

BREEDER'S AND IPR ISSUES : BIODIVERSITY AND NEED FOR DETAILED EXAMINATION OF DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CROP VARIETIES AND GM CROPS

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Received May 17, 2010 and Accepted September 11, 2010

ABSTRACT : In early days, all over the world a small list of descriptors was sufficient to distinguish between crop varieties in use. However, in recent decades, the world witnessed the emergence of large and highly competitive variety development programmes, particularly in the developed countries and also in some of the developing countries. At global level, a large number of new candidate varieties is generated for testing every year, thus underlining the need for establishing their clear-cut diagnostic features. The technology-rich developed countries had obviously realized this requirement. In most of the developing countries now consider for implementing a PVP-system. While, certain diagnostic features for released crop varieties are generally known and followed in seed certification procedures, accurate identification keys, giving detailed description on a comparative basis with clear-cut features of distinctness are, in general, lacking. Thus causes of confusion in seed-certification and quality control. If such systems are existing, these are also not common. The example of India, which benefited greatly from the 'Green revolution' is cited and compared routinely for increasing grain production. The country has realized need for an established system on variety development testing and its release (over 2600 crop varieties are already notified for commercial cultivation).

Key Words : IPR, diagnostic characteristics, crop varieties, GM crops.