

"Brazilian Congress of Genetic Resources"

Salvador, BA, Brazil, June 8-11, 2010.

Title: "Green Growth" – The Emerging Development Paradigm in Asia Generates Challenges and Opportunities in Biological Resources R&D

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"Green Growth" is the label for a strong policy strategy currently in development in the Asia and Pacific region. It emphasizes environmentally sustainable economic progress based in low-carbon processes. This strategy is a reaction of Asian and Pacific economies against trends linked to unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, such as the growth of pollution and resource-intensive industry, the intensification of unsustainable agricultural production, urbanization and incorporation of new consumption patterns, and an increasing demand for raw materials, energy and water. Also, concerns related to global climate change and the raising pressures to decrease fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions are major driving forces behind "green growth" policy development and implementation. Considering this reality, many Asian countries are increasingly focused in developing agricultural systems that, besides aiming at food production, also respond to requirements of the new technological standards being set by "green growth" policies. These include attention to the environmental services needed to enhance sustainability and productivity of the natural resources base, production of renewable energy, feedstock and bioactive molecules for different industries, among others. These will contribute to broaden the scope of usefulness of genetic resources in the region and, additionally, to creating opportunities for agriculture to increase its participation in "green growth" based industries. In this presentation I will discuss strategies to promote more collaboration between resource-rich countries, such as Brazil, and technology-driven countries, such as South Korea, to generate new alternatives of materials, biological processes and bioactive molecules for various uses, extending the range of usefulness of biological resources and creating opportunities for biological and agricultural systems among the most sophisticated industries in the world. In order to explore such possibilities, more information is needed on the current and emerging states of national "green growth" strategies, on current and emerging innovation programs, on innovation policies in the cooperating countries, as well as on the level of policy alignment towards facilitated exchange and use of biological resources in mutually beneficial collaborations.