



Exploiting Patent Information: The Ethiopian Experience/Case Studies

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November 2017

Introduction

- One of the justifications of the PS is source of technological information contained in PD (PI)
- Role of PI
 - ✓ Avoid wastage of resources
 - ✓ Reorient R&D and innovative effort
 - ✓ Facilitate TOT etc';
- Can be used to address technological challenges and foster development
- Explain major features of PI & significance of it taking concrete examples from Ethiopia

Use of patent information in Ethiopia

Management, Use and Dissemination of PI

- No patent system for long
- 1995 first patent law- **basic justification**
- Establishment of **PTTDD** as a data bank
- No **single PD** prior to 1993
- No full text prior to 1993
- Concerted effort to collect and increase collection of PDs
 - Assistance obtained from foreign sources (WIPO, EPO, USPTO, JPO, etc)
 - Support of govt. bodies
 - now more than **40 million PDS**

Case 1- Extraction and Production of Starch and Starch Products from *Enset*

- Industrial application of starch and starch products
- Ethiopia was spending about **4 million US dollars annually** to import starch and starch related products for local industries use
- User of PI decided to develop a product that will **substitute imported** products

Case 1- Extraction and Production of Starch and Starch Products from *Enset*

- Studied and used **patent documents** available in Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office to **extract starch** from local plant material
- Product is **manufactured & marketed** locally

Case 1- Extraction and Production of Starch and Starch Products from *Enset*

- **Socio-economic benefits**

- Meeting **60% of the domestic demand** and saving foreign exchange
- Providing employment opportunity to **150 permanent** workers & a number of on farm laborers
- Having **forward and backward linkage** effects

Case 2- Use of PDs by HLIs

- Problems: Lack of or Inadequate technical **reference material** in designing & developing prototype machines for **demonstration** and supporting teaching
- Achievements: Researchers and students used the PDs to **design and develop prototypes of agricultural implements and mechanical tools** such as farmer plough, hand operated water pump & cart

Case 3-Use of PDs by HLIs

- Problems: **Inaccessibility and scarcity** of **technical and scientific information** to support R&D effort

- Achievements: Contributed to the following researches
 - ✓ **Aloe- vera project**- potential uses of its extract for wound healing & hypertension
 - ✓ Project for developing methods for **controlling criminals** using finger prints, hair types and etc.

Case 4- Use of PDs In reviewing TOT agreements

- IP Office

- Rendering **prior art search** service
- Providing TI service
- undertaking substantive examination

- Technology Transfer Agreement:

- **Reviewing** Technology agreements
- Renegotiate agreements
- Reducing **Cost**

**Thank you very much
for your attention!!
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