



Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions

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Raghunath Ghodake Executive Secretary

Agrobiodiversity, including plants, animals, insects, aquatic and microbial, is the foundation for sustainable agricultural development and is rather more crucial resource than even land, water and environment. In recognition of the value of agrobiodiversity for the society, and also in view of the concerns of its loss, resolute efforts need to be made towards conservation, access, sustainable use and advancement of this resource as that can contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Asia-Pacific region is the primary center of origin/diversity of many important species of crops and livestock and secondary center of diversity of several species. Resource poor producers in the region are largely dependent on the agrobiodiversity of minor crops, their wild relatives and species of plants and animals for their food security and livelihood. Such a vast diversity needs to be effectively utilized and conserved for posterity and future use.

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), had been playing an invaluable role in conservation and use of agrobiodiversity in collaboration with its members, partners and stakeholders, the Suwon Agrobiodiversity Framework being a major initiative. Under its vision 2030, APAARI has planned systematic programs and activities in strengthening agri-food research and innovation systems in Asia and the Pacific. An integral part of these contributions have been the effective partnership and networking to manage, utilize, conserve and promote agrobiodiversity in the region.

I wish the first International Agrobiodiversity Congress a great success.

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Raghunath Ghodake

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