

## Brainstorming session on Strategies for Implementation of *Delhi Declaration*

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The 12-point *Delhi Declaration on Agrobiodiversity Management* (hereafterward referred to as *Delhi Declaration*) was adopted by the participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Agrobiodiversity Congress (IAC2016)<sup>1</sup> as a roadmap for conservation and utilization of genetic resources to achieve Sustainable Development Goals<sup>2</sup>. The IAC 2016 was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. *Delhi Declaration* advocates developing a shared vision of sustainable use of agrobiodiversity, employing every modern technology for trait discovery in genetic resources, and investment by public and private sectors in agrobiodiversity utilization. *Delhi Declaration* demands promotion of complementary conservation strategies, recognition of the importance of traditional knowledge, and harmonization of biosecurity system. It also reiterates necessity of global exchange of genetic resources using bilateral and multilateral instruments and organizing public awareness programs as well as capacity building of researchers in managing and using genetic resources across commodity domain.

The *Delhi Declaration* drew attention of the government of India for its significance and relevance to strengthen ongoing programs on agrobiodiversity management, and ICAR has initiated to draw strategies for its implementation through its institutes, particularly Bureaux which are managing diverse genetic resources. The uniqueness of IAC2016 was that it brought researchers and stakeholders involved in genetic resources of plants, animals, fishes, insects and microbes related to food and agriculture together for the first time.

In view of the need for implementing *Delhi Declaration* effectively, a Brainstorming session has been proposed in the afternoon on August 28, 2017 to deliberate on the issues highlighted in the *Delhi Declaration* and draw action plan/roadmap for its implementation on the following fronts:

1. Research
2. Capacity building
3. Enhanced use of genetic resources
4. Policy issues
5. Public awareness

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<sup>1</sup> [www.iac2016.in](http://www.iac2016.in)

<sup>2</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

All the Bureaux of ICAR dealing with various kinds of genetic resources are already carrying out several activities suggested in *Delhi Declaration*. However, it is necessary to prioritize and strengthen these core activities keeping *Delhi Declaration* in view.

1. Research projects to focus on enhancing nutritional security through the use of genetic resources
2. Biodiversity indexing
3. Outreach programs (e.g. farmers' days, agrobiodiversity day, farmer first, MGMT, etc.) and trainings to focus on women conserver/farmer participation and report
4. Work with global agencies in terms of capacity building for researchers from Africa, Central Asia, SAARC, etc.
5. Inventorize ITK related to genetic resources; publish and make these available to all stakeholders to increase recognition to the custodians
6. Awareness program among breeders and other researchers regarding MTA
7. Making native people partners of conservation efforts
8. Focus on *in-situ* on-farm conservation and scientific studies on different crops
9. Focus on CWR for collection, conservation and pre-breeding; establishing facilities for maintenance of CWRs
10. Specific allocation funds like TSP and NE to focus on community-based seedbank efforts
11. Use of genomics, space, computational and nano-techs in basic and strategic research proposals to add value to genetic resources and to enhance utilization
12. Modernization of genebank for reducing environmental impact and reduce cost and increase efficiency
13. Increase germplasm exchange through collaborative research projects
14. Efficient documentation and implementation of ABS as and when necessary
15. Enhanced research back-up on quarantine activities
16. Awareness programs on agrobiodiversity focusing school children, civil society, etc.
17. Greater engagement with farmers
18. Work on genebank enrichment index; utilization index; etc.
19. Popularize agrobiodiversity as an option of CSR

**Organizers:**

ICAR, All Bureaux of ICAR, ISPGR, PPVFRA, TAAS, Bioversity International, ISGPB

**Venue:** NASC, Pusa Campus, New Delhi

**Date and Time:** August 28, 2017; 2:00 pm onward

**Objective:**

To develop an action plan/roadmap for effective implementation of *Delhi Declaration* to manage the genetic resources through National Bureaux of ICAR to meet the sustainable Development Goals.

**Expected Participants:**

About 80-100 participants comprising policy planners, research managers, research scientists from Bureaux of ICAR, Delhi-based CG Centres, non-government organizations.

**Expected outcome:**

An action plan/roadmap for implementation of *Delhi Declaration* on Agrobiodiversity Management to meet the Sustainable Development Goals in India.