

ANNUAL REPORT 2002

PROJECT SB-2

**ASSESSING AND UTILIZING
AGROBIODIVERSITY
THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY**

CIAT

October, 2002

Dedication

*This report is dedicated to the memories of our two fallen colleagues, **Maria de Jesús (Chusa) Ginés** and **Verónica Mera**, of late Coordinator and Social Scientist, respectively of the Cassava Biotechnology Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (CBN-LAC).*

The promising lives of these two highly respected and beloved scientists, wives and mothers were tragically cut short in the morning of Monday, 28 January 2002 when the aircraft they were aboard crashed into the Cumbal volcano in the Colombia – Ecuador border. They were on an official trip from their base in Quito, Ecuador, to the CIAT headquarters in Cali, Colombia. Chusa and Vero believed in and tirelessly championed the causes of the resource-poor farmers of the world. It is remarkable that they ultimately paid the supreme price while in active pursuit of the goal of ensuring that the voices of these farmers are heard in priority setting for cassava biotechnology research. By dedicating the SB-02 Annual Report for 2002 to the memories of these two wonderful people we are affirming our resolve to continue to positively impact on the lives of the poor farmers of the tropics by the strategic use of novel biotechnological tools to increase agricultural productivity through the exploitation of the rich agrobiodiversity of our mandate crops.



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