

UNCBD Workshop on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity

Statement from Inter-governmental Research Organizations attending the workshop:
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of the
Centre for International Tropical Agriculture (TSBF/CIAT), and Bioversity International

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Our three centers are pleased that we were invited to this workshop. The World Agroforestry Centre and Bioversity International are particularly pleased to be recognized as partners with UNCBD, FAO and the IFAP. TSBF/CIAT would welcome a chance to be a full partner in future workshops of this nature.

We strongly support the objectives of this workshop and the greater effort that this workshop is contributing to, particularly the objective of developing practical principles and operational guidelines for the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.

We would like to continue to participate strongly in this process, toward the objective of having a set of practical principles and operational guidelines supported by the SBSTTA and approved by the UNCBD COP. Toward this objective, we note that our organizations have strong presence and experience in regions other than Africa, eg Asia and Latin America, and can contribute research results and experiences from those regions as well. We look for guidance from the UNCBD Secretariat and FAO to clarify those next steps and how we might be involved.

We suggest that the UNCBD and FAO establish processes and seek financial support so that the approved practical principles and operational guidelines can be articulated into programmes of work and action plans at the regional and national levels. Together ICRAF, TSBF-CIAT and Bioversity International are well placed to provide scientific feedback and support for: a) use of crop diversity and crop wild relatives, b) agroforestry and other elements of landscape-level diversity contributing to food and agricultural systems; and c) below-ground biodiversity. Our centers are well-placed to contribute methods for assessment, tools for monitoring and evaluation, new techniques and practices for management, and capacity building.

We look to the UNCBD and FAO to clarify research priorities for work on sustainable use of agrobiodiversity and to help make the case for the necessary funding.