

NABARD signs Plan of Work for the implementation of MoU with Western Sydney University, Australia for Establishing International Partnership.

NABARD and Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia signed a Partnership Agreement on 14 November 2024 towards establishment of a framework for a cooperative and productive relationship between the parties. The Work Plan was signed by Dr. Ajay K Sood, Deputy Managing Director, NABARD and Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, WSU. The event was attended by CGMs of DCAS, DEAR, OFDD and GMs from DCAS, CPD and FSDD along with delegates from WSU, and Australian and NSW Government representatives.

Setting the context for the event, Shri Sanjeev Rohilla, CGM, DCAS, highlighted that the plan of work aligns with the collaboration areas outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between NABARD and WSU on 24 June 2024. He noted that the MoU and work plan focus on collaborative academic and industry-led research and pilot projects in climate-smart agriculture, carbon farming, advanced and next-generation farming, knowledge management, agricultural incubation, start-ups, and groundwater management.

During the event, the DMD underscored the urgent need to tackle the twin challenges of climate change and food security. He highlighted the partnership as a watershed moment in the collaboration between NABARD and WSU, aimed at addressing the critical need for research and development in the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) sector.

Professor George Williams AO expressed enthusiasm for the work plan, seeing it as a valuable synergy with WSU's commitment to advancing water security and productivity. He noted that WSU is actively collaborating with various Ministries in India and is exploring the possibility of opening a campus in India soon. He emphasized that this partnership is intended to be long-term, with a vision extending over the decade, and looks forward to active collaboration with NABARD

Based on the inputs from the HO Departments, it was decided to establish working committees at both WSU and NABARD to oversee the collaboration and drive the work plan forward.

Few photographs of the event are enclosed.

