



Transforming lives and landscapes with trees.

# MESSAGE

I am very pleased that the Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR), and Bioversity International in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority (PPVPFRA), National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), National Academy of Agriculture Sciences (NAAS), and MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) is organizing the 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress from 6-9 November, 2016 at New Delhi, India.

ICRAF's research around the world has documented the multiple benefits for smallholders of agrobiodiversity – especially where they have chosen to plant quality trees. We expect this Congress to help spread the message of the importance of quality germplasm - its identification, delivery and conservation – for agricultural development. The importance of agrobiodiversity – in ICRAF's case tree species diversity – for resilient and productive agricultural landscapes cannot be under-estimated.

It is for this reason that I compliment the organizers for having chosen agrobiodiversity as a focus for this Congress and I look forward to hearing about its important outcomes.

I convey my best wishes for the success of the Congress.

Date : 11 October 2016

**(Prof. Anthony Simons)**  
Director General