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MESSAGE

I am very pleased to be part of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Agrobiodiversity Congress (IAC2016), a unique occasion where researchers working on crop genetic resources, animal genetic resources, aquatic genetic resources, insect and microbial genetic resources relevant to food and agriculture. It is high time we all realize the importance of utilization of agricultural biodiversity to overcome challenges posed by food insecurity and climate change. A specific road map on the germplasm sharing and use on a sustainable basis within the framework of access and benefit sharing guidelines is expected from the IAC2016.

Breeders are fighting against abiotic and biotic stresses affecting the production and productivity of major crops. IAC2016 needs to delve on the significance and modes of employing crop wild relatives in breeding programs. The participants also need focus on in situ on farm conservation strategies and how to involve grassroot stakeholders in a workable model of conservation of genetic resources without affecting the livelihood security.

I congratulate the organizers for conceiving "Farmers' Forum" and "Genebank Round table" from which I have great expectations. I wish all the success to the IAC2016 and look forward to be part of the daily scientific deliberations.

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(J.S. Sandhu)