



**Office of International Relations
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
Kharagpur – 721 302**

Ref: 1465/2021/OIR

Date: 16.03.2022

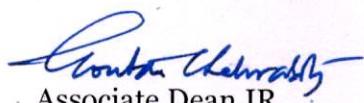
Sub: Request for approval for signing the MoU with African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO)

IIT Kharagpur and African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) wish to sign an MoU to facilitate the exchange of knowledge & experiences, capacity enhancement and development of technological interventions in the field of agricultural and rural development and sharing /transferring of technology.

To this end, a draft MoU was prepared and shared with the Director for his approval, by Prof. Rintu Banerjee, the coordinator of the MoU. Few changes were recommended by the Director. Based on the suggestions and discussions between MoU coordinator, Director and the Associate Dean of IR & R, a modified draft was prepared and shared with the AARDO team for their approval. The AARDO team approved the modified draft and it has been placed in the MoU Committee Meeting on 16th March, 2022, for its approval. The MoU Committee has suggested some minor modifications to the draft. The suggested modifications have been incorporated and the final draft is now being placed for Director's kind approval.

The supporting email correspondence and Minutes of Meeting are enclosed. Director is requested to kindly approve the signing of the MoU. He is further requested to be the signatory from IIT Kharagpur.

This is placed for your kind consideration and approval.



Associate Dean IR

Dean Outreach

Deputy Director



16/03/22

Director



Office of International Relations
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

**Proposal for entering into an institutional MoU with a national/international
partner university/ institution/ organization**

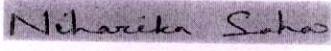
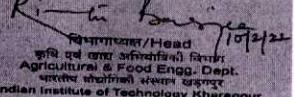
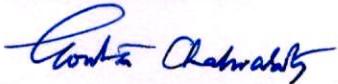
Instructions:

Please submit the signed hardcopy along with supporting documents to Dean IR

Please email scanned copy of this form along with softcopies of supporting documents to:
moutrack@adm.iitkgp.ac.in, aeanir@adm.iitkgp.ac.in

Name and address of proposed partner	AFRICAN-ASIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (AARDO) 2, State Guest Houses Complex Chanakyapuri New Delhi 110021, India Tel : +91-11-24100475/26877783/26115936 Fax : +91-11-26115937 E-mail: aardohq@aardo.org
National / international standing of proposed partner	AARDO which is one of the earliest examples of South-South cooperation in rural development in the Afro-Asian region. It is an autonomous inter-governmental Organization comprising country governments of Africa and Asia. AARDO a non-political body enjoys observer status with various UN and other international organisations like Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), etc. It also promotes collaboration with various international organisations for the economic and social welfare of the rural community.
Extent of past / ongoing collaborations between IIT Kharagpur and proposed partner	nil

Expected activities in the next 3 years if MoU is signed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organizing joint online training programme on the areas of mutual interest 2. Participation of resource persons of IIT, Kharagpur as and when required by AARDO (subject to availability) for AARDO programme in AARDO member countries 3. Fellowship at IIT, Kharagpur for AARDO member countries.
How the MoU will benefit IIT Kharagpur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The online/offline training program offered by IIT Kharagpur will have the participation from policy makers, academicians and technicians of Asian and African Countries. So, it may help us for more international collaboration. 2. AARDO will invite experts from IIT Kharagpur with the needed experience, expertise and guidance by way of making available the services of experts in specific fields. On receipt of such a request from member countries, expert(s) are deputed to a requiring country. AARDO meets expenses on both-ways airfare (economy class) and pays honorarium for the first month to expert/consultant. The beneficiary country is required to meet expenses on local hospitality, including boarding, lodging, local transportation etc., and also pay honorarium from the second month onwards. 3. IITKgp and AARDO will collaborate with each other to build up capacities of young officials from AARDO member countries through their participation in the Post Graduate Degree Programme. This will increase the participation of foreign students in IIT Kharagpur. 4. Further, above activities will add in visibility of IIT Kgp and help us in improving our ranking globally.
Does the proposed partner have an MoU with any other IIT? If yes, please give details	<p>Yes</p> <p>They have MoU with IIT Madras (for training and student fellowship) and IIT Delhi (for training only). Talks are going on with IIT Mumbai and IIT Kanpur.</p>
Has the proposed partner accepted IIT Kharagpur's standard MoU template?	<p>....</p>
If No above, has the proposed partner suggested any MoU draft? If yes, please attach	<p>Yes</p> <p>attached</p>

