



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

Issue # 8 – July 23, 2014

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1. Editorial

This issue of the APBREBES Updates on Plant Variety Protection highlights the APBREBES report on the UPOV 2014 Spring session and the availability of UPOV's "Restricted Area" documents. It also focuses on gains made by African civil society organisations in the draft SADC PVP protocol as well as their appeal on the Draft ARIPO Protocol on PVP, the UPOV accession of the Organisation Africaine de Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI), a recent critique of the 2005 UPOV Impact Report, as well as a Seed Map Portal that facilitates learning about the origins of our food crops, the farmers who continue to nurture them, the threats to our food supply, and achievable solutions.

2. APBREBES report on the UPOV 2014 Spring Session

The UPOV Council, the Consultative Committee, and the Administrative and Legal Committee met on 10 and 11 April, 2014. Among the key matters discussed were: the Draft Protocol on Plant Breeders' Right of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), matters raised by the International Seed Federation (ISF), UPOV's communication strategy, and developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora.

[Read more](#)

3. APBREBES publishes UPOV "Restricted Area" documents

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. However UPOV's practices

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4. AFSA Makes Small Gains for Farmers' Rights in Draft SADC PVP Protocol

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), a pan African platform comprising civil society networks and farmer organisations working towards food sovereignty in Africa, has released a briefing paper on the deliberations that took place during the SADC Regional Workshop held on 13-14 March 2014, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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5. Regional Intellectual Property Office for French-speaking African countries -OAPI- joins UPOV '91

UPOV in its press release dated 10th June 2014, announced that the African Intellectual Property Organization (known as the "Organisation Africaine de Propriété Intellectuelle" or by its acronym "OAPI") has joined UPOV as an intergovernmental organisation.

[Read the APBREBES comment](#)

6. Berne Declaration: UPOV report on the impact of plant variety protection - *A critique*

In June 2014, Berne Declaration, a Swiss civil society organisation published a critique of UPOV's assessment of the impact of adopting PVP laws based on UPOV 1978 and

1991. UPOV's Report on the Impact of Plant Variety Protection published in 2005 is often used by UPOV in support of introducing plant variety protection based on UPOV 1991.

[Read more](#)

7. AFSA appeals to ARIPO, AU and UNECA for Protection of Farmers' Rights and Right to Food

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) has launched an urgent appeal to the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO), the African Union (AU) and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to urgently revise the draft ARIPO Plant Variety Protection Protocol, recognise farmers' rights and facilitate the right to food. In its latest appeal to ARIPO, the AU and UNECA, and acting upon expert legal advice obtained, AFSA is alleging that:

[Read more](#)

8. ETC Group/USC Canada Seed Map Portal

Seedmap.org is an online portal on seeds, biodiversity and food. It allows users to connect to information, organizations resources, events and debates relating to food security. It is also a valuable teaching & advocacy tool and reference point on seeds, biodiversity, and food. The heart of Seedmap.org is an interactive map that allows users to visit hundreds of case studies around the world where agricultural biodiversity originated, is threatened, and where people are working to safeguard it.

See [Seed Map](#)

Calendar of Events

Autumn session of UPOV bodies, 13 to 17 October 2014

- [Administrative and Legal Committee](#): Monday, 13 October 2014
- [Administrative and Legal Committee Advisory Group](#): Tuesday, 14 and Friday 17 October 2014 (closed to observers)
- Consultative Committee: Wednesday, 15 October 2014 (closed to observers)
- [Council](#): Thursday, 16 October 2014

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

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Feedback & Contact

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