

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AND JUDICIAL ACADEMY, ASSAM

Webinar
on
“Basics of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights”

CONCEPT NOTE

Knowledge economy is the prerogative of the current millennia. A College or an Institution is now worldwide known from the number of Patents, Copyrights, Designs etc. it has filed for, in the Intellectual Property Offices of its respective country. In India too, the various organizations like the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), National Board of Accreditation (NBA), the Indian Centre for Academic Rankings & Excellence (ICARE), the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) etc., accord a substantial weightage in their Academic Ratings, to the Intellectual Property Rights(IPR) applied / secured, in the relevant Academic Year, by the particular College or Institution.

Applying / securing an IPR is relatively simple, if one knows the procedures involved. The Government of India has established various schemes through the Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC), Start-ups Intellectual Property Protection Scheme (SIPP), Support for International Patent Protection in Electronics and Information Technology Scheme (SIP-EIT) etc., to support the competitive advantage of Intellectual Research in India to foster the growth of this knowledge economy. As a part of this support the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has established a Central Scheme of Intellectual Property Education, Research and Public Outreach (IPERPO), under which various IPR Chairs are set up, to help the various Educational Institutions acquaint with the Government Schemes and benefit these Institutions with the IPR Chair Professor’s knowledge.

The National Law University and Judicial Academy, Guwahati, as a host University of this Scheme for Pedagogy & Research in IPRs for Holistic Education & Academia (SPRIHA), has nominated its IPR Chair Professor, to benefit the various Colleges and Institutions in the North Eastern Region of India.

As a part of increasing the IPR awareness, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion - Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (DIPP-CIPAM) IPR Chair at National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam has been conducting various webinars on various IPR topics, to name a few, “Basics of the IP Protection: Patents”, “Interpretation of Legalese Jargon in Patent Suits”, “Trademarks Prosecution in India”, “Copyrights and Neighbouring Rights”, “Ask me anything about Patents” etc. In continuation with this, many IPR webinars such as Geographical Indications, Topography of Integrated Circuits and Industrial Design Protection are also intended to be organised.

This concept note is to seek the support and involvement of your esteemed Institution in the NER of India to capacity-build and secure the respective intellectual strengths of the various Institutions, to strengthen our country's IP rankings in the Global Innovation Index.

In this regard, during this month of February 2021, a Webinar is being arranged via Google Meet for the various Academic Institutions on the topic of:

“Basics of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights” on February 13th 2021, by Dr. Kalpana Sastry at 12:00 Noon.

About the Topic and the Speaker:

With a view to provide an effective system for safeguarding the plant varieties, farmers' rights as well as plant breeders statutes and further to encourage the development of new varieties of plants, it is pertinent to accord due recognition and protection to the rights of farmers with respect to their immense contributions made from time to time in cultivating, preserving and making available plant genetic resources for the development of new plant varieties. Hence, this has been the intention behind Government of India's enactment of “The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001”. The Webinar on “Basics of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights” has been organised with this intention of inculcating awareness among the various Educational Institutions with regard to this sui generis legislation.

Dr. Kalpana Sastry is a distinguished Agricultural Scientist with more than three decades of expertise in the areas of Agriculture Research, Technology Commercialization, Intellectual Property and Innovation Management, Entrepreneurship and Start-up ecosystem development in Agriculture. She joined the Agricultural Research Services under ICAR in 1984. As a trained Plant Pathologist, she was part of numerous projects under Government of India funded Technology Mission Programme on Oilseeds. In 1996, she joined as faculty in National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) where she worked in various hierarchical roles. Dr. Sastry's last assignment was as the Joint Director of the Academy. She has been associated in several projects on needs and impact assessment of emerging technologies in agri-research and developmental schemes, projects, intellectual property and technology innovation, agri-entrepreneurship initiatives in the National and International Agricultural Research System. Further, she is closely associated in technology backstopping activities for a wide range of stakeholders including grassroots innovators, farmers, students, scientists, academia and entrepreneurs; she is engaged in IP informatics, technology management and in upscaling of innovations for agri-rural sectors for the last two decades. Currently she is the Managing Director at AgHub Foundation, Centre for Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship at Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University, (PJTSAU), Hyderabad.

Dr. Sastry has been a recipient of several prestigious awards like Prof. M.G. Narasimham Award for best research paper oration; Indian Phytopathological Society Gold Medal; Smt. Chandaben Mohanbhai Patel Vasvik Award for Best Women Scientists at the national level; the ICAR-AHRD fellowship by FAO; Occasional Lecture Award (OLP) Award under Fulbright Scholar Program, and The Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship at the international level. Awarded for her post-graduation and PhD degrees by the prestigious Indian Agricultural Research Institute, she is also a PG Diploma holder in Patent Laws from National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSA), India.

*As a constituent College / Institution of Assam, on behalf of the the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion - Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (DIPP-CIPAM) IPR Chair at National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam, we request you to encourage your Faculty Members and Students to participate together in this discussion-based webinar titled, “Basics of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights” on **February 13th 2021 (Saturday)**, to strengthen the Intellectual Property base of our North Eastern Region, by giving a wide circulation about this discussion webinar in your Esteemed-Organization.*

February 5th 2021,

Guwahati