



ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 2011

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Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights

May 2 – May 20, 2011

November 21 – November 25, 2011

Invitation

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is a government agency responsible for the major part of Sweden's development cooperation. Focus on long-term knowledge and competence development constitutes a major feature in all development cooperations.

Sida offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, Advanced International Training Programmes of strategic importance to the social and economic development of cooperating countries based on identified priorities and needs. In the long-term perspective the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the cooperating countries.

These programmes aim at enhancing managerial and technical skills and cover subjects of strategic importance to economic and social development. The Training Programmes are designed for experienced executives in middle and top management positions in their respective organisations.

With the Training Programmes, Sida aims to contribute to processes of change and development in the participants' organisations and lines of businesses. The foundation of the entire programme is a project assignment. The assignment shall be well established in the participant's organisation and is a basic part of the programme concept.

With the advent of genetic engineering and novel multilateral IPR agreements a new chapter in the history of gene hunting has started. Genetic resources represent the basic building blocks for the development of improved agricultural and industrial crops, pharmaceuticals and the natural products industry. In recent times, there has been a growing appreciation of the role of Intellectual Property

Rights (IPR) in inspiring human capital formation, knowledge diffusion, benefit sharing and technological innovation, necessary for national development. International conventions and treaties together with the rapid biotechnology development have led to new conditions for the access of genetic resources and knowledge. The Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the requirements under for example WTO/ TRIPS have led to stricter mechanisms for access to, benefit sharing and control of genetic resources as well as new regimes for protection of biological innovations. This new environment has created both threats and opportunities for countries in the South, which must develop a clear understanding of the development and its implications. To be able to capture benefits and protect knowledge and genetic resources, countries must formulate efficient national and institutional policies/regulations and also engage in the international debate and fora.

However, the IPR and other legal instruments controlling access and transfers of genetic resources are increasingly complex, the literature is vast and incomprehensive, models are complex, and options are many. Thus, policy makers, scientists and other practitioners especially in resource poor countries face a considerable challenge in formulating IPR policies and negotiating appropriate agreements. Recognising this fact, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences/SLU with the assistance of Stockholm Environment Institute and Svalöf Consulting AB are offering a unique 'IPR/Genetic Resources Programme' comprising three weeks course work, intermediate personal change project in home country and one week follow up regional seminar.



Lisa Sennerby Forsse
Vice Chancellor
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Director General
Sida

GRIP Programme objectives

- To assist participants to understand the multilateral and bilateral background and the implications of the recent developments related to IPRs, Access and Benefit Sharing and exchange of genetic resources and related information.
- To enable participants to find, use and draw conclusions from sources of information and expertise world-wide, related to IPRs and exchange of genetic resources.
- To enhance participants' managerial efficiency to handle, address and deal with genetic resources and intellectual property rights issues. This will be done with a view on how to facilitate participants' understanding on how to develop appropriate IPR instruments for beneficial partnerships between various actors in regional or international settings.

- To improve participants' ability to catalyse the development of intellectual property rights policies and corresponding implementation frameworks on genetic resources at the national and institutional level.

GRIP Programme Structure

The Programme is divided in three phases. The first phase will take place in Alnarp, Stockholm and Uppsala, Sweden, between May 2 and 20, 2011. The second phase will consist of participants' own work on their personal project of change in their respective home countries. The third phase, is a follow up workshop held in one of the participating countries. Before the start of the Programme, all participants will be assigned to write a situation analysis which will consist of a 3–4 page analysis and review of genetic re-

sources/intellectual property (IP) issues in their home country. Based on this analysis, participants will be asked to identify and provide a short description of a suggested personal project of change.

Contents

First phase programme work: *Part 1 – Background on Genetic resources and IPR regimes*

- Fundamentals of intellectual property systems and the new regimes for trade and exchange of genetic resources and the prospects/problems/risks for developing countries.
- Country presentations on national regulations, positions and policies.

Part 2 – Global conventions/International agreements/Patent regimes

- Description and discussion of various IPR regimes governing the exchange of genetic resources;

such as: WTO/TRIPS; CBD; UPOV; Bonn Guidelines on Access and Benefit sharing; Cartagena Biosafety Protocol; International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on access to genetic resources and protection of traditional knowledge and folklore.

- Examples of legal cases including their policy consequences.

Part 3 – Institutional and national intellectual property policy and management issues

- Proprietary knowledge management including “hands on” training on practical issues relating to the use and development of IPR agreements for exchange of genetic resources including negotiation exercises.
- Institutional and national IPR policy development.

Part 4 – Developing functional national and institutional policies and frameworks

- Policies, strategies and frameworks to support development of IPR/ Access and Benefit Sharing regimes for exchange of genetic resources.
- Study of case studies of successful IPR partnerships supporting the sustainable use of genetic resources.
- Participants will briefly present the plans for their project of change which they will work on in the intermediate phase.

Second phase:

The individual change project

The project of change is an individual project that participants will start to work on during and following the first three weeks in Sweden. Within the project of change, participants are supposed to contribute to the strengthening of IPR /genetic resources regimes in their respective home countries. For a project to be successful it is important that it is feasible to do within the given time frame. The project of change must be firmly anchored in the participant's home institution/organisation with a commitment from its upper management to allow for implementation of the project. This commitment should be clearly expressed in

the application. Participants will not receive any financial support for their work on the project but each participant will be given a personal mentor who will be assigned time to advise participants throughout the implementation of their individual project of change.

