

## Foreword

*Genetic Diversity Analysis with Molecular Marker Data: Learning Module* is the second of two learning modules produced with the goal of promoting the educated application of molecular techniques in biodiversity studies. It complements the first module, *Using Molecular Marker Technology in Studies on Plant Genetic Diversity: Learning Module*, and likewise aims to spread knowledge about molecular marker technology for assessing genetic diversity, thus providing a basis for understanding data analysis and interpretation beyond the recurring use of technologies just for the sake of being fashionable.

The motive that triggered the production of this learning module was a training course on molecular technologies organized by IPGRI and carried out in China with the participation of scientists involved in genetic diversity of tropical fruits from China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. At the end of the course, it was realized that teaching the techniques had made very good laboratory technicians. However, if scientists competent in genetic resources management and use are to be formed, then IPGRI's partners must be provided with data analysis and interpretation tools.

The learning module is especially directed to scientists who are interested in assessing genetic diversity, and who have a basic knowledge of biology and genetics, are familiar with molecular technologies, and need guidance on how to tackle experimental planning, and analyse and interpret their results.

The authors hope the users of these learning modules will not only find the information provided enlightening but also practical, and that the use of molecular marker technologies can be an exciting and viable approach for anyone planning research on genetic diversity analysis.