



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

Issue #32, 3 May 2018

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1. Editorial

This issue of Updates includes a documentary and several publications relevant to plant variety protection.

2. Documentary: Seeds: commons or corporate property?

Jointly produced by eight Latin American organizations and edited by Radio Mundo Real, the documentary draws on the experiences and struggles of social movements for the defense of indigenous and native seeds in Ecuador, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras, Argentina, Colombia and Guatemala. It also shows the significant and ongoing struggles against seed laws, against UPOV 91. The documentary is available in Spanish, with English, Portuguese, and French subtitles.

The Latin American Seeds Collective (2018), ["Seeds: commons or corporate property?"](#)

3. Publication: "Towards national and regional seed policies in Africa that recognize and support farmer seed systems".

This paper is a synthesis of reflections on seed systems policy, arising from the research and advocacy work of the African Centre for Biodiversity, especially in Southern and East Africa in recent years. The discussion paper has two main sections. The first looks at the impacts of commercial seed regulation on farmer seed systems looking at PVP, registration and certification. The second section offers proposals on exemptions and flexibility. The discussion can be read for both national and regional levels.

African Centre for Biodiversity (2018) [Towards national and regional seed policies in Africa that recognize and support farmer seed systems](#)

4. Publication: "Resisting corporate takeover of African seed systems and building farmer managed seed systems for food sovereignty in Africa"

This continental seed policy report challenges the corporate capture of African farmers' seeds and seed systems. It documents the policy shift towards corporatization of seeds on the continent, in direct contravention of international obligations to protect farmers' rights and to conserve agricultural biodiversity. It shows how these dangerous policies are rapidly advancing and how farmers are resisting. The report maps the way forward for building a continental movement to Save African Seeds.

Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (2017), [Resisting corporate takeover of African seed systems and building farmer managed seed systems for food sovereignty in Africa](#)

5. Publication: "Seed Sovereignty Struggles in an Emberá-Chamí Community in Colombia" authored by *Laura Gutiérrez Escobar*.

This paper discusses the impact of intellectual property in particular UPOV 1991 on seeds in Colombia. This paper is published in a special issue of *Alternautus*, which includes papers that explore some of the tensions, changes and conflicts in Latin America arising from the expansion of agribusiness as the dominant mode of accumulation and food production in the region. This issue presents evidence – based on original research – on the multiplicity of mechanisms through which agribusiness has transformed the social, political, economic and environmental landscape of the region.

Alternautus (2017), p. 27 [Seed Sovereignty Struggles in an Emberá-Chamí Community in Colombia authored by Laura Gutiérrez Escobar](#)

Upcoming Events

UPOV 2018 Session:

Monday, 29 October and Tuesday, 30 October, 2018 [Technical Committee](#)

Wednesday, 31 October [Administrative and Legal Committee](#)

Wednesday, 31 October (evening) [Working Group on a Possible International System of Cooperation](#)

Thursday, 1 November [Consultative Committee](#)

Friday, 2 November (morning) [Council](#)

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Feedback & Contact

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