

NEWSLETTER



Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property

Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property for the CGIAR

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Introducing the Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property for the CGIAR

Recognizing the need to address issues associated with the management and use of Intellectual Property (IP), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Center Directors Committee established the Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property (CAS) in March 1999. CAS is located in The Hague, a focal European IP Center, and housed at the International Service for National Agricultural Research, (ISNAR), in the Information and New Technologies (INT) Unit to facilitate interaction with ISNAR staff in their work of helping national organizations manage biotechnology applications and IP/Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

The mission of CAS is to serve the Centers' needs regarding intellectual property by providing and facilitating expert advice and enhancing the exchange of IP knowledge and experiences. In carrying out this mission CAS has developed a multi-pronged team-based approach of scientists and IP professionals to assist the Centers. This approach includes:

- Visits to individual Centers in order to liaise with Center personnel and help assess the IP needs of each Center
- Preparation of IP tools such as "Invention Disclosure" forms and "IP Management" Checklists
- Organizing CGIAR-IP meetings and workshops for exchange of information and experiences
- Presentation of informational seminars such as "Funding of Public Databases and Intellectual Property Protection" and "The Anatomy of a Patent"
- Searches of patent databases to establish freedom-to-operate (FTO), as preparation for license negotiation, and to identify "prior art"
- Serving as a resource and a "CGIAR"-side in license negotiations
- Reviewing IP-associated Center agreements and contracts, at the request of the Center

- Identification of outside experts and IP service providers such as IP agents/attorneys, transaction attorneys, database programmers, technical transfer (TT) specialists, that Centers can deal with directly on a one-to-one basis, with the assistance of CAS, if desired
- Providing formal and informal IP training, including internships, designed for Center personnel to assist them in the implementation of IP management policy and to equip them to deal directly with IP service providers
- Organization and presentation of web-based IP information
- Acting as a liaison between national/international IP offices and CGIAR Centers
- Preparation of Briefing Reports on topics of interest to the Centers, such as donor IPR requirements in funding agreements

To implement the work plan developed for the CAS, ISNAR recruited a Senior Research Officer, Intellectual Property, Dr. Victoria Henson-Apollonio, who began work in February 2000.

Introducing Victoria Henson-Apollonio



Dr. Henson-Apollonio is a registered US Patent Agent, licensed to practice before the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and she brings over 20 years of biotechnology research experience and eight years of intellectual property evaluation and assistance in patent application and prosecution procedures. She has authored over 50 publications, presentations, and abstracts in the areas of immunology, bioinformatics, and studies involving wetland plants. In addition she has prepared over 100 invention reports, patent application reviews, and technology evaluation/assessment reports.

Dr. Henson-Apollonio was an intellectual property (IP) consultant at the Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) during 1992-1999 and a full-time Invention Evaluator/Patent Agent employee in 1999. In her work at Argonne, she has served as a liaison between ANL inventors and IP attorneys in the preparation and prosecution of patent applications, and she has been involved in the management of a US\$ 15 million biotechnology patent portfolio. She has also worked with the Industrial Technology Division (ITD) at ANL on patent, technology transfer, and licensing issues.

Prior to joining ANL on a full-time basis, Victoria Henson-Apollonio was an Associate Professor of Biology at Purdue University for nine years, where she taught courses in genetics, molecular biology, cell biology, immunobiology, and computer applications in biology. She carried out research in the areas of fish immunology and in population genetics of wetland plants.

Victoria Henson-Apollonio has a Ph.D. in molecular biology/pathology and an undergraduate degree in animal science from the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. She completed two years of post-baccalaureate courses at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama. She has participated in molecular biology courses at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, Germany, and at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Cold Spring Harbor, NY. In addition, she has attended courses in patent law and biotechnology licensing at the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) Fora in Washington, DC, and patent law courses in Chicago.

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News from the Centers

Multi-center/ISAAA/ RF Proposal for IP

By Timoty Reeves

“Strengthening Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Management at Key Centers of the CGIAR”

Some of the Centers such as CIMMYT, ILRI, and IRRI have for many years been involved in acquiring, developing, and using proprietary

technologies. Two of these Centers, ILRI and CIMMYT, have pursued statutory protection for their technological developments under the general CGIAR Guidelines for IP. Too often, however, managers at each of the Centers involved have had to “learn by doing”, a practice that is, at best, a resource-expensive approach.

The overall goal of the initiative is to establish a fully operational Intellectual Property/Technical Property Management Unit (IPMU) at each of the collaborating CGIAR Centers, CIMMYT, ILRI and IRRI – that coordinate activities in IP areas and that can appropriately use the IP and legal resources available at ISAAA, CAS and the corresponding unit at the collaborating Centers.

