



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

Issue #14, 8 May 2015

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1. Editorial

This issue of the APBREBES Updates addresses the results of the UPOV Spring 2015 session and the publication of restricted UPOV documents. It also highlights protests against UPOV91 type seed legislations put in place in Canada and Pakistan, and a new booklet by GRAIN and La Via Campesina, the World's largest organisation of smallholder farmers, on seed laws.

2. APBREBES Report on UPOV's 2015 Spring Session

The UPOV Council, the Consultative Committee (CC), and the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ) met on 26 and 27 March, 2015. Among the key matters discussed were: a proposal to establish a centralized harmonized system for the administration and examination of PBR applications known as "International System of Cooperation" (ISC); examination of the conformity of the "Draft provisions of Book Four 'Plant Varieties' of Law No. 82 of 2002 Pertaining to the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights" of Egypt; matters concerning the interrelations between the International Treaty Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), UPOV and WIPO; and various "Explanatory Notes" intended to provide guidance with regard to

implementation of the 1991 Act.

Meeting documents are officially available for the UPOV [Council](#) and for the [CAJ](#). UPOV does not provide access to meeting documents for the Consultative Committee. APBEBES provides [access to the documents](#) based on Freedom of Information Acts of UPOV member states.

[Read more](#)

3. Freedom of Information legislation puts UPOV's Restricted Area in question

Today most intergovernmental organisations allow access to proceedings of its meetings. For example, in WIPO, the full report of its various meetings, including interventions and decisions of Member States are publicly available on its website.

[Read more](#)

4. Pakistan: 50 NGOs urge Senate to block bill on seeds

DAWN, KARACHI: Fifty non-governmental organisations from across the country have urged the Senate not to pass an important bill the National Assembly quietly passed in March 2015.

[Read more](#)

5. La Via Campesina/GRAIN: Seed laws that criminalise farmers – resistance and fightback

Seeds are under attack everywhere. Under corporate pressure, laws in many countries increasingly put limitations on what farmers can do with their seeds and with the seeds they buy. Seed saving, a thousand-year-old practice which forms the basis of farming, is fast becoming criminalised.

A new booklet from La Via Campesina and GRAIN documents how big business and governments are moving to stop farmers from saving and exchanging their seeds, and shows how farmers are fighting back.

[Read more](#)

6. Canada: International Day of Peasant Struggle commemorated with statement against UPOV '91

The National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Union Paysanne (UP) are marking April 17, 2015, the International Day of Peasant Struggle by joining with other Canadian organizations in denouncing the recent passing of Bill C-18, the *Agricultural Growth Act*, and calling on the Government of Canada to reverse recent changes to the *Plant Breeders Rights Act* that put Canada under the UPOV '91 regime.

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Calendar of Events

Autumn session of UPOV bodies, 26 to 29 October 2015

- Monday, 26 and Tuesday, 27 October [Administrative and Legal Committee](#)
- Wednesday, 28 October Consultative Committee (closed to observers)
- Thursday 29 October 2015 [Council](#)

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

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

Feedback & Contact

Susanne Gura, APBREBES Coordinator

Tel: 0049 228 948 0670

Mob: 0049 177 669 1400

Mail: contact@apbrebes.org

Web: www.apbrebes.org