ANNEX TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE U.S. ISRAEL BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION AMONG U.S. AND ISRAELI SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

**Purpose:** To enhance collaboration between U.S. and Israeli scientists and engineers through an alternative proposal submission procedure which will enable an Israeli scientist, funded by BARD, to join a NIFA-funded project.

**Eligibility:** Affiliates of Israeli public or private non-profit research institutions.

**Objective:** To fund research by Israeli scientists that will enhance one or more of the objectives of a NIFA-funded project that deals with an agricultural issue also relevant to Israeli agriculture.

**RFAs included in initiative:** NIFA and BARD will decide in advance which NIFA RFAs will be included in this initiative and all the applications for the various RFAs will be evaluated together as one submission.

**Announcement:** For each submission cycle, upon agreement between NIFA and BARD, a general announcement will be made by BARD to Israeli scientists and institutions regarding the details of this procedure and the NIFA Programs (RFAs) which are included in this initiative.

A specific announcement will be made to Israeli scientists and institutions with the list of the scientists receiving NIFA awards (NIFA PI) within a few weeks of the official NIFA announcement.

**Application:** Applicants will have one month to submit a two page summary to BARD which briefly describes:

- Objectives of the proposed NIFA project and the added objectives of the Israeli part
- An outline of the Israeli contribution to the NIFA project and the benefits of the collaboration to achieving the objectives
- Collaborative arrangements

Up to 3 weeks from submission, the summary will be reviewed by BARD, NIFA and the NIFA PI. The applicant(s) may proceed with the application process only if the summary is approved by all parties.

A 10 page full proposal must be submitted within 4 weeks of the summary approval date.

Proposal guidelines will be similar to the current BARD Proposal Guidelines in addition to any forms NIFA may require.

**Evaluation:** A joint NIFA-BARD committee will be established to evaluate all the proposals submitted. Ad hoc reviewers will be solicited to review the proposals (goal is 4-5 reviewers/proposal).

The committee will convene to discuss the merits of the proposals and decide which proposals are worthy of funding and assign funding priority.
Award: Based upon the recommendation of the committee and available funds, the BARD Board of Directors will decide upon the awards.

BARD awardees will be administered by BARD, not NIFA. The BARD funding will not exceed NIFA funding for a particular award.

NIFA awardees will be expected to enter into a separate agreement with their Israeli counterparts to agree on the terms of their collaboration. They are also expected to report to NIFA on progress made on the joint project.

Sonny Ramaswamy, Director  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
27 July, 2016  
Date

Edo Chalutz, Executive Director  
U.S. Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund  
6 September, 2016  
Date