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एस एस अहलुवालिया
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री
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भारत सरकार

MESSAGE

The Government of India is making concerted efforts in improving the lives and livelihood of farming community, through various prosecution of interventions and schemes that encourage diversification in different sectors of agriculture development i.e. animal husbandry, fruit and vegetable production, goat rearing, poultry farming, fisheries, etc., alongwith farmers centric conventional farming. The main aim of these efforts is to eradicate rural poverty by increasing food production that underlies use of agro-bioresources and related technologies. Scaling-up and scaling-out grass-root level innovations to conserve, manage and use agrobiodiversity (including the crops, animals, poultry, fish and other agriculturally important biota) in the diversity rich rural areas. Increasing agricultural output requires a sustained scientific back-up, both in terms of new research and technology adoption. In India, the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) needs to be further strengthened for a more robust and dynamic germplasm management system, for long-term sustenance of its genebanks and genetic resources bureaux for plants, animal, fish, insects and microbes. At the same time, capacity building and human resource to employ new tools for optimal agrobiodiversity use require adequate attention.

In light of the above, I am happy to note that Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources and Bioersity International have planned to host the 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress (IAC2016) at New Delhi. The agenda of the Congress has been carefully set to cover most of above-mentioned and related issues. I hope the outcome of this event would be beneficial for both agriculture and people who are engaged in its practice. The IAC2016 can be a good platform to resolve some of the conflicting and contentious issues related traditional knowledge, exchange and benefit sharing of genetic resources in current regimes of IPR and WTO. My best wishes to the Organizers and participants for a successful conduct of IAC 2016.

Date : 5 October 2016

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