

Baenziger, P.S., Kleese, R.A., Barnes, R.F. (ed.): **Intellectual Property Rights: Protection of Plant Materials**. - Crop Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, Madison 1993. 187 pp. Softcover US \$ 20.00.

This is the material presented on workshop held in Washington, at 26 - 28 January 1993. The participants included 116 individuals from a broad range of disciplinary, professional and administrative interests. Plenary speakers addressed such topics as goals of inventors, owners and users. The book involves implications of non-U.S. protection, procedures and practices for U.S. innovators, the status of intellectual property rights protection, science based identification of plant genetic materials and national legislative issues.

In the USA, in contrast to Europe, plant cultivars can be patented. The first Plant Patent Act is from 1930 and it has been confined to asexually reproduced plants, mostly decorative flower plants. The next Plant Variety Protection Act from 1970 has much broader applicability. Innovated rules have been proposed by United States Department of Agriculture in November 1992; they include also transgenic plants. The protection and property right of plant material in USA are both specific and flexible enough. They fulfill well the interests of companies, universities and research institutes as well as the public sector and they maintain the intellectual properties of new cultivars. Nowadays, efficient and exact science tools to characterize new cultivars are available, like RFLP, PCR-based methods, antigen-antibody specificity based methods.

The proceedings of the workshop has been divided to plenary session and several group sessions. These groups solved problems of A) licencing, B) exemptions, C) germplasm and information exchange, D) ethical and social issues, E) research agendas, F) intellectual property rights. The workshop recommends to all developing countries to take intellectual property right connected with plant new-breeding cultivars. The International Union of Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) the member of which is also the Czech Republic, is mentioned. The main goal of the workshop, *i.e.* the aid in the development of policies and procedures associated with plant-derived intellectual property, was fulfilled very successfully.

M. ONDŘEJ (*České Budějovice*)