



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

Issue #6 – 7 April 2014

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1. Editorial

The sixth issue of APBREBES Updates published just before the UPOV spring session highlights strong civil society opposition against the Africa Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) and its 18 member states acceding to UPOV 1991 and against the Ghanaian Plant Breeders' Bill; withdrawal by the Chilean government from its legislative process its proposed law that would have brought Chilean PVP legislation in line with UPOV 1991; and a biopiracy case that documents misappropriation of a farmer variety originating in Turkey.

2. Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) strongly condemns sleight of hand moves by ARIPO to join UPOV 1991, bypass national laws and outlaw Farmers' Rights

Addis Ababa, Accra 3 April 2014 - The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) issued a press release strongly condemning the move by the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) to join UPOV 1991, which will effectively outlaw the centuries-old African farmers' practice of freely using, exchanging and selling seeds/propagating material. These practices underpin 90% of the agricultural system within the ARIPO region.

[Read more](#)

3. AFSA's comments on ARIPO's responses to Civil Society on Draft ARIPO Legal Framework on Plant Variety Protection

African civil society & AFSA have made several submissions to ARIPO detailing its many concerns with the content of the Draft Legal Framework on PVP, which is based on UPOV 1991, and the bias and lack of transparency in the processes leading to the finalization of the Draft ARIPO Legal Framework on Plant Variety Protection. Most recently AFSA submitted detailed comments to ARIPO's responses to civil society.

[Read more](#)

4. Chile withdraws controversial 'Monsanto Law' from Congress

Following protests in many Chilean cities (see APBREBES Updates issue #3) and years of controversy, on 18th March, the Chilean government withdrew from its legislative process, the proposed Plant Growers Law (commonly known as "the Monsanto Law") that would have brought Chilean PVP law in line with UPOV 1991

[Read more](#)

5. Civil society organisations from all over the world petition Ghana's Parliament on Plant Breeders Bill

Food Sovereignty Ghana, February 20, 2014: Organizations from Africa and around the world petition Ghana's Parliament: Ghana's Plant Breeders Bill lacks legitimacy! It must be revised

[Read more](#)

6. Biopiracy of Turkey's purple carrot

Agribusiness giant Monsanto is marketing a purple carrot originating in Turkey over which Monsanto has claimed plant variety rights in the EU and the US.

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Calendar of Events

Spring 2014 session of UPOV bodies

Thursday, 10 April [Administrative and Legal Committee CAJ/69](#)

Friday, 11 April (morning) Consultative Committee CC/87 CLOSED TO OBSERVERS

Friday, 11 April (afternoon) Council

See also the [Upcoming Events](#) on our website

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Feedback & Contact

Susanne Gura, APBREBES Coordinator

Tel: 0049 228 948 0670

Mob: 0049 177 669 1400

Mail: contact@apbrebes.org

Web: www.apbrebes.org