

International
Conference
on Intellectual
Property (IP) and
Development
April 24, 2023

IP and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Program





INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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**WIPO International Conference on Intellectual Property (IP) and
Development – IP and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture**

organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Geneva, April 24, 2023

PROGRAM

prepared by the International Bureau of WIPO

Conference background and overview:

The series of International Conferences on IP and Development is organized in the framework of the [WIPO Development Agenda](#) and in the context of WIPO's [Committee on Development and Intellectual Property](#) (CDIP). It is based on a request by the African Group, approved by the CDIP and it is held on a biennial basis. For each Conference, Member States propose and decide on a sub-topic. The overall purpose of the International Conference on IP and Development is to provide a platform to discuss and exchange national, regional and international knowledge and experience on IP and development-related issues, and to strategize on how to use the IP system for development purposes.

The Conference brings together a large number of stakeholders, from WIPO Member States (representatives of IP Offices, Ministries/Departments of Foreign Affairs, Economy, Education, Health, Culture, members of the Judiciary, etc.), to international intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and civil society (members of the academia, students, international practitioners of IP and development, etc.).

As agreed by Member States, the 2023 International Conference on IP and Development will address the topic of "IP and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture".

Global agriculture is confronted with substantial challenges such as feeding a fast growing population, increasing food prices, water shortage, post-pandemic recovery, and in the context of climate change. The latter strains the world's natural resources, raising the chances of unpredictable weathers and deteriorating soil conditions, and increasing the overall vulnerability of the agricultural sector. These challenges affect countries from all over the world, but mostly developing and least developed countries (LDCs), for whom the agricultural sector is a major source of employment, livelihood, as well as a foreign exchange earner and supplier of raw materials to local industries.

The purpose of the Conference is to raise awareness about the importance of innovation for sustainable agriculture and discuss how IP instruments could support that. The Conference will address the topic based on a value chain approach, and will look at the roles of IP and innovation at different stages of the agricultural value chain – from land preparation and agricultural inputs, cultivation and harvesting, to storing, distribution and consumption. More specifically, panelists will discuss how the various IP tools (such as patents, trademarks, geographical indications, collective or certification marks, plant breeder's rights, trade secrets, etc.) and public policies, can interact together, showcasing their relevance at each of these stages, and thus ensure agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Finally, the Conference will listen to the challenges faced by farmers, the solutions proposed by agricultural entrepreneurs, and policy choices of various Governments, based on practical examples from all over the world.

Monday, April 24, 2023

Conference Program:

8.30 – 9.30 **Registration**

9.30 – 9.40 **Welcoming Remarks**

Mr. Hasan Kleib, Deputy Director General, Regional and National Development Sector, WIPO

9.40 – 10.30 **Introductory Panel on IP as an Incentive for Sustainable Agriculture**

Moderator: Mr. Edward Kwakwa, Assistant Director General, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, WIPO

Speakers: Ms. Sofía Boza, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and WIPO

Ms. Pimchanok Vonkorpon Pitfield, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the WTO and WIPO

10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00 – 12.30 **Panel 1: Agricultural Land and Inputs – Preparing the ground**

Brief description of the panel:

Farmers need productive land, good quality seed of high-performing plant varieties adapted to their locations and production methods, fertilizers, livestock, machinery and irrigation to ensure successful and sustainable agricultural production. During this session, panelists will analyze how IP and innovation can help to satisfy these needs.

Moderator: Mr. Alejandro Roca Campaña, Senior Director, IP for Innovators Department, WIPO

Speakers: Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General, UPOV

Mr. Elcio Perpétuo Guimarães, Director General, Embrapa Rice and Beans, Goiânia, Brazil

Ms. Susan Bragdon, Director of Seeds for All, Portland, Oregon, United States of America

Case Study: Mr. Mohd Fahad Ifaz, C.E.O, iFarmer, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Discussion: Q&A

12.30 – 14.00 **Lunch Break**

14.00 – 15.30 **Panel 2: Cultivation and Harvesting – Producing the crop**

Brief description of the panel:

Farmers face multiple challenges in crop and livestock farming, such as pests and diseases, adverse weather, food loss management and fluctuating market conditions. During this session, panelists will discuss how to respond to these challenges, including with the use of e-farming applications and artificial intelligence-based machines. New trends in agriculture such as “climate-smart villages” and urban agriculture will be also considered. In this context, panelists will also look at various IP tools and strategies that could encourage innovation for more sustainable farm production.

Moderator: Mr. Andras Jokuti, Director, Patent and Technology Law Division, WIPO

Speakers: Mr. Hans Adu-Dapaah, Dr., Vice-President, CSIR College of Science and Technology (CCST), Kumasi, Ghana

Ms. Namukolo Covic, Regional Director, East and Southern Africa, Director General’s Representative to Ethiopia, CGIAR, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. Surya Mani Tripathi, Head Legal Services, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, Telengana, India

Case Study: Ms. Nailya Shodorova, Director, EGISTIC, Astana, Kazakhstan

Discussion: Q&A

15.30 – 15.45 **Coffee Break**

15.45 – 17.15 **Panel 3: Storing, Distribution and Consumption – From farming to commercializing**

Brief description of the panel:

The storing and distribution represents the stage of the supply chain that takes the agricultural products from farmers to consumers. This stage is highly dependent on good infrastructure, efficient energy and secure transportation systems. Consumer awareness and behavior is important to drive the direction of agricultural production and distribution. In this session, panelists will explore policies and innovative technologies at this stage of the value chain, designed to reduce the losses that occur while storing and distributing agricultural goods along the way, but also the importance of IP branding strategies in shaping consumer behavior and encouraging responsible consumption.

Moderator: Ms. Alexandra Grazioli, Director, Lisbon Registry, WIPO

Speakers: Mr. Stephen Mbithi Mwikya, Secretary, Blue Economy Resources, Cabinet Affairs Office, Nairobi, Kenya

Ms. Florence Tartanac, Senior Officer, Food and Nutrition Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy

Ms. Silvia Salazar Fallas, Legal Adviser, PROINNOVA,
University of Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica

Case Study: Mr. Asahi Suzuki, Managing Director, Agricultural
Administration Division, Department of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries, Yamagata Prefectural Government, Yamagata,
Japan

Discussion: Q&A

17.15 – 18.00 **Concluding Dialogue on Opportunities for the Future**

Brief description of the panel:

Selected panelists from previous sessions will highlight some key messages and will share additional reflections on the main debates held during the Conference. At the end of the discussion, panelists, together with all other participants, will draw conclusions and identify concrete takeaways.

Moderator: Mr. Irfan Baloch, Director, Development Agenda Coordination
Division, WIPO

Speakers: Mr. Elcio Perpétuo Guimarães

Mr. Hans Adu-Dapaah

Ms. Florence Tartanac

Discussion: Q&A

18.00 – 18.10 **Closing**

Mr. Hasan Kleib, Deputy Director General, Regional and National Development
Sector, WIPO

18.10 – 20.00 **Reception**



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