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Philippe Desmeth, by training bio-engineer and environmental advisor, gained field experience in agro-industrial production and continuing education for farmers in West Africa and Southeast Asia. He worked several years in the private sector in financial departments. After having completed a post-graduate training in environmental science he worked for NGO including the World Wide Fund for Nature as scientific officer. Research Assistant at the Université catholique de Louvain, he joined the Belgian Co-ordinated Collections of Micro-organisms (BCCM) in 1996 as international co-operation programme manager. He was appointed to set up the BCCM co-operation programme with institutions in developing and developed countries. He develops standard procedures and equitable co-operation schemes for BCCM co-operation projects, and has coordinated EU funded projects MOSAICC and MOSAICS (www.belspo.be/bccm/mosaicc and www.belspo.be/bccm/mosaics). He is member of ECCO, the European Culture Collections Organisation, and secretary of the executive board of the World Federation for Culture Collections. At the Belgian Science Policy Office that funds and runs BCCM, he was also involved in the management of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform (www.biodiversity.be) which supports research in biodiversity and is the Belgian node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.
