



WTO-IPR Bulletin

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FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DESK



The recent move of the Government of India to invite papers on doubling the income of farmers in next five years is a salutary step. This decision of the Government has put scientists of agricultural universities and personnel of Line Departments in the Central and State Governments in action mode. Almost every person in these organizations is exercising his/her mind to find ways and means of increasing the income of farmers in such a manner that in the next five years i.e. by 2022 the average income of the farming community is doubled. In this endeavour, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recently visited one of the ICAR institutes of the ICAR viz.

Indian Institute of Soil & Water Conservation (IISWC) at Dehradun and held a meeting of scientists. At this University several brain storming meetings involving personnel of Line Departments of the State Government have been held. Such brain storming meetings involving officials of Line-Departments have been held elsewhere also. It is hoped that a suitable blue print for action will emerge. What is even more satisfying is the likelihood of diagnosis of various constraints impinging on the income of farmers. Once the constraints have been identified, they will be easily removed by the Central and State Governments. This is a praise worthy step of the Government which deserves rich appreciation from all corners/segments of the society.

At the University a new facility for research viz. a gamma ray irradiation facility has been purchased and installed in Radiation & Isotopic Tracer Laboratory (RITL) of the College of Basic Sciences and Humanities. This will be central facility at the University. This is the first facility of its own kind available in Uttarakhand.

In keeping with the expectations of the Government for technology dissemination in agriculture, the University organised its 101st. Farmers' Fair from March 4 to 7, 2017. A large number of companies dealing in the agricultural items participated. The fair also attracted farmers from almost every district of Uttarakhand and also from neighbouring States. Besides a number of seminars and conferences were organised in the University.

Various steps were taken to upgrade skills of students, scientists and farmers. Three students from the College of Fisheries attended two month training programmes in France. Two ICAR sponsored programmes for Asstt./Assoc. Professors were organised in the College of Agriculture, one in Agronomy Department and the other in Plant Pathology Department. Training programmes for imparting knowledge to farmers were also organised by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Department of Vegetable Science.

In the area of intellectual property rights, patenting received requisite attention. As against six applications during the year 2015-16, 11 applications for patents were filed by the Intellectual Property Management Centre in the year 2016-17. The culture of patent search in thesis proposals of Masters and Ph.D Students has set in. With these developments, the University will emerge as an important centre on the IPR map of India.

(J. Kumar)
Vice-Chancellor

II. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. WTO expects global trade to grow at 2.4% in 2017

Global merchandise trade is expected to rebound this year, with the World Trade Organisation forecasting a growth of 2.4% in 2017 compared to 1.3% in 2016. However, this is contingent on recovery of the global economy as expected and governments pursuing the right policy mix. The organisation blamed the sluggish rate of trade growth in 2016 on low investment spending in the United States, China's drive towards consumption that dampened import demand last year and slowdown in emerging market economies. It has pegged global merchandise trade to pick up slightly in 2018 and grow at 2.4%.

The WTO Director General Robert Azvedo has been quoted as saying "Weak international trade growth in the last few years largely reflects continuing weakness in the global economy. However, if policymakers attempt to address job losses at home with severe restrictions on imports, trade cannot help boost growth and may even constitute a drag on the recovery," WTO Director General said the unpredictable direction of the global economy in the near term and the lack of clarity about government action on monetary, fiscal and trade policies raises the risk that trade activity will be stifled.

It has also been reported at the WTO that "A spike in inflation leading to higher interest rates, tighter fiscal policies and the imposition of measures to curtail trade could all undermine higher trade growth over the next two years" .

2. Lobby Group Pushes for Ecomm Agenda at WTO

A key global business lobby group has petitioned at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to begin talks to open up cross-border digital trade for small and medium companies and allow them to sell their products across borders through ecommerce.

