MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
between
the COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES and the
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (CMI) at
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
(Virginia Tech)
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA, USA

and
EVEREST HERBS PROCESSING PVT. LTD.
with the
BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Everest Herbs Processing Pvt. Ltd. (EHP) with their affiliate organization Biodiversity Research and Development Center (BiRD), and the College of Natural Resources (CNR) and the Conservation Management Institute (CMI) at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) agree to implement this memorandum of understanding signed on October 29, 2004. This agreement will build on the ongoing collaboration through the Kathmandu University Small Business Development Project funded by the Department of State (2004-2006).

This agreement is based on the principle of reciprocity and expresses the interest of both parties in exchanging scholars, students, academic information and materials in the belief that the research and educational process at both institutions will be enhanced and that mutual understanding between their respective scholars and students will be increased by the establishment of such exchange programs.

1. The CNR, CMI, EHP, and BiRD agree to work together to seek research and development projects in Nepal and where appropriate in Asia, and to develop programs depending on their respective needs and interests. The natural products industry will be a starting point for this collaboration. The following may also be the focus of programs:
   
   • Developing university and regional on-line curriculum in non-timber forest products
   • Joint research and technical assistance programs
   • Joint resource and enterprise management training programs

2. The parties recognize that the implementation of any program will depend upon the interests and expertise of individual faculty members at the CNR and CMI, and staff members of EHP
and BIRD, and upon the availability of financial and other resources. Accordingly, the implementation of each program or project based on this agreement shall be separately negotiated and determined by both parties.

3. This agreement is not intended to be a legally binding document. It is meant to describe the nature and to suggest the guidelines of the cooperation described above. Nothing therefore shall diminish the full autonomy of either organization, nor will any constraints be imposed by either upon the other in carrying out the agreement.

4. The agreement shall become effective on the day representatives of both organizations affix their signatures and seals, will be in force for a period of 5 years, and is subject to revision or modification by mutual written agreement. It is also understood that either party may terminate the agreement at any time, although it is assumed that such action would only be taken after mutual consultation to avoid any possible inconvenience to the other party.

5. Professor A. L. Hammett (for the CNR and CMI), Mr. Rana B. Rawal (for EHP), and Ms. Bobby Rawal (for BIRD) shall serve as liaison officers for this agreement.

J. Michael Kelly, Dean  
College of Natural Resources  
Virginia Tech  
Date

Raha B. Rawal  
Executive Director  
Everest Herbs Processing Pvt. LTD.  
Date

A. L. Hammett  
Coordinator of International Programs  
College of Natural Resources and Associate Director, CMI  
October 29, 2004  
Date

Dr. James M. Hyatt  
Executive Vice President  
Date

Bobby Rawal  
Managing Director  
Biodiversity Research and Development Center  
Date