



## **Updates on Plant Variety Protection**

*Special Issue: New APBREBES Publication, 27 September 2016*

1. **New Publication: Chee Yoke Ling et al., Farmers' Right to Participate in Decision-making – implementing Article 9.2 (c) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Working Paper, APBREBES, 2016**
2. **Calendar of Events, Subscription, Feedback & Contact**

### **1. New Publication: Chee Yoke Ling et al., Farmers' Right to Participate in Decision-making – implementing Article 9.2 (c) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Working Paper, APBREBES, September 2016**

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The right of farmers to participate in decision making at the national level on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is recognized in Article 9.2(c) of the International Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture ("the Treaty"). It is a prerequisite for the full and effective implementation of Farmers' Rights. Yet, as this report shows, the operationalization of Article 9.2(c) at the national, regional and international levels is severely lacking.

Farmers face considerable challenges in exercising their right to participate at all these levels. Consequently, decisions on policies and laws do not not only ignore farmers' needs, but also adversely affect farmers' freedom to operate. This is evidenced for example by the formulation of seed laws, in particular those related to plant variety protection, seed

certification and marketing laws, that restrict and in some cases criminalize farmers' right to freely use, save, exchange and sell farm saved seed/propagating material.

The publication presents the context of the Treaty and Article 9.2(c). It analyzes submissions by contracting parties, civil society organizations and farmer organizations on Article 9.2(c) and discusses implementation at the Treaty level.

The study also presents selected national, regional and international experiences, identifying key challenges in operationalizing farmers right to participate at the national, regional and international levels. Learning from the challenges, and drawing from the norms, principles, good practices and mechanisms that exist within the UN system, especially within the human rights framework, this paper discusses some of the key elements that are essential for the effective operationalization of farmers' right to participate in decision-making.

The publication presents recommendations for Governments, the Treaty, as well as regional and international organisations and processes in order to operationalize Article 9.2(c).

[See the publication](#)

*Chee Yoke Ling et al., Farmers' Right to Participate in Decision-making – implementing Article 9.2 (c) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Working Paper, APBREBES, 2016*

## Calendar of Events

### **Autumn 2016 Session of UPOV bodies**

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

Monday (evening), 24 October [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, 26<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

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

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## **Feedback & Contact**

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