

## Preface

Biodiversity use and conservation can be made easier and more efficient with the use of molecular markers. Phylogenetic relationships can be determined, redundancies in a germplasm bank can be identified, and new genes can be discovered. Although *Using Molecular Marker Technology in Studies on Plant Genetic Diversity* aims to promote capacity building and research in plant genetic resources worldwide, it is especially directed to those countries with limited access to up-to-date scientific literature and research technologies.

Using molecular markers is expensive, and limited financial resources must be used in the most judicious manner possible. Therefore, it is of critical importance that scientists do not use this technology simply because they can or because it is the latest technology, but because they thoughtfully chose the most appropriate technology for the biological questions they are tackling.

Our hope is that this online module will give you, its user, the context, knowledge, and tools to make the right decisions when using your resources.