



## DG, Bioversity International-CIAT Alliance visits PPVFR Authority, New Delhi



Mr. Juan Lucas Restrepo, Director General, the Alliance of Bioversity International, Rome and CIAT, Cali, Colombia paid a courtesy visit to Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA)



on 13.06.2023. Dr. T. Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA, New Delhi welcomed the dignitaries and observed that synergy between PPVFRA and the Alliance is highly relevant in the context of conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity. Dr. Mohapatra also briefly mentioned about the work being carried out by PPVFRA, particularly on the protection of farmers' varieties and the farmers' rights. Mr. Restrepo gave an account of activities being undertaken by the Alliance highlighting the work on Community Seed Banks successfully being carried out in India. He was happy to note that India is organizing a

Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights under the auspices of ITPGRFA. He emphasized on benefit sharing by the farmers on account of commercial use of their varieties and genetic resources being conserved by them. Dr. D.K. Agarwal, Registrar-General PPVFRA spoke about the existing mechanism of benefit sharing. Possible areas of collaboration between PPVFRA and the Alliance, including strengthening of Community Seed Banks, mapping and sharing of documented landraces/farmers varieties in Bioversity-GEF project areas, identification of farmers/communities and their mentoring for plant variety registration in such crops and conducting joint programme(s) to create awareness about agro-biodiversity conservation, documentation and registration of landraces involving custodian farmers.



Dr. Stephan Weise, Managing Director, Asia Hub and Dr. J.C Rana, Country Representative and National Coordinator, UNEP-GEF Project, Bioversity International, India Office, New Delhi also took part in discussion. From PPVFRA Sh. Dipal Roy Choudhury, Joint Registrar, Sh. D.S. Rajganesh, Legal Advisor, Sh. U.K. Dubey, Dy. Registrar, Sh. R.S. Sengar, Dy. Registrar, Sh. Arun Kumar, Legal Advisor, Sh. Ravi Prakash, Consultant Technical, and Dr. D.S. Paliana, Technical Assistant were also present. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.

