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ABSTRACT BOOK

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Participatory Plant Breeding, What Approach for Rubber Trees?

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ABSTRACT

Participatory plant breeding (PPB) is part of a participatory research approach involving stakeholders in an agricultural sector and particular farmers. PPB is a socially inclusive process that empowers farmers, increases agrobiodiversity and can improve gender equality. PPB is widely applied to food crops, but also to some perennial tree species such as coffee, cocoa, oil palm and rubber. Since the 1990s, on-farm participatory trials have been set up in rubber monoculture and agroforestry systems. In breeding, this type of approach was used to evaluate germplasm and promising rubber clones in India. More recently, the Rubber Agroforestry Breeding Initiative for Smallholders (RUBIS) is reconsidering PPB by involving stakeholders to identify traits adapted to farmers' cultivation conditions and climate change to develop adaptive technical packages for smallholders. This paper attempts to discuss the advantages and constraints of PPB in rubber breeding.