



CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF IPRS

EUIPO, Alicante, SPAIN



15 -16 April 2024



CARIFORUM



EU-CARIFORUM Regional project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)

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PVRs Initiative under the CarIPI project

EUIPO, Alicante, SPAIN



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ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

EPA Art 139 – 164: comprehensive provisions on Innovation and IPRs protection and enforcement, including cooperation and regional harmonisation. CarIPI supports countries to advance on the implementation, focussing on the following topics and articles of the EPA:

Art. 133 and 141 Regional integration

Art. 144 Trade marks

Art. 145 Geographical Indications

Art. 146 Industrial Designs

Art. 149 Plant Varieties


Art. 150 Genetic resources

Art. 151-163 Enforcement

Art. 164 Cooperation



Focus of today's event



Geographical
Indications and
Plant Varieties
Protection → IP
tools for added
value in the AGRO
sector

ART. 149 PLANT VARIETIES

The EC Party and the Signatory CARIFORUM States shall provide for the protection of plant varieties in accordance with the TRIPS Agreement. In this respect, they shall consider acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants — UPOV (Act of 1991).

Technical Assistance to DO - 2020

CarIPI provided technical assistance to Dom Rep, resulting in a fully functional and UPOV compliant PV framework and office, with trained staff and DUS examiners.

The Dominican Republic is now leader in plant protection and innovation in the region

CarIPI provided support to:

- Set-up procedures,
- Develop examination manual, forms and templates
- Train examiners

15 July 2020 –
Official Act by the
DO Minister of
Agriculture and
first 13 breeders’
titles delivered to
5 companies in DO



Effective plant variety registrations Framework for SVG

- Following Saint Vincent and the Grenadines UPOV accession in 2021
- Technical assistance was provided to develop the national system to administer plant breeders' rights
- TA included drafting of implementing regulations to national legislation
- Development of PVR examination guidelines and forms in compliance with international / UPOV standards
- 8-9 November - training of staff and examiners of plant varieties

In collaboration with CPVO, UPOV, CARICOM

- Policy Paper: Proposal for enhancing regional Cooperation on PVRs
- Survey on the policy paper sent to CS for feedback – 10 countries responded
- **A proposal was put forward to the Ministers of Agriculture at their meetings in the framework of the CWA 2021**

Regional Cooperation in PVRs

- Policy Paper on Regional Cooperation in Plant Variety Protection was prepared with CPVO, UPOV and circulated to CS member states
 - Plant Breeding and PVRs as instruments for economic development
 - Reviving the plant breeding sector in the region, supported by an efficient system of Plant Variety Rights,
 - Facilitate
 - internal trade among CFS, but would also
 - enhance trade possibilities, especially with the EU, which remains the main destination for exports from the region in agricultural goods.
 - benefits - breeders, farmers and the society at large.

Regional Cooperation in PVRs

Policy Paper on Regional Cooperation in Plant Variety Protection was prepared with CPVO, UPOV and circulated to CS member states

- IT System for PVR registration at regional level
- Feasibility of establishing an IT System to manage the registration of national titles through a Regional hub (“one-stop shop”)
- UPOV PRISMA, which is an on-line tool to assist in filing plant variety protection IT package
- The e-PVP platform provides the basis for regional cooperation in line with the UPOV Convention, including:
 - a single application form;
 - mutual acceptance of the DUS Test results and administrative proceedings;
 - Preliminary examination of novelty and denominations

Regional Cooperation in PVRs: COTED

A proposal has been put forward by CARICOM and in cooperation with UPOV & CPVO, to the Ministers of Agriculture at their meetings in the framework of the **Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2021**, to endorse Plant Variety Protection in their territories and consider joining UPOV.

The COTED officials meeting accepted the proposal and this was **presented at the Ministerial Meeting on 8 Oct 2021**

Regional Cooperation in PVRs: COTED

ACTION REQUIRED: THE MEETING is invited to –

Recommend that the COTED adopts the following decision –

“Draft Decision (Spec) COTED/2021/94/13.4

Having considered Agenda Item 13.4 – “Promoting Plant Breeding and the Development of New Varieties of Plants Through Plant Variety Protection Under the UPOV Convention”

Noting the presentation made on the UPOV Convention and the CarIPI project

Regional Cooperation in PVRs: COTED

ACTION REQUIRED:

THE COTED:

Encouraged Member States to support the proposal for developing legislation on plant variety protection, to support developing a framework for processing new plant varieties rights applications and support member states becoming members to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

- Discussion on developing a regional seed policy and roadmap
- Collaboration with partners
 - UPOV
 - CPVO
 - CARDI
 - CARICOM

- Continue collaborating with partners – CPVO, UPOV and CARICOM
- Support IP-related initiatives – seed policy, public policy, national PVRs framework; Legislation review and models systems and training
- Developing a roadmap for plant breeding and commercialisation
- Working with UPOV and regional partners to develop a framework for regional cooperation for protection of new varieties of plants
- Capacity building on technology development and commercialisation of new plant varieties

Thank you * Gracias * Merci * Bedankt

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