MoU proposed by (Name, Designation and Signature of Proposing Faculty)	<p>Name: Niharika Sahoo Bhattacharya Designation: Assistant Professor Affiliation: Rajiv Gandhi School of IP Law Email: niharika@rgsoipl.iitkgp.ac.in Phone: 7327909354</p>
Signature:	
Recommended by Head/Dean (Signature with date and seal)	 <p>R. Sahoo निमाकार्यकारी/Head कृषि यांत्र अभियानकी नियाय Agriculture & Food Engg. Dept. प्रौद्योगिकी एवं विज्ञान Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur 10/2/22</p>
Forwarded by Dean IR	
Approval by DD for placing at MoU Committee	
OIR Notings	



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



This **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)** entered into on the _____ Day of _____ 2022 between:

The AFRICAN-ASIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (hereinafter referred to as “**AARDO**”), a rural centric inter-governmental autonomous organization located at 2, State Guest Houses Complex, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 021, India and represented by the **Secretary General, AARDO** and shall include its lawful representatives and permitted assignees;

AND

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR (hereinafter referred to as “**IITKGP**”), an academic and research institute constituted by Government of India located at Kharagpur- 721 302, West Bengal, India and represented by the **Director** and shall include its lawful representatives and permitted assignees;

AARDO and IITKGP shall hereinafter referred to singularly as “the Party” and collectively as “the Parties”.

WHEREAS

African Asian Rural Development Organization, New Delhi is mandated to develop understanding among members for better appreciation of each other's problems and to collectively explore, opportunities for coordination of efforts for the welfare and eradication of thirst, hunger, illiteracy, disease and poverty amongst rural people in the African-Asian region. The Organization comprises thirty three (33) members, which include thirty one (31) countries namely, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tunisia and Zambia from Africa, and Bangladesh, R.O. China (Taiwan), India, Iraq, Jordan, R.O. Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria and Yemen from Asia, as the full members, and Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC), R.O. Korea and The Agricultural Bank of Sudan (ABS), Sudan as Associate Members.

AARDO is devoted to developing understanding among members for better appreciation of others' problems and to explore collectively, opportunities for coordination and efforts for promoting welfare and eradication of thirst, hunger, illiteracy, disease and poverty among rural people.

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITKGP) is a premier institute of the country established in 1951 to train engineers and researchers. It is the first IIT which was created by the Government of India and has been recognized as an institute of national importance. It offers bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees in various areas under different departments, centres, and schools. The Agricultural and Food Engineering (AgFE) Department was established in 1952, as the Agricultural Engineering Department on the recommendation of the Dhar Committee appointed by the Board of Governors, IIT Kharagpur in 1950. Subsequently, on the up-gradation of its academic programme, the department was renamed as the Agricultural and Food Engineering Department in 1994. It has been regularly working on creating technology-based solutions for sustainable development.

Among the 23 IITs, IIT Kharagpur has the sole distinction of having an Agricultural and Food Engineering Department and Centre for Rural Development, Innovation and Sustainable Technologies (CRDIST). Ever since its establishment, the department has pioneered Agricultural Engineering education and research in the country. Keeping pace with the technological and agricultural developments, the department has continuously upgraded its academic programs. Today it offers a 4-year B. Tech. (Hons) course in Agricultural and Food Engineering, six Joint M.Tech. - Ph.D. programmes in different specializations of agricultural engineering and sciences, and 5-year integrated M. Tech. programmes in all four engineering specializations. Also, the department offers M.S. (by research) and Ph. D. programmes in all areas of specialization.

