

Course on Plant Variety Protection

Wageningen, the Netherlands, June 21 – July 2, 2004



General Background

Many countries are developing and implementing a legal framework for protecting plant varieties in an intellectual property rights system. The agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) under the World Trade Organisation gave an important impetus to this development. The execution of such a legal system requires sound procedures and a profound knowledge of variety testing and variety registration procedures.

The Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN) is responsible for testing varieties of agricultural and ornamental crops for plant breeder's rights in the Netherlands, one of the founding members of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). Because of its long history in agriculture and horticulture, the range of crops registered for plant breeder's rights in the Netherlands is very wide. The vast experience in variety registration research and in developing procedures for registration of new crops enables CGN to assist emerging plant variety protection systems in their human resource development. This makes CGN an attractive partner to discuss legislation, to assist in streamlining procedures and to teach the technical knowledge to perform variety registration research at the highest levels. The first international Course on Plant Variety Protection (PVP) was organised in 1997. Subsequent courses have included experiences of the earlier ones and have been adapted to changing needs.

Objective

The course aims at facilitating the introduction of plant variety protection in countries where legislation on this matter is being developed, or has recently been passed. This will be achieved through presentations, discussions and practical training, and through visits to key organisations in the operation of a plant variety protection system.

Programme

The following broad subjects will be introduced in lectures and discussions:

- *legal aspects*: UPOV systems, other *sui generis* systems, patents, variety release, legislation relating to genetic resource use;
- *institutional aspects*: procedures and administration, variety registration systems, collaboration in testing;
- *technical aspects*: D.U.S. principles, UPOV technical guidelines and other botanical principles, field testing disease testing, biochemical/molecular techniques, statistics, variety denomination;
- *implementation*: exploitation of PVP, royalty collection systems, enforcing rights;
- *extension and familiarisation*: farmers, seed suppliers, consumers, lawyers.

Aspects that will be demonstrated and/or practised by the participants:

- the testing of varieties of field crops and horticultural crops for distinctness, uniformity and stability;
- the testing of names, and assessment of novelty;
- the use of biochemical and molecular techniques, and image analysis in variety registration;
- excursions to seed certification services, breeding companies, and variety testing stations.

Dates

The course will be held from June 21 - July 2, 2004.

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Organisation

The course will be organised by the cluster Plant Variety Research of the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands, in close co-operation with the International Agricultural Centre (IAC-Wageningen) and with the participation of UPOV (Geneva), the Community Plant Variety Office (Angers, France), the Board for Plant Breeder's Rights, Wageningen, and various industry organisations. The course is part of the IAC-training programme 'Agricultural chain development and food safety'. Further information on this training programme can be obtained from www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl

Admission

Applicants should have a key position in the variety registration process in their home country or a position that will give them such responsibilities in the 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 education at a minimum of BSc level or a legal education supplemented with practical experience in agriculture, and should have a good working knowledge of English.

Fees and Accommodation

The tuition fee amounts to € 2900. This includes administration fees, lecture materials and excursions. Accommodation can be provided at the Wageningen International Conference Centre (WICC) on the basis of full board and lodging at approximately € 1200 for the full period. Insurance can be arranged, and will cost approximately € 20, depending on the age of the applicant. A proposed budget including all costs will be sent to you on request. The amounts exclude international travel expenses.

In order to receive application forms, please send the reply form to:

International Agricultural Centre

Dept. Course Registration
P.O. Box 88
6700 AB Wageningen
The Netherlands

Fax: +31 317 495 395
E-mail: training.iac@wur.nl

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I am interested in the course on Plant Variety Protection organised by the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands and IAC and I would like to receive application forms

NAME :

ORGANISATION:

ADDRESS :

COUNTRY :

PHONE : FAX: E-MAIL: