

Press Release for the visit of Honourable Agriculture Minister to Australia from 25-29 February 2012

An Indian delegation led by Mr. Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries visited Australia from 25-29 February 2012. The delegation held talks on wide ranging issues governing cooperation and consultation between India and Australia on agriculture, animal husbandry and other allied sectors. The talks were constructive and positive working towards identifying specific projects to collaborate in food security and building enhanced capacity for food safety/quality, horticulture, dairying, livestock breeding, agri-business and marketing to further mutual benefit of the two countries. The delegation visited Sydney and Canberra and met with top level functionaries in the Australian Government, that included the Premier of New South Wales Mr. Barry O'Farrel, Ms Katrina Hodgkinson, Minister for Primary Industry and Small Business, of New South Wales, Dr. Craig Emerson, Minister for Trade and Acting Foreign Minister, Mr. Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in Federal Government. The discussions culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministries of Agriculture of the two countries for establishment of a Joint Working Group for Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors. It was proposed to hold the first meeting of the Joint Working Group in early April 2012. With a view to exploring avenues for collaboration in agriculture research the delegation visited prominent institutions like the Plant Breeding Institute, University of Sydney, Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute in NsW and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization Discovery Centre in ACT.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industry Mr. Sharad Pawar and Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Mr. Joe Ludwig signing the MoU for establishment of a Joint Working Group for cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors.

