

Evaluation Seminar Series

Learning from Existing Evaluation Practices on the Impacts and Effects of Intellectual Property on Development

Geneva, 6 and 7 October, 2011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE PRESENTATION
ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN
AGRICULTURE IN ASIA

prepared by the Secretariat

Jane G. Payumo.

Dr. Payumo is a Postdoctoral Research Associate of Washington State University's (WSU) Office of Research. Her postdoctoral work involves analysis of issues related to intellectual property rights (i.e. impact to farmers, relationship with green innovations and climate change, responses of scientific community, among others). She presently acts a commercialization manager at WSU by securing IPR protection and commercializing WSU intellectual property particularly on agriculture and life sciences technologies and in educating WSU students on the importance of intellectual property. She has written and co-written more than 35 technical and popular papers and co-proponent of 2 research grants – all related to the evaluations of the impact of IPR (e.g. access, generation, commercialization, genetic resources, traditional knowledge, etc.) to developing countries. An IPR advocate, she helped spread the importance of IPR and technology transfer management in several public institutions in developing countries. She obtained her Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Studies (Molecular Biosciences, Economics, and Rural Sociology) at Washington State University.

and

Keith Jones

Dr. Keith Jones is the Director of Office of Intellectual Property and Executive Director of WSU Research Foundation is committed to leading WSU's efforts to turn the results of university research into economic development opportunities in the private sector and to increase both its commercial and societal impact. He has 20 years' experience of tech transfer and agricultural development. He has licensed dozens of plant varieties and hundreds of technologies from public institutions to commerce and has been responsible for greatly increased business start-up activity at WSU. He is also actively involved in disseminating the importance of innovation management into the global community. He has written and co-written refereed articles and book chapters on IP and is a board member of multiple for profit and not for profit organizations including Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture (PIPRA), an international organization set up to ensure broad access to agricultural technologies. He has advised the Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property (CAS-IP) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR); and is a sought-after speaker on IP matters at national and international events. Dr. Jones earned his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University and is an inventor for three patents.

Better understanding of intellectual property rights (IPR) is indispensable to informed policy making in all areas of development, including agriculture – the backbone of economy of majority of developing countries. For this reason, IPR and its impact to the future of agriculture and public agricultural research – the linchpin of agricultural development in developing countries should gain priority in public discussions. As our contribution to the IP debate, we used two evaluation tools to analyze the impact of the expansion of IPR to agriculture, and determine how national research institutions in developing Asia have responded to the IPR paradigm. Specifically, we used an econometric approach to demonstrate that expansion of IPR in agriculture can positively impact agricultural development not only of developed countries, as critics would claim, but also of developing countries. Second, we used web-based survey to generate quick, reliable, and cost-effective measure of the attitudes and perspectives of public sector personnel on the importance of the concept of IP and the implications of the rapid emergence of IPRs in agriculture to public agricultural research especially on

agricultural biotechnology in developing countries. Overall, the use of these two approaches have enhanced our impact evaluation study on IPRs as they affect agriculture and public agricultural research in developing countries.