



APBREBES

Updates on Plant Variety Protection Issue #1 - 16 May 2013

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1. Editorial: First issue of APBREBES Newsletter - Updates on Plant Variety Protection – 16 May 2013

The Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES) welcomes the readers of its first newsletter issue! The newsletter will inform its readers on latest developments in relation to plant variety protection, with a focus on sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity, promotion of farmers' rights and achieving of food sovereignty.

For more information see the new [APBREBES website](#).

2. APBREBES report on the spring 2013 session of UPOV bodies – 16 May 2013

The UPOV Council, the Consultative Committee, and the Administrative and Legal Committee met between 20 and 22 March 2013. The key matters addressed were, among others, the Plant Breeders' Right Bill of Zanzibar; Programme and Budget 2014-2015; Explanatory Notes to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention on three topics, including Essentially Derived Varieties, and Harvested Materials; developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora; and participation of observers at the

Advisory Committee to the Administrative and Legal Committee.
The full report is available [here](#).

3. CSOs and Farmers Organisations call on the SADC Secretariat to reject draft PVP Protocol – 2 April 2013

Civil society organisations from the SADC region and around the world representing millions of farmers have condemned the SADC draft Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (Plant Breeders' Rights) as spelling disaster for small farmers and food security in the region. They are calling upon the SADC Secretariat to reject the draft Protocol and to urgently consult with farmers, farmer movements and civil society.

The Press Release is available at <http://www.acbio.org.za/>

The full CSO letter and submission to the SADC Secretariat is available at <http://www.acbio.org.za/index.php/publications/seedfood-sovereignty/422-civil-society-submission-on-sadc-pvp-protocol->

4. Tanzanian Civil Society Statement on Farmers' Rights - 22 March 2013

Farmers' organizations and civil society organizations in Tanzania are concerned about the rush for Zanzibar to adopt its Plant Breeders' Rights Bill. It would hasten Tanzania's entry into the UPOV intellectual property legal framework with grave consequences for farmers. They expressed concerns that "the entire process has been non-participatory, shutting out the very farmers that the Bill purportedly benefits."

For the full statement and list of signatories see <http://www.ip-watch.org/weblog/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/UPOV-Tanzania-CSO-Statement-1.pdf>

Calendar of Events

- 13 to 17 May 2013: The WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP/11) meet in Geneva, Switzerland
- 21 to 25 October 2013: UPOV bodies will meet in Geneva, Switzerland. Part of the session is a seminar on Essentially Derived Varieties. It is scheduled for 22 October and will be open to the public.

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

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You are welcome to forward this issue to other interested individuals and organisations.

Feedback & Contact

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