



परशोत्तम रूपाला  
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Minister of State For Agriculture &  
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Government of India  
D.O. No. 2(3) MoS(AC&FW)/PR/VIP/2016/235

MESSAGE

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Agrobiodiversity Congress: Science, Technology, Policy and Partnership (IAC 2016) being organized at New Delhi, is a very aptly and timely event, as far as planning the security and sustainability of agriculture is concerned. Conventional breeding methods coupled with modern biotechnology tools are expected to play important roles in the generation of higher yielding, pest and stress resistant varieties of crops and breeds. The availability of genetic innovations will depend on continued high levels of investments in agricultural research, both at the international and the national levels. Unhindered access to germplasm to breeders worldwide is absolutely crucial to the rapid dissemination and adoption of improved germplasm. This movement and the dissemination of modern biotechnology innovations to developing countries are hampered by increased patent protection and increased legal regimentation. I am hopeful that the discussions in the IAC 2016 would lead to a roadmap to resolve the complex issues of access to germplasm, access to technology and benefit sharing amongst various stakeholders. The ultimate target is to develop a strategy that would ensure increased livelihood of farming communities and assured food and nutrition security for the masses.

My best wishes for a successful organization of the IAC 2016.

Date : 19 October 2016

(Parshottam Rupala)