Third phase

Phase 3 will be a workshop located in one of the participating countries between November 21 and 25, 2011. Phase 3 will include presentations and follow up of the projects of change. The aim of this phase is to gain experience as regards lessons learnt at the individual level by participants in implementing their change projects. During this phase, strategies and directions for continued networking will be developed.

Teaching

The Programme, spanning from May 2011 to November 2011, will include lectures, group discussions, workshops, practical training, negotiating exercises, personal projects and field visits. The workload during the Programme will be heavy and participants are expected to be active and engaged. Project work and communication will be continuous parts of the Programme.

Management and staff

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences assisted by Stockholm Environment Institute and Svalöf Consulting will provide the programme management. Lecturers and other resource persons will be drawn from relevant Swedish and International Expertise.

Participation

Number of participants limited to 25.

Participant profile:

- The Programme is directed to individuals at senior commanding level from the government sector (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, national IP office) and from national R&D institutions in charge of managing and defining regulatory/policy IPR frameworks on genetic resources.
- Women are **especially** encouraged to apply.

Target region:

Global, selecting two regions per year

Language requirements

The training programme will be organized and conducted in English and consequently high proficiency in the English language is required. Candidates should be able to provide independent certification of their language skills, preferably by submitting results from an internationally recognized language test. Due to the character of the programme family members are not allowed to accompany participants to the programme.

Application process

**Closing date for application is
January 15, 2011.**

Applications submitted after closing date will not be considered.

Application should be written on the special form attached and include a recent photograph and required information and documents.

An English language test should be made with an official body in the home country of the applicant, unless the applicant can provide other documentation to support her/his ability.

The Swedish Embassy/Consulate does not carry out language tests but may be able to recommend appropriate language institutes for conducting tests.

When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country.

The application should be submitted to the nearest Swedish Embassy/Consulate.

If there is no Swedish Embassy/Consulate in the applicant's country, the application should be submitted directly to the Programme Secretariat. Selected applicants will be notified by e-mail or telefax. Once accepted, the applicant must confirm participation. An invitation letter will be sent, containing additional information on the programme and the practical arrangements.

Cost of Participation

The cost of the programme is divided between a participation fee

and accommodation cost. The participation fee covers all training cost such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities as well as accommodation costs include board and lodging. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will cover these costs.

International travel costs to and from Sweden are not covered by Sida.

The participant carries costs incurred in travelling to the nearest international airport.

Sida always pays international travel cost in connection to the third phase of the training programme.

Personal expenses are not included.

Accommodation

All participants will be accommodated in a hotel in the city of Malmö. Each participant will have his/her own single room with bathroom.

Visa

Participants are responsible for obtaining all visas necessary for their journey and stay during the training programme. The visa should be

valid for the whole period of the programme and the passport should be valid for three months longer than the entry visa. Inquiries should be directed to the respective Swedish Embassy/Consulate alternatively other Schengen representation as soon as possible after acceptance into the programme. Participants visiting other countries on their way to or from Sweden must ensure that correct visas are obtained before leaving home country, especially for countries not included in the Schengen agreement.

The costs for obtaining visas are carried by the participant.

For more information, this website offers Swedish visa information: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.html>

Insurance

All participants are covered by a group insurance while in Sweden and on organised tours during the programme. This insurance includes costs for medical care in the event of acute illness or accident. Medical and dental check-ups are not included.

Contact information

Programme Lead, policy and management:

Department of Legal Affairs and Dpt of Plant Biology & Forest Genetics/VBSG at SLU

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Supervision of Programme: Ivar Virgin, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
Administration: Marie Hardfors, Per Andersson, Svalöf Consulting AB

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The address for application forms and questions regarding organizational matters is:

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ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 2011

Presentation of Program Secretariat

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences/SLU

SLU develops knowledge about our biological natural resources – everything that lives and grows. At SLU we conduct research, teach and inform about the opportunities, and possible risks incurred, when using our forests, landscapes, soils and animals in different ways. SLU works with everything that grows, whether it is plants that provide us with food, give us income, or are just there to be beautiful. The knowledge that we supply is essential to enable us to utilize our forests, our landscapes, our soil and our animals in a sustainable way. SLU comprises of four faculties and has four different campuses in Sweden. SLU has 2 600

employees, 3 600 students and 700 post-graduate students (www.slu.se).

Stockholm Environment Institute

The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is an independent, international research institute specializing in sustainable development and environment issues. SEI's mission is to support decision making and induce change towards sustainable development around the world by providing knowledge that bridges science and policy in the field of environment and development (www.sei.se).

Svalöf Consulting AB

The overall objective of Svalöf Consulting is to provide know-how and consulting

services to the agri-food sector in developing countries. The seed industry development expertise is the dominating feature, covering the whole chain from plant biotechnology and breeding to seed production and marketing. Svalöf Consulting is a young company, established in April 2006. However, it has a long and unique experience since Svalöf Weibull (SW) ceded the Consultancy Department together with its commitments and staff engaged in agricultural and seed development projects. Access to the knowledge in utilizing plant genetic resources, evolution of plant breeding and commercialisation of varieties in Sweden will be maintained (www.svalofconsulting.com).

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