IPR and Food Security
a Perspective from Developing Countries Farmers

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Horticulture- a short intro

- ..a rapidly growing high value agriculture in Africa: Morocco, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda…
  – Fruits, vegetable and flowers
- Kenya and South Africa – at least 1 billion USD annual exports
  – And much more in domestic and regional trade
  – Rapidly growing…in Kenya about 14% per annum

Kenya hort at a glance

- 4.5 million people involved, direct and indirect (11% of kenya population)
- Domestic and export:
  - By volume: 95% domestic/regional trade, 5% export
  - By value: domestic 65%, export 35%
  - Exports – 1 billion US$ (50-50 flowers and fruits/veg
  - Fruits Veg for exports – 70% produced by smallholders (about 350 mil US$)
  - Basis of smallholder participation on the value chain:
    - Capacity to meet international standards, and uniformity partly created by IPR

Food Security Dimension

- Reality 1:
  - Land sizes are shrinking in africa, especially in areas with higher water availability
    - Average land-holding in Kenya is 2.5acres, and down to 1 acre in high potential areas
- Reality 2:
  - Farming is still the main source of livelihood in many developing countries
    - Jobs from industrialization or services are limited, agric is still the economic basis (except in a few mining countries)
    - Food, medical care and school fees – the three key costs of rural people
- Reality 1 + Reality 2 = High value agriculture
  - For food security farmers need to maximize on revenue per unit area
    - A case of tomatoes vs staple such as maize or cassava to a farmer with only 1 acre or land
    - Food security not Food self sufficiency. – Food in the pocket, not in the granary

- Small-scale farmers are VERY rational. Markets must work, for food production to be a food security tool

What’s IPR about this?

- To produce for a demanding market, a uniform and quality product is necessary
  - e.g. Kenya green beans – uniform texture, predictable taste, from 150,000 farmers
    - Uniform seeds
- For competitiveness – productivity is key.
  - Superior breeds. No GM as yet
- Quick adaptation to new varieties, as market tastes change
  - Eg flower industry, especially roses

Experience with IPR so far- kenya Hort

- Enhanced Capacity to access markets
  - And improvement in productivity
- Significant domestic varieties development
  - Local and regional markets
  - Over- dependence on import varieties for export veges and flowers
- Huge royalties payments
  - About 2-5% of value of produce
    - In Kenya – 10 -20 million USD annually from flowers only,
    - Enough to support vibrant breeding research in Kenya, now supporting research in developed countries
  - Poor business partnership between breeders, propagators and farmers/producers.
    - Breeders have upper hand,
    - No or minimal risk-sharing mechanism
    - Breeder- grower tensions: Kenya, Ethiopia…etc
    - Ethical issues – both breeders and farmers

Way Forward -

- IPR is an important tool in producers in developing countries
  - For food security
    - IPR promotes innovation, and tech transfer to developing countries
    - For Market Access
- Needed:
  - A mechanism for ensuring fair play between producers and breeders
    - Producers are KEY stakeholders in IPR, just like breeders (both have a lot to lose if the mechanism doesn’t work)
    - Formal producer voice at UPOV?
    - Careful limitation of what is IPR?

Thank-You

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