



**23 October 2012**

### **Meeting of the Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you to FAO.

Unfortunately, this is the last meeting of the board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust will have here before moving to Germany.

Let me just say that, soon after my election, I was informed of the ongoing negotiations to end the agreement through which the Trust was housed at FAO.

I tried my best to keep you here, but it was not possible to revert the decision.

We will miss you.

Rome is an important city for every organization that deals with food, especially an organization that works to preserve global crop diversity.

In thanking you for the work that you do, I want to say that I would like to continue our cooperation with the Trust and hope that in the future we can organize a visit to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

I want you to feel at home here at FAO and we will discuss how to keep an office space for the Trust here at FAO, as a signal of our continued cooperation.

I would also like to add that the trust remains an important reference for us because we cannot fulfill our mission without assuring crop diversity.

The world's diet is based today in a few crops. FAO has been working to support the recovery of crops that have been neglected in the past, such as quinoa.

The trust has an important contribution to give. Its work is important not only to preserve crop diversity but also to support the recovery of different, local food crops.



I believe that crop diversity is key for global food security.

And I look forward to continue working together with you. The doors of this organization remains open to the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

Thank you.