Intellectual Property on Plants:
Patents, Plant Variety Rights and Alternative Approaches

The patentability of innovate plants became subject of a controversial public debate.
While biotechnology and agricultural chemistry companies wish for their investments to be protected as extensively as possible, farmers, environmental protection associations and other non-governmental organizations push for a limitation of the monopolization of plants.

Traditional plant breeders take an intermediate position, still rely on plant variety rights but view patents on plants with skepticism.

The conference allows for a discourse between experts from different jurisdictions and with different backgrounds.

Admission:
EUR 30

Registration:
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(till 20 October 2015)

Venue:
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Juristische Fakultät
Unter den Linden 9
10117 Berlin
Room 213
09:30 — 09:45 a.m.
Introduction
Axel Metzger
Faculty of Law
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

9:45 — 10:30 a.m.
The Object of Protection of Plant Variety Rights — Description of Characteristics or Genotype?
Gert Würtenberger
Attorney at Law, München
President of GRUR

10:30 — 11:00 a.m.
Coffee Break

11:00 — 11:45 a.m.
Utility Patents on Plants in the US
Mark D. Janis
Maurer School of Law
Indiana University (US)

11:45 — 12:30 a.m.
Innovation in Plant Production and Breeding
Bernhard Grimm
Institute of Biology
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

12:30 — 1:45 p.m.
Lunch

1:45 — 2:30 p.m.
Repercussions of the Nagoya Protocol on IP Rights on Plants
Herbert Zech
Faculty of Law
Universität Basel (CH)

2:30 — 3:15 p.m.
Innovation in Agriculture and „Open IP“
Geertrui Van Overwalle
Centre for Law and Innovation
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (BE)

3:15 — 3:45 p.m.
Coffee Break

3:45 — 4:30 p.m.
Alternative License Models for Innovation in Plants
Catharina Maracke
International Center for the Internet and Society
Keio University Tokio (JP)

4:30 — 5:30 p.m.
Patentability of Plants Under the EPC After Broccoli II / Tomatoe II
Panel Discussion
Michael Koch
Head of Intellectual Property,
Syngenta, Basel (CH)

Christoph Then
no-patents-on-seeds.org

5:30 p.m.
Concluding Remarks
Axel Metzger
Faculty of Law
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin