



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

Issue #12, 17 March 2015

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1. Editorial

This issue of the APBREBES Updates presents an analysis by the National Farmers' Union of Canada's new law bringing the country under UPOV 91. It also informs about new publications on the actors behind the seed law changes in Africa, on trade agreements as a tool to restrict farmers' rights, and on the lack of knowledge among smallholder farmers about farmers' privilege and breeders' rights.

2. Canadian National Farmers' Union: Seed companies, not farmers, will gain with UPOV91 accession

On Tuesday, February 25, Bill C-18, the *Agricultural Growth Act*, became law when it received royal assent. The new law, which brings Canada under the UPOV '91 plant breeders' rights regime, will come into force by Cabinet order. From now on, seed companies' exclusive rights to control new varieties of seed have been expanded, they have gained new ways to collect royalty revenue from farmers and a longer, twenty-year royalty

collection period (twenty-five years for tree and vine varieties).

[Read more](#)

3. AFSA/GRAIN: Land and seed laws under attack: who is pushing changes in Africa?

21 January 2015 - "The 50 million people that the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition claims to be lifting out of poverty will only be allowed to escape poverty and hunger if they abandon their traditional rights and practices and buy their life saving seeds every year from the corporations lined up behind the G8." (AFSA)

[Read more](#)

4. GRAIN: Trade deals criminalise farmers' seeds

18 November 2014 - Trade agreements have become a tool of choice for governments, working with corporate lobbies, to push new rules to restrict farmers' rights to work with seeds.

[Read more](#)

5. New study: Understanding of the farmers' privilege concept by smallholder farmers in South Africa

This pilot study was undertaken to assess the understanding of the farmers' privilege concept by smallholder farmers from the historically disadvantaged communities and their current practices with regard to seed saving. The results showed that the majority of the smallholder farmers were not aware of the existence of the legislation on plant breeders' rights and therefore do not understand the farmers' privilege concept and its implications. They also did not know whether the varieties they were using were protected by plant breeders' rights or not.

Authors: Netnou-Nkoana NC, Jaftha JB, Dibiloane MA, Eloff J..

Published in: S Afr J Sci. 2015;111(1/2), Art. #2013-0344, 5 pages.

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Calendar of Events

Spring session of UPOV bodies, 26 to 27 March 2015

- [Administrative and Legal Committee](#) 26 March 2015
- [Consultative Committee](#) 27 March (morning) (closed to observers)

- [Council \(extraordinary session\)](#) 27 March 2015 (afternoon)

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

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Feedback & Contact

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