

Erasmus+ KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education

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Participatory and Integrative Support for Agricultural Initiative

**Agreement of Joint Academic and Scientific Exchange
between Prince of Songkla University, Thailand
and Montpellier SupAgro, France**





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Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Hat Yai, Thailand, and Montpellier SupAgro, France, believe that mutual benefits can be derived by bridging their two universities, achieving a closer relationship by linking their scholars, students, and personnel. Both universities share the strong conviction that mutual understanding among people can be promoted through the establishment of academic links. Therefore, both universities agree to enter into this Agreement.

To undertake an effort to implement future close collaborative academic activities, Prince of Songkla University and Montpellier SupAgro wish to continue the framework agreement for specific exchanges of students and staff members in the following areas of cooperation:

- a. Exchange of graduate students for study and research.
- b. Exchange of faculty members for research, lectures, and discussions.
- c. Exchange of scientific activities such as seminars, conferences, training programs, and field trips.
- d. Joint research activities, including preparation and submission of joint grant applications

More specifically, the objective of this agreement is to build the framework leading to the delivery of double degree programs by the two institutions. The double degree to be awarded is available not only to the Thai and French students of the current postgraduate courses offered at SupAgro or at PSU, but also to the foreign international students that will earn degrees at either institution. Specifically, Montpellier SupAgro and PSU wish to support joint postgraduate education for nationals of Thailand's neighboring countries, including Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

The double degree programme of Montpellier SupAgro and PSU can lead to the award of:

- the degree of Master of Science in *Sciences et Technologies*, mention *Agronomie et Agroalimentaire* from Montpellier SupAgro, and
- the degree of Master of Science from PSU.
- the doctoral degrees at both institutions.

Article 1 - Double degree at MSc level

At the Master of Sciences level, both institutions have identified several training tracks that can lead to the award of such a double degree. However, both institutions recognize that this program of study should only be open to carefully selected individuals that fulfill satisfactorily the training and research requirements from each institution. The decision to award both degrees will hence be made on a case by case basis by both institutions, for students who have followed one of the following training tracks:

1. Mobility Thailand to France:

Graduate students who successfully complete all required courses at one of the the M.S. programs at PSU are eligible to be admitted for the final year at Montpellier SupAgro, Master of Science in *Science et Techniques*, mention *Agronomie et Agroalimentaire*, majoring in one of the specializations taught at Montpellier SupAgro.

Students who wish to become candidates for this mobility should have studied courses in the French language for at least two semesters at PSU and should be willing to attend the summer campus in SupAgro (July and August) prior to starting the academic programme in the MSc *Sciences and Techniques, Agronomie & Agroalimentaire*.

2. Mobility France to Thailand:

Graduate students who successfully complete all required courses (90 ECTS) of the Master of Science in *Science et Technologies*, mention *Agronomie et Agroalimentaire*, Montpellier SupAgro, are eligible to be admitted for the final year in the M.S. at PSU (research programme).

Students may be required to take additional courses as advised by their co-advisors. Students who seek to become candidates for this mobility should have studied courses in the Thai language for at least one semester in Montpellier.

3. The students who have started the course in one of the two institutions and who are admitted to continue at the second party are required to have obtained:

3.1 An average overall IELTS-score of at least 6.0 or equivalent;

3.2 A pass for the assessment interview by both parties or, acceptance by the admission decision taking body at Montpellier SupAgro or at PSU, depending the track of their mobility.

In selecting students, it is expected that only students who have a record of good academic performance will be selected by the home institution.

Exchange students will be registered throughout the exchange period by the two institutions.

4. In both cases, the research component of the MScs will be developed under the joint supervision of scholars from the two institutions.

Article 2 – Double degree at doctoral level

At the Doctoral level, the present agreement constitutes the framework for co-supervised PhDs between the two institutions. However, the authorization to register as a PhD double degree is given on a case by case basis and will lead in each case to the signature of a specific co-supervision agreement.

The students must meet the academic criteria and the level required by each institution for being admitted as a doctoral student.

1. For Prince of Songkla University, the student's curriculum and the PhD project must obtain;
 - the approval of an accredited co-supervisor,
 - the approval of Prince of Songkla University's Council
 - the approval of the Doctoral School concerned with the PhD programme
 - the approval of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies.
2. For Montpellier SupAgro, the student's curriculum and the PhD project must obtain;
 - the approval of an accredited co-supervisor,
 - the approval of Montpellier SupAgro's Scientific Council,
 - the approval of the Doctoral School in which the PhD will be undertaken,
 - the approval of the Deputy Director for Research and Studies.

Article 3 – Terms and conditions for implementation

Under this agreement of cooperation, Prince of Songkla University and Montpellier SupAgro hereby agree to the terms and conditions as follows:

1. Duration of the agreement: This agreement will become effective upon signing. It will be enforced for five years and will be automatically renewed in accordance with the MOU. Either party may terminate this agreement by giving a written notice to the other party three months prior to the intended date of termination.
2. Financial arrangements: During the visit or exchange period, students and staff members are responsible for the costs of living, transportation, insurance, and other incidental and personal expenses. Participating individuals are required to arrange their own insurance against illness and accidents covering the period of their stay in the country of the host institution. The tuition and fees will be agreed on a case by case basis.
3. Accommodation: The host institution will provide exchange students and staff members with assistance in obtaining suitable accommodations.

4. Immigration formality: Each institution will issue appropriate documents for visa purposes in compliance with the then current laws, although it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to obtain a proper visa in a timely manner.

5. Enlargement of the exchange:

Montpellier SupAgro, as the coordinator of the European Master in *Sustainable Development in Agriculture* (Agris Mundus MSc), will support the same options for exchange between the M.S. Agricultural Development at PSU and the other majors of the Agris Mundus programme, specifically from the training track *Food chains and development*, with courses given in Europe at the University College of Cork, Ireland, and Montpellier SupAgro.

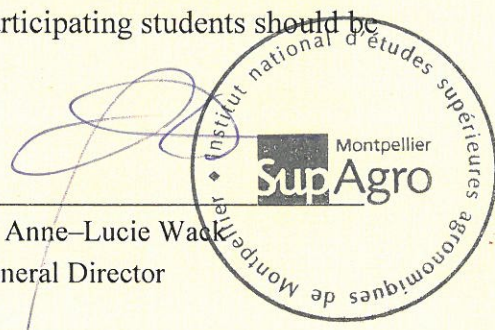
6. Volume of the exchanges:

Each institution seeks to exchange at least one graduate student for each academic exchange period up to one academic year. It is expected that an overall balance with regard to the number of participating students should be achieved during the period of this agreement.



Dr. Niwat Keawpradub
President

Prince of Songkla University
Thailand
Date: April 5, 2019



Dr Anne-Lucie Wack
General Director

Montpellier SupAgro
France
Date: 28 AOUT 2019