

## **Dr. Emile A. Frison**

Emile Frison became Director General of Bioversity International (formerly IPGRI) in August 2003.

Dr Frison is a Belgian national and has spent most of his career in international agricultural research for development, starting at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria in 1979. A plant pathologist by training, he obtained an MSc from the Catholic University of Louvain and a PhD from the University of Gembloux in Belgium. He worked in Africa for six years, in Nigeria and Mauritania, and was Development Manager of an Agro-chemical company in Belgium for three years.

In 1987, he joined Bioversity International to coordinate research on the phytosanitary aspects of international germplasm movement. In collaboration with FAO, he initiated the series of 'FAO/IPGRI Technical Guidelines for the Safe Movement of Germplasm'. In 1992 he became Regional Director for Europe and initiated a new phase of the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks. In collaboration with FAO, he also launched the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme.

Dr Frison became the Director of the International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP) in 1995. He launched the Global Programme for *Musa* Improvement (PROMUSA), which now counts more than 120 members. In 2002, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Global Consortium on *Musa* Genomics with 27 members from 14 countries.

He recently led Bioversity and its stakeholders and partners in the formulation of a new strategic vision for the organization entitled "Diversity for Well-being"

As Director General of Bioversity International he also leads the CGIAR System-Wide Genetic Resources Policy Programme (SGRP) and is a member of the CGIAR Genetic Resources Policy Committee (GRPC). Dr Frison is also a member of the Board of Directors of Ecoagriculture Partners and the Global Crop Diversity trust. In 2007 and 2008 he was Chair of the Alliance Executive of the CGIAR. In 2007, he was appointed Extraordinary Professor in genetic resources by the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.