

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING COOPERATION IN FORESTRY
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OF FINLAND
AND
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Finland and The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Participants"

WISHING to enhance their collaboration under jointly decided terms through the sharing of information, technology, and approaches to forest sector bioeconomy issues;

CONSIDERING the shared values and existing collaboration between Finland and Maine, including in the areas of natural resources and the growing importance of the sustainable forest bioeconomy;

HAVING REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

1. Purpose

Recognizing the academic research and private sector cooperation and dialogue that has occurred between Finland and the State of Maine, the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to recognize, identify, and foster cooperative efforts between the Participants in the field of forest bioeconomy development, and to promote certain mechanisms to enhance such exchange and cooperation. Collaborative efforts and exchange will help leverage the culture, insights, strengths and resources of both Participants, in order to strengthen respective forest-based sectors and enhance Finland's and Maine's forest health and sustainability in the face of changing climate. Foremost, this collaboration will help position the forest-based sector as a cornerstone of Finland's and Maine's bioeconomies.

2. Background

Finland and Maine derive significant economic, social and environmental benefits from their forests. Many of the challenges and opportunities related to the management and utilization of the forest resource are common to both. The emerging forest bioeconomy represents an area for joint research and best practice collaboration in the biotechnology, bioindustrial and materials design fields.

This Memorandum of Understanding recognizes and fully supports the ongoing informal forestry cooperation already existing between Finland and Maine, both in the public and private sector.

3. Areas of Cooperation

The Participants understand that their areas of cooperation may include, but are not limited to:

- a) Academic and policy initiatives;
- b) Information on respective forest sector priorities, project, science, activities and sector analysis;
- c) Wood utilization, particularly in the emerging forest bioeconomy as well as wood construction and wood buildings;
- d) Exchanging information on the Development of bioproducts standards and bioeconomy indicators;
- e) Biorefinery practices collaboration towards the development of biotechnology and bioindustrial products such as for example advanced building materials, medical devices and textiles;
- f) Development of best practices (e.g. regulations, policies, programs, incentives, etc.) on creating market opportunities and demand for advanced forest bioproducts and services;
- g) Environmental influences of forest and wood-based products including impacts of climate change
- h) Climate change mitigation strategies in the forest sector;
- i) Economics of forestry, the forest industry and the forest products market;
- j) Enhancement of data collection and management.

4. Mechanisms of Cooperation

To further improve the already existing cooperation, both Participants will give special attention and support to a number of specific mechanisms of cooperation, including;

- a. Study tours;
- b. Professional exchanges;
- c. Seminars; and,
- d. Trade and investment delegations.

5. Implementation

In order to commence cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding, an executing agency may be designated by each Participant to take care of the practical management of the cooperation.¹ One or more meetings of experts from executing agencies in both Finland and Maine may be organized by joint decision to better define areas of common interest and opportunities, to develop a mechanism by which this Memorandum of Understanding will be managed and to prepare a program of work.

¹ Maine designates the Maine North Atlantic Development Office at Maine International Trade Center as the executing agency under this Memorandum of Understanding

6. Expenses

The Participants understand that their activities under this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of their respective financial resources.

7. Intellectual Property Rights

Participants wishing to carry out joint research projects under this Memorandum of Understanding will establish separate instruments to provide for the disposition of any intellectual property that might arise from such joint research projects.

8. Differences in interpretation and application

The Participants will resolve any differences derived from the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding through discussion and negotiation.

9. Status

This Memorandum of Understanding is a statement of intent but is not legally binding.

10. Final disposition

- (a) This Memorandum of Understanding will take effect on the date of its signature by both Participants and will remain in effect for a period of 5 (five) years. This Memorandum of Understanding will be automatically renewed for consecutive periods of 5 (five) years, unless the Participants jointly decide otherwise.
- (b) The Participants may amend this Memorandum of Understanding upon their mutual written consent.
- (c) A Participant may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving a 6 (six) month written notice to the other Participant.
- (d) The Participants understand that the expiration of the Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the validity of any instruments already made under this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed in duplicate at, on.....

FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OF FINLAND

FOR THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY