint activities shall be jointly owned, unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- Commercial utilization of jointly developed technologies shall require prior written consent of both parties.

8. Confidentiality

Both parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information, data and technical know-how exchanged during the collaboration, unless disclosure is required by law.

9. Duration and Termination

- This MoU shall remain valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of signing.
- It may be extended through mutual written consent.
- Either party may terminate the MoU by giving three (3) months' written notice.

10. Amendment :

This MoU may be amended at any time through mutual written consent of both parties.

11. Dispute Resolution

Any dispute arising out of this MoU shall be resolved amicably through mutual discussion. In case of failure, the matter shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts in Uttarakhand.

12. Signatories

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed this MoU on the date first mentioned above.

For GBPIET

Name: Prof. (Dr) V.K Banga

Designation: Director, GBPIET

Signature: _____

Seal: _____


प्रो.(डॉ.) वी के बंगा
निदेशक
गोविन्द बल्लभ पंत इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ
इंजीनियरिंग एण्ड टेक्नोलॉजी
पौड़ी-गढ़वाल (उत्तराखण्ड)

Witnesses:

1. Dr. Manita Baunthiyal
Dean (R&D)
GBPIET

For REAP Project

Name: Kuldeep Singh

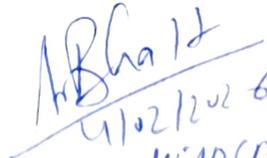
Designation: District Project Manager

Signature: _____

Seal: _____


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2.


4/02/2026
HEAD (BTD)
GBPIET, Pauri Garhwal