



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

Issue #27, 30 March 2017

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1. Editorial

This issue of the Updates highlights the adoption of the Pakistan PVP law by the National Assembly, with features that may not be in line with UPOV91. Several new articles and studies complete this issue of the APBRES newsletter.

2. Pakistan's Plant Breeders' Rights Act adopted by the National Assembly

(by Laurent Gaberell, Public Eye) On September 5, 2016, the Pakistan National Assembly adopted a [Plant Breeders' Rights Act](#) "to encourage the development of new plant varieties and to protect the rights of breeders of

such varieties". The Act provides protection for new plant varieties while at the same time respecting the right of farmers to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds, a practice which is the backbone of agricultural system and the main channel through which farmers get access to seeds in Pakistan and most developing countries.

[Read more](#)

3. Publications

- **African Centre for Biodiversity (February 2017) The BAYER-MONSANTO merger: Implications for South Africa's agricultural future and its smallholder farmers**

This paper explores the likely implications of an approved Bayer-Monsanto merger for the South African agricultural system. It argues that further consolidation of an already corporate controlled seed sector is not needed.

[Read the report](#)

- **Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition (October 2016): Right to Food and Nutrition Watch, Keeping Seeds in Peoples' Hands**

The 2016 edition of the Watch Consortium report of the [Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition](#) focuses on seeds. The report argues that laws such as Upov91-type plant variety protection are increasingly limiting what peasants can do with their seeds and criminalizing them, thereby impeding their role as food producers and threatening our food sovereignty.

Read the report "[Keeping Seeds in Peoples' Hands](#)" in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#)

- **Bric Wall (6 November 2016): New Requirements in Brazil for Plant Variety Protection Applications in View of Brazil's Biodiversity Law**

One of the new procedures for granting PVP in Brazil is the requirement of a declaration of access or non-access to national genetic heritage samples or associated traditional knowledge (access declaration) that might have occurred during the development of a new plant variety.

[Read the article](#)

- **Halewood, M (ed.) (2016) Farmers' Crop Varieties and Farmers' Rights. Challenges in Taxonomy and Law**

This collection of articles focuses on two interlinked questions: The first question is, 'How do farmer management practices (along with other factors such as environment and the breeding systems of plants) affect the evolution and maintenance of discrete farmers' varieties?' The second question is, 'How can policies that depend on being able to identify discrete plant varieties accommodate the agro-cultural realities associated with the generation, use and maintenance of farmers' varieties?' (from the Introduction) (no open access)

Upcoming Events

Monday, 3 April to Wednesday, 5 April (morning) [Technical Committee](#)

Wednesday, 5 April (afternoon) Working Group on a Possible International System of Cooperation (closed to observers)

Thursday, 6 April (morning) Consultative Committee (closed to observers)

Thursday, 6 April (afternoon) [Council \(extraordinary session\)](#)

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Feedback & Contact

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