Agricultural and Food Engineering (AgFE) is the largest department of IIT Kharagpur. Over the last seven decades, the department has grown its expertise and competence and produced pioneer research, development and education in the field of agricultural engineering in India. The Department has several state-of-the-art laboratories, field research facilities and an adopted village for transferring the developed technologies. The Department is adequately experienced in creation and dissemination of appropriate rural technologies through its recent flagship initiatives. Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) and Design and Innovation Centre (DIC) are such platforms that have successfully translated research ideas into meaningful prototypes that address agricultural and rural issues.

The AgFE Department has been developing technologies and facilities that are directly or indirectly helping the local rural community. These technologies are demonstrated and transferred among the interested rural community.

CONSIDERING the mutual interest in the field of agriculture and rural development in AARDO Member Countries, both two Organizations agree to cooperate and collaborate with each other with a view to achieving their common objectives, in particular with regard to address the challenges through technological innovations, solutions and interventions and capacity enhancement to benefit and strengthen rural communities.

HAVING IN MIND the fact that both the Organizations have the common mandate,

DESIROUS of establishing cordial ties, strengthening cooperation and initiating collaboration between the two Organizations for the benefit of rural communities, farmers, entrepreneurs, executives, functionaries and policy makers of the Member Countries in Africa and Asia.

CONSIDERING their common interest in addressing the challenges facing the Member Countries through cooperation and collaboration in the areas of agriculture and rural development.

RECOGNIZING the need for enhancing the self-reliance, economic resilience and social well-being of the people through sustainable livelihoods, quality of life, reduced drudgery through innovative machine and process development, and creation of safe and healthy environment in the Member Countries;

CONVINCED that the development and strengthening of their cooperation would be of mutual benefit to bring about better coordination and efficient implementation of respective resolutions.

AARDO and IITKGP hereby agree to cooperate in capacity building, knowledge and dissemination, and transfer of appropriate/adaptable & affordable innovative solutions/technologies for agricultural and rural development in the Member Countries in accordance with the below terms and conditions of this Agreement.

Now, therefore, for good and valuable consideration, both the parties hereby agree into the following:

Article I

1. Objectives of Cooperation:

The objective of cooperation of this Agreement shall be-

- 1.1. Collaboration for knowledge partnership through exchange of knowledge & experiences, capacity enhancement and development of technological interventions in the fields of agricultural and rural development and sharing/transferring of technology.
- 1.2. To act as a forum to facilitate the exchange of views and ideas for continuing dialogues on innovative and suitable models of Cooperation for agricultural and rural development.

Article II

2. Areas of Cooperation:

- 2.1. Both the Parties shall cooperate with each other through the mutually decided areas/technologies to realize the common interests in the field of agriculture and rural development, and other related domains.

Technological interventions in the areas of fisheries, energy, livestock, aquaculture, hydro/aqua-ponics, transportation, sustainable agriculture, crop diversification with industrial crops, organic farming, rural settlement, farm machinery development, ergonomics, agricultural automation, smart tools and machines, smart irrigation, low-cost greenhouse, non-invasive soil health monitoring and testing, nano-fertilizers, biofuel and bioenergy, zero-waste process/product development, soil-to-soil technology, medicinally important plants, food-fortification to address malnutrition, food processing & value-addition, agribusiness development, automation and food process industry, water & waste management, diffusion and transfer models/channels for effective adoption of innovative, affordable and appropriate techniques etc.

2.2. For the purpose of implementing the co-operation in respect of any stated in Article 2.1. above, the Parties shall enter into a legally binding and definitive agreement subject to the terms and conditions as mutually agreed upon by the Parties including clauses on “confidentiality”, “suspension”, “protection of intellectual property rights” and “settlement of disputes” before entering into any specific programme.

