

WIPO-UPOV SYMPOSIUM ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

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EVANS SIKINYI

Evans Sikinyi graduated from the University of Nairobi in 1981 with BSc. Agriculture (Upper 2nd class honors), upon which he was employed by the Scientific Research Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, at the National Horticultural Research Station, Thika as a Research officer. His responsibilities included introduction and evaluation of upland rice and sorghum. In 1984, he returned to the University of Nairobi, under the IDRC sponsored Pigeon Pea improvement project, as a Research assistant graduating with a MSc. in Plant breeding degree. Between 1986 and 1992 he worked as a breeder and head for the seed production research program at the National Horticultural Research Centre, under the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) sponsored by UNDP/FAO horticulture improvement programme.

In 1993 he won a USAID scholarship to study for a PhD at Iowa State University. He worked as a research assistant in the Department of horticulture under the potato transformation and molecular studies project, and graduated in 1996. On his return to Kenya he worked with the USAID/MIAC horticulture development project as a Senior Research Officer in KARI. In 1997 he was appointed officer-in-charge of the Plant Breeders Rights Office.

From 1997 to 1999 he has been involved in forming and operationalising the Plant Breeders Rights Office, reviewing the regulations and eventually accession to the UPOV Convention. He has had extensive training in intellectual property rights in Europe and USA. Apart from Conventional breeding, he is specialised in biotechnology, seed technology, and bio-diversity issues, as well as intellectual property issues. In 1999 he was appointed as the Registrar, Plant Breeders Rights, under the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS).

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