

WIPO-UPOV SYMPOSIUM ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

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ARNOLD VAN WIJK

After completing his MSc in Plant Breeding at the Agricultural University, Wageningen, the Netherlands in 1971, Arnold van Wijk worked from 1971 – 1978 as a breeder of tropical grasses in Kenya. In 1978 he returned to the Netherlands to take up a position as breeder of forage and turf grasses at D.J. van der Have B.V., later called Advanta Seeds. In 1984 he became head of the international grass breeding program of that company. Based on the results of his work in Kenya, Arnold van Wijk obtained a PhD degree of Wageningen University in 1980 on a thesis called “Breeding for improved herbage and seed yield in *Setaria sphacelata*”. He was Director of the International Turfgrass Society, Secretary of Eucarpia Fodder Crops Section and served on various other committees.

In 2000 Arnold van Wijk became head of the cluster Plant Variety Research of the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands in Wageningen and as such responsible for DUS/PBR testing of agricultural and ornamental crops for the Dutch Board for Plant Breeders’ Rights and the Community Plant Variety Office. He is course director of an annual international course on Plant Variety Protection, is involved in projects on the implementation and impact of Plant Variety Protection and serves as chairman on two committees of NAK (Dutch General Inspection Service for Agricultural Seeds and Seed Potatoes).

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