Article III

3. Instruments and Form of Cooperation:

Both the Parties agree to consider and use the following instruments:

- (a) Organization of Human Resource Development, Capacity Enhancement, Education and Training programmes.
- (b) Organization of international, regional and On-The-Spot (OTS) /in country training programmes/workshops to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Member Countries in sustainable agriculture and rural development.
- (c) Organization of Workshops/Seminars/Conferences/Roundtables for various levels of participation and different levels of coverage such as International/Regional/National levels.
- (d) Joint exploration and implementation of Technology-based Development PILOT Projects by utilizing each other's human, technical and financial resources, subject to modalities, towards achieving common goals;
- (e) Conducting research for action-research studies of specific or of common interest;
- (f) Exchange of subject experts/specialists for sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience.
- (g) Exchange of scholars/students/volunteers to assist in adoption of technology solutions and implementation of joint tech-based development pilot projects, training of grassroots functionaries/beneficiaries, and learning from varied experiences;
- (h) Exchange programmes and internships for UG/PG students, faculty, staff and researchers with universities and Institutes in the Member Countries.
- (i) Technical support in project formulations and consultancy in the area of policy formulation;

- (j) Strengthening Institutional networking for enhanced collaboration in the fields of agriculture and rural development;
- (k) Utilization of expertise from IITKGP's Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law for inputs on policy documents, imparting training, consultancies; and appropriate techno-legal expertise.
- (l) Any other form agreed to by the Parties.

Article IV

4. Implementation:

AARDO and IITKGP shall, subject to mutual agreement on case-to-case basis, undertake joint activities and cooperation in the implementation of specific programmes/projects in the field of agriculture and rural development.

Article V

5. Financial Arrangement:

- 5.1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall not automatically give rise to any financial obligation by one Party to other, unless otherwise agreed upon by both the Parties in writing.
- 5.2. Each party shall bear its own cost and expenses in relation to this Memorandum of Understanding unless otherwise agreed between the Parties in writing.
- 5.3. The Parties shall discuss the sharing of costs before each activity/engagement.

Article VI

6. Duration & Termination of the Agreement:

- 6.1. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of signing and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years.
- 6.2. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Party giving written notice to the other at least six (6) months prior to the proposed date of termination.

Article VII

7. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):

- 7.1. The protection of intellectual property rights shall be enforced in conformity with the respective national legislations and law prevailing in the concerned countries, rules and regulations of both the Parties.
- 7.2. Notwithstanding anything in Article 7.1 above, the intellectual property rights in respect of any technological development and any products and services development carried out:
 - (a) jointly by the Parties or research results obtained through the joint activity/effort of the parties will jointly owned by the Parties in accordance with the terms to be mutually agreed upon, and;
 - (b) solely and separately by the Party or the research results obtained through the sole and separate efforts of the Party will solely be owned by the Party concerned.

Article VIII

8. Settlement of Disputes:

Any difference or dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation and/or implementation and/or application of any of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through mutual consultation and/or negotiations between the Parties **at Kolkata**.

Article IX

9. Amendment:

Further the term of the MoU may be amended with the approval of both Parties, by means or exchange of letters.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES MENTIONED HEREIN HAVE AFFIXED
THEIR SIGNATURE on the day, month and year mentioned below

Signed on / / 2022:

For and on behalf of
African-Asian Rural Development
Organization (AARDO)

Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh
Secretary General

For and on behalf of
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
(IITKGP)

Prof. Virendra Kumar Tewari
Director

Annexure 1

**Scholarship for
M.S (Research) Programme**

Scholarships for MS (Research) Programme

WHEREAS AARDO and IITKGP (hereinafter referred to as ("both parties") are committed to work towards innovative and sustainable development for agricultural/rural communities and have joined hands to make concerted efforts through participation by young eligible students/officers from AARDO members countries in the "MS (Research) Programme" (hereinafter referred to a "programme"), being organized at IITKGP to build-up their capacity and nurture them as global leaders to play a pivotal role in modern agriculture and rural development for agribusiness development, combating malnutrition, and overall sustainable development for the betterment of the rural communities.

WHEREAS both parties have felt the need of AARDO member countries for building up capacities of dynamic young eligible students/officers and nurturing them as global leaders to play a pivotal role in combating poverty and working for the betterment of the under-privileged through the Programme at IITKGP.

