Jean-Marcel Ribaut
Director, Integrated Breeding Platform (IBP), MEXICO

Jean-Marcel Ribaut is the Director of Integrated Breeding Platform (IBP), is a development being led by the Generation Challenge Programme (GCP), a part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The IBP is conceived to help plant breeders accelerate the creation and delivery of new crop varieties in the context of an increasing global demand for food. It does so by giving access to vanguard technology and quality services – for both traditional and modern breeding activities.
Trained in plant physiology and genetics at Lausanne University in Switzerland, Dr. Ribaut joined the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in 1993 as a post-doc in the Biotechnology Program. In 2001, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Applied Biotechnology Program, and in 2004 became the Group Leader for Biotechnology at CIMMYT. During his time at CIMMYT, Dr. Ribaut's research activities focused on drought tolerance – a major objective of the GCP – and he is now an internationally recognized expert in the field. As Senior Scientist in the Genetic Resources Program, Dr. Ribaut has been in charge of genetic dissection and marker-assisted selection (MAS) for maize and wheat improvement under abiotic stress conditions and development of new MAS strategies. In collaboration with a number of outside partners, he also pursued activities in metabolite quantification, proteomics, and bioinformatics. In addition to his research expertise and extensive collaborative activities, Dr. Ribaut has been responsible for the capacity building and training of many students and scientists from developing countries.
From 2005-2013, he served the position of Director the Generation Challenge Programme, one of the Programmes created by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), with the mission to use genetic diversity and advanced plant science to improve crops by adding value to breeding for drought-prone and harsh environments.