



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

Issue #5 – February 11, 2014

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1. Editorial: Fifth issue of Updates on Plant Variety Protection

The fifth issue of the Updates on Plant Variety Protection highlights protests in Ghana against UPOV 91 while in Canada, farmers have launched a campaign against UPOV 91 including the drafting of a Farmers Seed Act to safeguard farmers' rights. In Brussels, farmers demonstrated against a planned seed marketing legislation that favors varieties conforming to UPOV criteria, and does not guarantee farmers' rights.

2. Massive Protests in Ghana over UPOV style Plant Breeders' Bill

Farmer, labour unions, religious, political and civil society organisations took to the streets of Accra on 28th January to demonstrate against the adoption of the Plant Breeders' Bill that is before the Parliament.

[Read more](#)

3. Canada's National Farmers' Union Launch Campaign Against UPOV 1991

In December 2013, Canada's Agriculture Minister, Gerry Ritz, introduced an agriculture bill in Parliament called the "Agricultural Growth Act" (Bill C-18). One of the main aims being to bring the Canadian Plant Breeders Rights Act in conformity with UPOV 1991 to enable Canada to ratify UPOV 1991.

[Read more](#)

4. European Coordination Via Campesina Demonstrate to Reclaim "Peasants Rights"

On 20 January 2014, peasants from all over Europe demonstrated before the European Parliament.

[Read more](#)

5. Study on "Concentration of Market Power in the EU Seed Market"

This new study commissioned by the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament sheds light on the increasing concentration within the EU seed market. It concludes that industry's mantra that the EU market is healthy and diversified, with 7000 mainly small and medium enterprises is misleading.

[Read more](#)

6. Report on Seeds for Life: Scaling up Agro-Biodiversity

The ability to grow resilient, nutritious food in adequate quantity for a growing global population in the face of climate change must necessarily be rooted in the revival of seed diversity. Thus, farmers' complex knowledge, and their right to save, adapt, exchange and sell seed must be recognized and protected in policy and practice.

[Read more](#)

7. QUNO publications on Plant Breeders' Rights in India and Thailand

Two new publications published by the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) focus on TRIPS-compatible alternatives to UPOV-style plant variety protection systems, as applied in Thailand and in India.

[Read more](#)

Calendar of Events

Spring 2014 session of UPOV bodies, 10 to 11 April 2014

- Thursday, 10 April Administrative and Legal Committee CAJ/69
- Friday, 11 April (morning) Consultative Committee CC/87
- Friday, 11 April (afternoon) Council C(EXTR.)/31

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

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Feedback & Contact

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