

## PIIPA Newsletter 23-July-2013



### Public Interest Intellectual Property Advisors

*"IP resources the right size, at the right time, in the right place"*

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#### **The Role of Intellectual Property in Food Security in Developing Countries Seminar**

On June 6, 2013 PIIPA held a seminar on The Role of Intellectual Property in Food Security in Developing Countries. The focus of the seminar was *Linking agricultural biodiversity and food security Plant breeders rights versus The free exchange of germplasm*. June Blalock, [USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer](#) moderated the seminar. Our blue ribbon panel of speakers included Dr. David J. Spielman, Senior Research Fellow, [International Food Policy Research Institute](#); Dr. Rob Bertram, Director of [USAID's Office of Agricultural Research and Policy](#); Nnamdi Kalu Ezera, J.D. Senior Counsel, [Commercial Law and Development Program U.S. Department of Commerce](#); and Denise Dewar, Executive Director, Plant Biotechnology, [CropLife International](#).

Food security is a major problem in low and middle-income developing countries. The basic human right to food security also relates to issues of agricultural policy, economic development and trade. Intellectual property rights (IPRs) have become increasingly important in the past couple of decades in agricultural biotechnology where IPRs provide an incentive for the development of the private sector. The extension of IPRs to agriculture is of special significance because agriculture and food security are interlinked to the realization of basic food needs. Key findings and the presentations can be

downloaded [here](#). [Prof. Olivier De Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food](#) provided a special report for the seminar that can be downloaded [here](#). The seminar was sponsored by and held at Venable LLP, 575 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW Washington DC, 20004 USA.

### Save the Dates for the Future Seminars!

**September 24, 2013**

#### The Role of Intellectual Property in Biodiversity Protection

Topics: *The relationship between intellectual property rights and access and benefit-sharing arrangements and The relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity*

**December 3, 2013**

#### The Role of Intellectual Property in Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions

Topics: *Protecting the economic and cultural assets of indigenous and local communities and their countries and What does "Protection" mean? Who benefits?*

#### Summary of the USTR 301 Report Assessment of Latin America



This special report was produced by IP Corps volunteer Alvaro Ramirez-Bonilla, founder of [B&R Latina](#) law firm in Bogota, Colombia. The Latin American Summary can be downloaded [here](#). The Annual Special 301 Report of the Office of the [United States Trade Representative \(USTR\)](#) is the result of an annual review of the state of intellectual property rights (IPRs) protection and enforcement in trading partners around the world. The Report is a valuable resource to get an insight into how the US Government agencies views the state of protection of IPRs around the world, and a guide to predict the direction of US commercial policies, especially when negotiating trade agreements. It is also useful to assess how suited is the US approach to IPR protection for other countries. The full USTR 2013 Special 301 Report can be downloaded [here](#).

#### Agriculture, Food Security and IP Resources

- [TRIPS Related Patent Flexibilities and-Food Security](#)
- [Intellectual Property Management in Health and Agricultural Innovation](#)
- [The Role of Trademarks in Economic Development and Competitiveness](#)
- [How can the poor benefit from the growing markets for high value agricultural products?](#)
- [Food Security and Intellectual Property Rights in Developing Countries](#)
- [Agro-ecology and the right to food UN Report](#)
- [Technologies for Climate Change Adaptation in the Agriculture Sector](#)

#### Partner Organizations

- [World Intellectual Property Organization](#)
- [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#)
- [World Health Organization Department of Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property \(PHI\)](#)

- [The World Bank Global Forum on Law, Justice, and Development](#)
- [United States Patent & Trademark Office](#)
- [Organization of American States](#)
- [Canadian International Development Agency](#)
- [Conference Board of Canada](#)
- [SMEToolkit.org](#)
- [Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical \(CIAT\)](#)
- [GEF-NGO Network](#)

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