



**Braulio F. de Souza Dias**  
Executive Secretary

It is with great pleasure that I note that the **1<sup>st</sup> International Agrobiodiversity Congress (IAC 2016)** is being organized in New Delhi, India, from 6-9 November 2016.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a global agreement that addresses all aspects of biological diversity, including agrobiodiversity. It also covers agreed provisions for community rights, biotechnology and intellectual property rights.

The objectives of the Convention are: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components (including agrobiodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture); and, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Shared benefits may include appropriate access to resources and transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account equitable rights over resources and intellectual property rights over technologies involved, as well as appropriate funding.

The Convention's protocols on biosafety and access and benefit-sharing and its supplementary protocol on liability and redress for damages caused due to trans-boundary movement of living modified organisms provide an additional framework for handling issues linked to agrobiodiversity management. Partnerships and linkages with other related institutions for trade, agriculture and environment also help promote the cause of agrobiodiversity management and use at large.

I am pleased that the Congress is providing participants with an opportunity to share experiences and concerns in this regard. The National Focal Points of the Parties to the CBD also endeavour to provide transparent information with regard to the implementation of national policies, plans, and programmes to meet the objectives of the Convention.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the organizers of IAC 2016, and I wish all participants of the Congress fruitful deliberations and a successful meeting.

Date : 14 July 2016

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MESSAGE



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
United Nations Environment Programme  
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada  
Tel : +1 514 268 2220 Fax : +1 514 268 6585  
[secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