Specifically, CIMMYT, ILRI, IRRI and ISAAA wish to:

- Ensure that all technologies developed by these Centers remain readily available to their developing country clients for the benefit of resource-poor farmers
- Obtain freedom-to-operate (FTO) on emerging technologies by seeking/gaining access to the proprietary technology of others and thereby increasing the impact of each Center’s research activities
- Negotiate alliances and agreements, which can increase the resources (technology, personnel, finances) that are available to the named Centers’ mission and core activities, and
- Enhance the capacity of the Centers’ staff and NARS partners in IP management through tailor-made training workshops

Expected Outcomes:

- A functional IP management unit at each Center
- Obtaining the licenses required to deploy the Center’s products to their clients
- Inaugurating a robust agreement management database (ISAAA TRAC™)
- Determining the limits on technologies for proposed Center research projects
- Developing IP management and negotiation skills among Center staff and clients
- Determining the best statutory protection for each emerging technology
- The licensing procedures for delivering Center-developed technologies to Center clients
- Access to the ISAAA Virtual Workshop™ on IP Management

News from the NARS

By Victoria Henson-Apollonio

“IP -An evolving model in Kenya”

There are many International Agricultural Research Centers, National Agricultural Research Centers, NGOs, and Kenyan Intellectual Property Offices in the Nairobi area. With such a high concentration of interested parties in the area, Nairobi seems an appropriate site for an Intellectual Property Workshop. During discussions Victoria had with Dr. John Mugabe and Patricia Kamerini Mbote of ACTS, it was suggested that a regional, capacity-building workshop could be held. In this workshop, scientists from both IARCs and the NARIs in the Nairobi area would learn about IP/IPR matters from the regional and the international perspective. John Komen of the ISNAR Biotechnology Service (IBS) has continued discussions with ACTS staff regarding a workshop and the ISNAR Training Unit has become interested in producing a training module for use in such an IP/IPR Workshop. For this module, ISNAR would contract for Victoria’s services to supply content for the module and Helen Hambly Odame, (ISNAR), is in the initial stages of designing a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) tool to survey prospective participants regarding their knowledge and use of IP tools. Staff from the Kenyan Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the Kenya Copyright Office, and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) will be among the ISNAR partners for planning and delivering the Workshop.

Useful WWW Links

AgBiotechNet Information on intellectual property rights and other key issues in agricultural biotechnology.
<http://www.agbiotechnet.com/>

AGCare This page - from the site of a 'pro-biotech' organisation with the name "Agcare" is a good resource for information about 'Bt' and 'Bt' engineered plants. It contains several links to background information on 'Bt'.
<http://www.agcare.org/FS009.html>

Association of University Technology Managers This site has a wealth of technology transfer information.
<http://www.autm.net/>

BUBL LINK Catalogue of selected Internet resources A link-site to a variety of patent information sources.
<http://link.bubl.ac.uk/patents>

COMPAS Workshop A platform for intercultural dialogue on indigenous knowledge, including a section on Intellectual property rights.
<http://www.agro.wau.nl/stel/compas.htm>

Delphion Intellectual Property Network a website for searching, viewing, and analyzing patent documents, with free access to a wide variety of data collections and patent information including United States patents, European patents and patent applications, PCT application data from the World Intellectual Property Office, Patent Abstracts of Japan.
<http://www.patents.ibm.com/>

Esp@cenet The database search facility of the European Patent Office.
<http://ep.espacenet.com/>

European Patent Office's (EPO) helpdesk This site is an excellent source of patent information. It can be accessed in English, French and German, and has many links to useful patent sites.
<http://www.cordis.lu/ipr-helpdesk/>

Intellectual Property in Cyberspace Site concerned primarily with copyright protection of e-information. Interesting reading, controversial articles, etc.
<http://www.wcl.american.edu/PUB/faculty/boyle/copyrt.html>

Intellectual Property Mall The IP Mall links to a intellectual property resources served up by the Franklin Pierce Law Center.
<http://ipmall.fplc.edu/>

Intellectual Property Owners Association (U.S.). Some interesting information not easily found elsewhere.
<http://www.ipo.org/>

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) 'Inventor's site' This site has interesting information and links for persons that would like to read about inventors and (the creativity of) inventions. It also contains a link to the MIT 'Technology Transfer' division.
<http://web.mit.edu/invent/www/links.html>

Patenting and Licensing Agency for the German Human Genome Project This page contains the text of the European Directive for the protection of biotechnical inventions.
<http://www.pst.fhg.de/pla/english/patent/directive.htm>

PIPERS Virtual Intellectual Property Library Commercial site that contains links to Patent service around the world. (Based in New Zealand).
<http://www.piperpat.co.nz/>

Rural Advancement Foundation International The prototype of a watchdog for IPR
<http://www.rafi.org/>

Should the Patent and Trademark Office be issuing 20,000+ new software patents every year? An interesting site run by a gadfly of U.S.PTO. Some of the links are "dead-ends".
<http://www.bustpatents.com/>

The Patent Café The patent café has links to a great deal of information concerning IP protection.
<http://www.patentcafe.com/>

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office official homepage
<http://www.uspto.gov/>

UNDP Civil Society Organisations and Participation Programme; Conserving Indigenous Knowledge A site devoted to IP issues affecting the control of indigenous knowledge (IK).
<http://www.undp.org/csopp/CSO/NewFiles/dociknowledge1.html>

USPTO Web Patent Databases (US Patent and Trademark Office).
<http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html>

Please send your questions or remarks to: cas-cgiar@cgiar.org