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## **ICRISAT Governing Board calls for partnerships that benefit smallholder farmers**

**Hyderabad | New Delhi, India ( 30 September 2015)** — Partnerships, especially to further the adoption of scientific advancements that benefit the small holder farmer, were the recurring theme at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Governing Board meeting of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) held recently in Hyderabad and New Delhi. Appropriate partnerships with the private industry were high on the agenda which included partnering with companies for their Corporate Social Responsibility.

Highlighting the importance of partnerships, Dr Chandra Madramootoo, ICRISAT Governing Board Chair said, “With a focus on strong partnerships and research for development, ICRISAT is dedicated to elevate rural communities out of poverty, while improving their health”.

This was reiterated by Ms K Padmavati Annapurna, Director of the Mathesis Engineering Pvt. Ltd. (Food Products Division) during her presentation to ICRISAT Governing Board at ICRISAT headquarters.

“Our mission has been to provide food products in ready-to-eat and ready-to-make formats, using traditional and nutritious grains towards promoting health and nutrition. We have immensely benefitted from association with the ICRISAT Agribusiness and Innovation Platform (AIP), towards developing and commercialising the sorghum and millet based gluten free “Smart Brkfast’ product”. “We look forward to the development of markets for new food products from the local crops, thus elevating the standard of living and well-being of rural communities” added Ms Padmavati.

Ms Parvati Krishnan, Program Manager, Coca-Cola Foundation, India, noted, “We are very fortunate to work with ICRISAT on watershed improvement projects in Parasai and Chataarpurn villages of Uttar Pradesh, India. It has allowed the Foundation bring modern soil and water conservation technologies and agronomic research findings to thousands of men, women and children in impoverished villages in India.

ICRISAT Governing Board dedicated two days to engaging with partners.

Highlighting the water scarcity issues, Ms Meenakshi Sharma, Vice President Sustainability and Communications, SAB Miller, India said, “At SAB Miller, we are very excited about the outcomes of the project we are undertaking with ICRISAT. Water scarcity is becoming a hugely limiting factor for food and fodder security. In this context, safe reuse of biorefinery wastewater in agriculture assumes great significance”.

“ICRISAT is committed to put in more efforts to engage strategically in areas where it can benefit the smallholder farmer”, said ICRISAT Director General Dr David Bergvinson.

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## **About ICRISAT**

The **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics** (ICRISAT) is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. Covering 6.5 million square kilometers of land in 55 countries, the semi-arid tropics have over 2 billion people, and 644 million of these are the poorest of the poor. ICRISAT innovations help the dryland poor move from poverty to prosperity by harnessing markets while managing risks – a strategy called Inclusive Market- Oriented development (IMOD). ICRISAT is headquartered in Patancheru, Hyderabad, Telangana, India, with two regional hubs and six country offices in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a member of the CGIAR Consortium.

About ICRISAT: [www.icrisat.org](http://www.icrisat.org); For ICRISAT's scientific information see: <http://EXPLOREit.icrisat.org>

**CGIAR** is a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Its science is carried out by 15 research Centers who are members of the CGIAR Consortium in collaboration with hundreds of partner organizations. [www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)