



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The African Centre of Excellence for Neglected
Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology
(ACENTDFB)

And

BioVana Consult Limited (BioVana Research)

Background

The African Centre of Excellence for Neglected Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology (ACENTDFB), hosted at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, is a regional center dedicated to research, development, training, and specialized service delivery on neglected tropical diseases, forensic biotechnology, molecular diagnostics, and biobanking, with a mandate to strengthen institutional capacity and drive innovation in public health across Africa.

BioVana Consult Limited (BioVana Research) is an African Rooted Biomedical Platform registered under the laws of the federal republic of Nigeria with Offices in Nigeria and the United States working to transform the quality, utility, and equity of African health data by supporting institutions to build compliant biorepositories, develop research infrastructure, and advance population-level insights into communicable and non-communicable diseases, with expertise spanning quality management systems, biobank optimization, and research enablement programs across Africa and the Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region.

The Parties recognize the strategic importance of collaborating to enhance biobank infrastructure, elevate operational and quality standards to international benchmarks, and create sustainable pathways for revenue generation and research leadership;

The Parties enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to set forth the framework and terms of their cooperation.

Objectives of the Collaboration

The primary objectives of this collaboration are:

- To optimize ACENTDFB's existing biobank infrastructure, operational workflows, and documentation practices.
- To support ACENTDFB in attaining the biobank registrations with Nigerian Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC), International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) as well as ISO 20387 certification which is specific for biobanking operations.
- To position ACENTDFB as a recognized regional Center of Excellence for biobanking to be showcased across Africa and the EMEA region.
- To engage BioVana Research as ACENTDFB's technical partner for implementing Qualification in Biorepository Science (QBRs) capacity-building initiatives.

- To jointly design and implement research enablement programs that facilitate high-quality research on communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), strengthening ACENTDFB's research outputs and revenue potential.

Joint Roles and Commitments

Both Parties agree to collaborate in good faith to:

- Share knowledge, expertise, and resources to strengthen biobank management systems and compliance with international standards.
- Promote ACENTDFB's profile as a regional biobank hub / an African Centre of Excellence in Biobanking and Biorepository Science, through coordinated communications, stakeholder engagement and showcasing opportunities.
- Design and deliver tailored training programs and capacity-building activities for biobank and research staff.
- Facilitate partnerships with affiliated research centers and institutions to drive research on population health, communicable diseases, and NCDs.

Roles and Responsibilities

ACENTDFB

ACENTDFB shall:

- Provide access to biobank infrastructure, operational records, and relevant documentation necessary for assessment and improvement planning.
- Designate qualified personnel to act as liaison officers and project counterparts.
- Ensure availability of operational data and records to inform the development and implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS).
- Coordinate engagement and coordination with local research centers, public health stakeholders, and government partners.
- Facilitate internal approvals and administrative processes necessary to enable project activities.

BioVana Research

BioVana Research shall:

- Conduct a comprehensive baseline assessment and gap analysis of ACENTDFB's biobank operations relative to ISO 20387, ISBER best practices and other relevant standards.
- Develop an actionable optimization plan, including updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), documentation, and process re-engineering recommendations
- Provide resources required for light biobank accessories upgrades
- Serve as ACENTDFB's technical partner in QBRs capacity building, including the design and delivery of staff training and preparation for certification audits.
- Advise on facility improvements and equipment upgrades necessary to meet biobanking certification and accreditation requirements.
- Co-design and facilitate research enablement programs and grant development strategies to strengthen research on communicable diseases, population health, and NCDs.
- Support ACENTDFB in defining and implementing revenue-generation pathways linked to biobank services, sample access agreements, and applied research collaborations.
- Provide ongoing technical advisory support throughout the term of this Memorandum.

Financial Obligations

Any financial implications and benefits that may arise from this MoU shall be negotiated through mutual agreement, taking into account long-term commitments, dedication, and institutional priorities.


Effective Date of Agreement and Termination

- The agreement shall come into effect immediately when the two institutions represented by their respective heads sign the MoU and will be for two years at the first instance.
- There shall be an annual appraisal of the MoU to assess level of compliance and determine any changes needed for improved collaboration between both parties.
- Party to the agreement may terminate the MoU at any time by providing a written notice regarding the programme to the other party.

- Effective date for such termination shall be at least three months from the date of such notice.

Collaboration Management

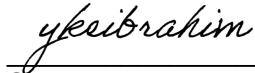
The collaboration between the two institutions shall be managed and coordinated by the Chief Executive Officer & Founding Partner of BioVana Research on behalf of BioVana Research and the Center Leader of ACENTDFB.



Signature
Estelle Dogbo
CEO & Founding Partner
BioVana Research
Nigeria.

24 / 07 2025

Date



Signature
Center Leader ACENTDFB,
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria,
Nigeria.

August 01, 2025

Date