

**Scientific officer appointed at the DIVERSITAS agroBIODIVERSITY
International Project Office at Wageningen**



Starting in March 2008, Mirjam Pulleman will take up her tasks as the newly-appointed scientific officer of the DIVERSITAS agroBIODIVERSITY International Project Office (IPO) at Wageningen University. This IPO is being established following a request from the DIVERSITAS Science Committee and financially supported by the Netherlands' Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Wageningen University.

Mirjam has a background in Physical Geography and Soil Science and holds a PhD from Wageningen University. Over the last few years she has been working at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) and at Wageningen University. Both positions involved multi-disciplinary research on sustainable crop production systems and interactions with soil biology and physical and chemical soil quality. She has practical field experience in Mexico, Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.

The scientific officer will work closely with the second project office at UC Davis in supporting the agBIO Science Committee, initially through a part-time (20h per week) assignment. A major task is the integration and synthesis of multi-disciplinary agrobiodiversity research at 7 benchmark sites across the globe to show agricultural productivity-biodiversity relationships and potential for long-term resilience to change. This further feeds into major project objectives such as the development of scenarios for agrobiodiversity-based management of agricultural landscapes, including the integration of biophysical and socioeconomic approaches to value environmental services.

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