



Updates on Plant Variety Protection

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1. Editorial

It's been a while since the last APBREBES newsletter. The main reason for this is a change in the APBREBES team. Our coordinator Susanne Gura has handed over the staff to François Meienberg after more than 5 years of engagement. We would like to thank Susanne very much for her work. In this newsletter you will find the APBREBES report on the last UPOV session in Geneva, the news about the groundbreaking adoption of the Peasant Rights declaration by the UN General Assembly last December as well as references to new publications about the seed policy in Nigeria and India.

2. APBREBES report on the UPOV autumn 2018 session

UPOV's bodies met in Geneva from 29th October to 2nd December. On our website a [report](#) is provided on some of the key decisions taken and the input by APBREBES.

3. Finally, UN General Assembly adopts Peasant Rights declaration!

December 17th 2018, the UN General Assembly has adopted the Peasant Rights declaration. It is the result of a 17-year-long process initiated by the international peasant movement La Via Campesina. In the [press release](#) issued by La Via Campesina, La Via Campesina General Coordinator Elizabeth Mpfu is urging states «to implement the declaration in conscientiousness and transparent manner». The UN Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet [welcomes](#) the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants. An [article](#) by IP-Watch is focussing on the peasant right to seed, strengthened by the new declaration and its link to Intellectual Property Rights.

4. Article : Examining plant variety protection in Nigeria: Realities, obligations and prospects

The [article](#) by Titilayo Adebola (School of Law, The University of Warwick) argues that Nigeria should proactively introduce a plant variety protection system designed to suit its socioeconomic realities before it is pressured to adopt an unsuitable system. In assessing the options under TRIPS vis-a-vis the small-scale centered agricultural sector in Nigeria, the article finds that the best-suited option for the country is a sui generis system which protects the interests of both small-scale farmers and agribusinesses. Such a system opens up the avenue for Global South

WTO members to creatively recognize farmers' rights and breeder's rights while ensuring access and benefit sharing.

5. Report : Politics of Seeds: Common Resource or a Private Property

In December 2018 the research organization Focus on the Global South has published this [report](#) which analyzes the seed policy of India and the threats to the farmers right to to save use, exchange and sell their farm-saved seed or propagating material. There is a main focus on IPRs on seeds, and the negative impact on farmers rights if India would adhere to UPOV 91.

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Feedback & Contact

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