



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

Issue #24, 9 August 2016

- 1. Editorial**
- 2. Draft Regulations to implement the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Plant Varieties criticised**
- 3. Civil society participates in the Expert Review on the Draft ARIPO Regulations**
- 4. African Center for Biodiversity: Integration of small-scale farmers into formal seed production in South Africa: A scoping report**
- 5. Christophe Golay: Legal analysis on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas**

1. Editorial

This issue of the APBEBES newsletter highlights concerns of civil society and farmer organisations with regard to the Draft Regulations to implement the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Plant Varieties. This Update also presents two new publications on intellectual property and farmers' rights.

2. Draft Regulations to implement the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Plant Varieties criticised

In advance of an Expert Meeting to review Draft Regulations for the Implementation of the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, the Secretariat of the African Regional Intellectual Property Office (ARIPO) released a draft adverse to the interests of small farmers. The Expert Meeting met in Harare from 14 to 16 June 2016.

[Read more](#)

3. Civil society participates in the Expert Review on the Draft ARIPO Regulations

Attended by some 60 government officials from the 19 ARIPO Member States, the African Seed Trade Association, foreign entities such as the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), the European Union's Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) and the French Association for Seed and Seedlings (GNIS), the meeting, for the first time, included three members of the African civil society - the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM- Zimbabwe).

[Read more](#)

4. Integration of small-scale farmers into formal seed production in South Africa

With regard to smallholder farmers in South Africa, a route to success could be to identify niche commercial markets and support farmers to integrate into those; another could be to focus on production, crops and varieties that emphasise local food and seed needs over formal markets (from the conclusions).

African Center for Biodiversity (2016): Integration of small-scale farmers into formal seed production in South Africa: A scoping report

[Read the publication](#)

5. Legal analysis on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas

In preparation of the Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights carried out a legal analysis.

Christophe Golay (2016): Legal analysis on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. The Right to Seeds and Intellectual Property Rights. Prepared for the third session of the United Nations Human Rights Council working group mandated to negotiate a Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

[Read the publication](#)

Upcoming Events

Autumn 2016 Session of UPOV bodies

Monday, 24 October 2016, Seminar on propagating and harvested material in the context of the UPOV Convention (open to the public)

Monday (evening), 24 October 2016 [Meeting on the Development of a Prototype Electronic Form](#)

Tuesday, 25 October, [Administrative and Legal Committee](#)

Tuesday (evening), 25 October [Working Group on Variety Denominations](#)

Wednesday, 26th October, Symposium on possible interrelations between the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV Convention)

Thursday, 27 October, Consultative Committee (closed to observers)

Thursday, 27 October (evening), Working Group on a Possible International System of Cooperation

Friday, 28 October, [Council](#)

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Feedback & Contact

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