

Plant Variety Protection Course

15-26 June 2009

nak / tuinbouw

Objective of the course

The course aims at facilitating the introduction and practical implementation of Plant Breeders' Rights (Plant Variety Protection) in countries where legislation on this matter is being developed or has recently been passed.

Plant Breeders' Rights

The development of new plant varieties through plant breeding is a long term investment of ten to fifteen years.

Intellectual property rights on the resulting plant variety through Plant Breeders' Rights grant the breeder of a new plant variety the exclusive rights to exploit it and to prevent others from doing so illegally.

All member states of the World Trade Organisation adhere to the agreement of Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), which contains the minimum standards for intellectual property rights (IPR), including those for plant varieties.

Many countries are therefore developing and implementing a legal framework for the protection of plant varieties in an intellectual property rights system.

Besides developing legislation, the implementation of a Plant Breeders' Rights system has far reaching consequences of a legal, institutional, technical, financial and commercial nature.

Contents of the course

The following subjects will be introduced through lectures and discussions in working groups:

- **Legal aspects:**
Legal framework, UPOV system, other *sui generis* systems, patents, legislation relating to genetic resource use.
- **Institutional aspects:**
Procedures and administration, organisational set-up, variety registration systems, collaboration in testing.
- **Technical aspects:**
DUS principles, UPOV technical guidelines and other botanical principles,

field testing, biochemical / molecular techniques, statistics, variety denomination, data analysis, reporting.

- **Exploitation of Plant Breeders' Rights:**
Exploitation of rights, royalty collection systems, enforcing rights, farm saved seed.

Practical training sessions on DUS testing form part of the course and visits will be made to seed certification services, breeding companies and the Aalsmeer flower auction.

As participants from all over the world will attend, there is ample time for participants to share experiences about their respective PVP systems through poster sessions. Over the years this has proven to be a valuable asset of the course.

Date and place

The course will be held from 15 until 26 June 2009 in Wageningen.

UPOV - Course

Participants who register in time and have been accepted are invited to take part, free of charge, in the UPOV Distance Learning Course (DL-205) 'Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention'.

This course serves as a good preparation for the course in Wageningen.



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Organisers of the course

Naktuinbouw

Naktuinbouw is responsible for DUS testing of all varieties of agricultural, ornamental and vegetable crops (2500 new varieties annually) for Plant Breeder's Rights in the Netherlands, on behalf of the Dutch Board for Plant Varieties and the European Community Plant Variety Office and for entry of agricultural and vegetable varieties on the Dutch National List.

The Netherlands, with its long experience in breeding agricultural and horticultural crops and expertise on Plant Breeders' Rights and variety registration, was one of the founding members of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). Naktuinbouw therefore is an attractive partner to assist with the introduction and practical implementation of Plant Breeders' Rights.

The course will be organised in collaboration with UPOV, the European Community Plant Variety Office, the Dutch Board for Plant Varieties and various seed industry organisations.

The first international Course on Plant Variety Protection in Wageningen was organised in 1997. Subsequent courses have included experiences of the earlier ones and have been adapted to changing needs.

Wageningen International

Wageningen International, as part of Wageningen University and Research Center (WUR), offers easy access to all international products and services of WUR covering education, research, capacity development and consultancy services.

Admission

Applicants should have a position in the variety registration system or have a position that will give them such responsibilities in the near future.

Countries that have recently developed a plant variety protection law, or those that are currently in the process of developing

such legislation, will be given priority. Applicants should have an agricultural or horticultural education at a minimum of BSc level or a legal education supplemented with practical experience in agriculture and horticulture.

A good working knowledge of English is essential to be admitted.

Fee and conditions

The course fee is € 2350. The fee includes administration costs, lecture materials and field trips, but exclude board and lodging.

Participants will be accommodated at Hof van Wageningen (formerly WICC) with full board and lodging. Prices for accommodation and insurance are available on request.

Payment should be received by Wageningen International three weeks before the course starts. After receipt of the payment, your participation is guaranteed.

If registration is cancelled within three weeks before the starting date of the course, 65% of the total course fee will be charged. A suitably qualified person may attend the course instead without extra charge. Please note that booked hotel accommodation is also subject to cancellation costs, and 100% of the cost will be charged.

If a participant is forced to cancel participation due to problems obtaining a visa, we will be obliged to maintain our cancellation regulations as mentioned above.

Application

The application deadline is 15 May 2009. You can apply online through www.cdic.wur.nl/UK/Courses. Please send all correspondence concerning your application to Wageningen International.

Further information can be obtained from Wageningen International or Naktuinbouw Training Services (see addresses on the left).



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