THEREFORE both parties have agreed to cement the collaborative approach for the participation of AARDO sponsored candidates to the MS (Research) Programme at IITKGP for the minimum of next five (05) years for the larger benefit of AARDO member countries. However, the programme continuation will be determined annually based on the performance of the programme and budgetary considerations.

SECTION I "DEFINITIONS"

This Annexure shall be known as the "Scholarships for MS (Research) programme" between IITKGP and AARDO for participation in the Programme by eligible students/officers from African-Asian member countries.

SECTION II 'ORGAINZATION OF THE PROGRAMME'

The Programme shall be open for participation by AARDO member countries at IIT Kharagpur every year with effect from the academic session starting from July 2022.

The duration of the Programme shall be as per IITKGP Senate Rule (minimum 2 years and maximum 5 years).

AARDO may nominate candidates to IITKGP and selection of up to 20 suitable students/officers for the Programme shall be made as per selection criteria of IITKGP under intimation at AARDO. The number of selected candidates may exceed 20 on the mutual agreement of the six specializations of the Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering (AgFE) and Centre for Rural Development and Innovative Sustainable Technology (CRDIST) of IITKGP and AARDO. All applicants to the MS (Research) Programme will follow the same norms for selection and academic requirements as per rules and regulations Instituted by IITKGP.

SECTION III “EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME”

Both parties shall undertake separate evaluation on the conclusion of the Programme and share their findings with each other for further improvement.

Both parties shall make their best efforts to raise awareness among the member countries about the usefulness and achievements of this joint programme.

SECTION IV “LIABILITIES OF AARDO”

AARDO may nominate candidates every year to the Programme organized by IITKGP.

AARDO shall request its member countries to forward particulars of suitable candidates who meet the prescribed eligibility criteria for admission directly online to IITKGP under intimation to AARDO.

AARDO shall follow up the nominations with IITKGP for their evaluation and subsequent acceptance.

AARDO/Member Country shall provide both ways air tickets to its selected participants to travel to the nearest airport (Kolkata) in India and back.

SECTION V “LIABILITIES OF IITKGP”

IITKGP shall arrange to intimate AARDO Secretariat about the schedule of the Programme preferably six (06) months in advance enabling AARDO to invite/arrange suitable nominations from its member countries. For the first year the Parties will discuss and set out the schedule on a mutually agreeable basis.

IITKGP shall intimate the AARDO Secretariat the changes/amendments, if any, in the timetable of its Programme, preferably three (03) months prior to the commencement of the Programme enabling AARDO to make relevant arrangements accordingly.

IITKGP shall receive nominations of the candidates in duly filled-in prescribed proforma from AARDO as per schedule. After due consideration, IITKGP shall, in due time notify AARDO of the accepted candidates, IITKGP will advise and assist students/officers in the visa process.

The fellowship granted to AARDO participants of the Programme by IITKGP will waive the International student tuition fee, one-time admission charges, hostel charges and provide them with a fellowship equivalent to the Master students' stipend given to domestic students/officers as a living allowance up to two years.

However, other expenses incurred during the travel and during the programme at IITKGP shall be borne by the students/officers and/or his/her respective country government.

The student must attend classes in IITKGP in-person/online to receive the fellowship.

Students/officers would be required to open an Indian bank account on arrival at IITKGP and intimate the details to receive the fellowship.

Students/officers shall cover the costs of course material, food expenses, local transportation, medical insurance and monthly living expenses for the duration of the program at IITKGP. Students/officers will cover all costs including tuition for an extension beyond two years. This is also subject to the student complying with the rules and regulations of IITKGP and all applicable laws including in relation to the visa requirements.

The students/officers must satisfactorily complete the program in adherence to the rules and regulations stipulated by IITKGP to obtain the degree

Done and signed on the _____ 2022

For and on behalf of
Africa-Asian Rural Development
Organization (AARDO)

Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh
Secretary General

For and on behalf of
Indian Institute of Technology
Kharagpur (IITKGP)

Prof. Virendra Kumar Tewari
Director

Office of the Dean, International Relations
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

Date: 31st January, 2022

Subject: Minutes of the MoU Committee Meeting Dated 27th January, 2022.

The MoU Committee comprising the undersigned members met on 27th January, 2022 through Online Mode. The minutes and resolutions of the meeting are as under.

Prof. Amit Patra	Chairman, MoU Committee
Prof. Jayanta Mukhopadhyay	Dean, OR
Prof. V.R. Desai	Dean, FoEA
Prof. G.P. Raja Sekhar	Dean, FoS
Prof. Saswat Chakraborty	Dean, FOBTBS
Prof. Suman Chakraborty	Dean, SRIC
Prof. Debashish Chakravarty	Associate Dean, AA & Branding
Prof. Goutam Chakraborty	Associate Dean, IR & Ranking (Secretary & Convener)

Signed Reporting Items:

Sl. No.	Partner	Partnership	Coordinator	D/S/C
1	California State University (Sacramento State)	MoU	Priyadarshi Patnaik	HSS

Action Items:

1. New MoU with **African-Asian Rural Development Organization**: Prof. Rintu Banerjee, AgFE

Resolution: The committee recommended preparation of the draft MoU.

It was suggested that Prof. Rintu Banerjee be the coordinator of this MoU.

Prof. Rintu Banerjee was requested to prepare the draft MoU with specific clauses including Intellectual Property Rights, Technology Transfers, etc.

It was further recommended that one faculty from the Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law be included as well.

2. New MoU with **AIIMS- Bhuvaneshwar**: Dr. Anirban Mukherjee, EE

Resolution: The draft MoU in its present form was not approved.

The Committee suggested a broad-based MoU highlighting extended strengths and capabilities.

The Committee would accord its approval in signing the MoU in the light of further detailed and specific information received from the coordinator.

3. New MoU with **ULM University, Germany**: Dr. Koutav Ray, CHE

Resolution: The Committee recommended modifications in the scope of the MoU.

Dr. Koustav Ray was requested to provide specifics and targets before the document is placed for Director's approval.

4. Renewal MoU with **Paris Tech, France**: TBD

Resolution: The MoU may be put up in the next committee meeting after the draft has been created.

It was recommended that Prof. Goutam Chakraborty (Associate Dean, IR & R) be the coordinator of this MoU.

5. Renewal MoU with **ITKGP Foundation (Internship)**: Prof. Goutam Chakraborty, ADean IR & R

Resolution: The MoU Committee recommended extension of the MoU. The draft may be placed for renewal signatures.

6. Renewal MoU with **National Tsing Hua University (NTHU), Taiwan**: Prof. Dipanwita Roy Chowdhury, CSE

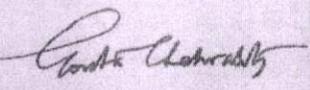
Resolution: The MoU and Student Exchange Agreement are approved for signatures.

7. **Shraman Foundation**: Discussion

Resolution: The Committee observed that there is a need to institutionalize such scholarships and streamline the funding processes.

It was recommended that the Office of Alumni Affairs will handle such funding opportunities.

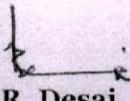
The Committee requested Prof. Goutam Chakraborty (Associate Dean, IR & R) to discuss further with Prof. Debashish Chakravarty (Associate Dean, AA & B).

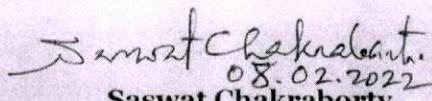

Goutam Chakraborty
Associate Dean, IR (Secretary
& Convener)

ABSENT
Debashish Chakravarty
Associate Dean, AA

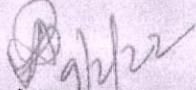

G.P. Raja Sekhar
Dean, FoS

ABSENT
Suman Chakraborty
Dean, SRIC


V.R. Desai
Dean, FoEA


08.02.2022
Saswat Chakraborty
Dean, FoBTBS


Jayanta Mukhopadhyay
Dean, OR


Amit Patra
Chairman, MoU Committee