The International Chamber of Commerce has proposed the WTO "to give active consideration" to launch talks on a holistic package of trade disciplines, rules and assistance to boost Medium & Small Micro Enterprise (MSME) ecommerce, something that India has been opposing vehemently . The lobby group has said that the time may be right to consider whether WTO disciplines should be upgraded in support of digital trade. Even the G-20 has linked development with ecommerce and called for full participation of SMEs in developing countries and less developed economies to benefit from online trade.

The chamber has further recommended that any new WTO package should also encompass capacity building resources for developing economies, including targeted assistance to ensure that MSMEs can get online and expand their business through ecommerce.

3. India to take up food security with WTO chief

India will press for expediting negotiations on grain stockholding when a government team meets the World Trade Organization's chief.

"Agriculture, especially food security, is on the agenda. With the Trade Facilitation Agreement on goods coming into force, some momentum has to be created for food security," said an official aware of the meeting. The developing world's food security concerns have remained unresolved from the Doha Round and were part of both Bali and Nairobi ministerial meetings. Easing services trade is a relatively recent subject which India is spearheading.

A team comprising senior officials from the commerce department of the Government of India will meet Roberto Azevedo in Geneva. The team, which also includes India's new permanent representative to the WTO, will emphasise on a permanent solution for public stockholding to avoid such programmes from facing dispute and penalty, especially because 2017 is the deadline to find a solution.

India and other members of the G-33 group of countries have sought to amend WTO rules on agriculture. They have proposed food procurement from farmers to feed the poor under a subsidy fixed at 10%. The proposal uses an old methodology for subsidy calculation that does not account for inflation and is based on a price index of 1986-88.

However, developed countries haven't been forthcoming in finding a permanent solution to the problem. The issue needs a fillip to get placed in the agenda of the General Council, the apex decision making body of the WTO.

4. China court orders Samsung units to pay \$11.6 million to Huawei

A Chinese court has ordered Samsung Electronics's (005930.KS) mainland subsidiaries to pay 80 million yuan (\$11.60 million) to Huawei Technologies [HWT.UL] for patent infringement, the China firm's first victory against Samsung on its legal challenges over intellectual property.

Three units of Samsung have been ordered by the Quanzhou Intermediary Court to pay the sum for infringing a patent held by Huawei Device Co Limited, the handset unit of Huawei, the Quanzhou Evening News, a government-run newspaper, said on its website recently.

The verdict is the first on several lawsuits of Huawei against the South Korean technology giant. Huawei filed lawsuits against Samsung in many in courts in China and the United States - the first by it against Samsung - claiming infringements of smartphone patents. Samsung subsequently countersued Huawei in China for IP infringement.

III. NATIONAL NEWS

1. Regulator Okays commercial use of Genetically Modified (GM) mustard

As per recent report India's GM crop regulator has recommended the commercial use of genetically modified mustard in a submission to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Though a section of environment activists has long opposed the use of GM mustard, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), tasked with appraising GM crops, has given a positive recommendation to it. The GEAC, which is under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, reviewed a report of a sub-committee constituted to look at the safety angle. The Environment Ministry has to now take a final call on this. The GEAC has also put a number of conditions to the Ministry while recommending its commercial use.

The Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP), Delhi University South Campus, had submitted an application to the GEAC for the environmental release of GM mustard (*Brassica juncea*) hybrid DMH-11 and the use of parental events for the development of a new generation of hybrids.

The GEAC has also put a number of conditions to the Ministry while recommending its commercial use. The Environment Ministry had received over 700 comments from various

stakeholders, including farmers and researchers, on the Assessment of Food and Environmental Safety (AFES) report on GM Mustard, which it had earlier posted on the ministry website.

2. Innovate in India, IPR is the key

A neo-natal resuscitator that saves newborn children's lives,- an organic bio-stimulant that increases crop yields while simultaneously reducing fertiliser requirements,- a device that provides a dignified solution for bowel function to bed-ridden patients. What do they all have in common? All are Indo-American innovations that are making a difference in people's lives.

As we celebrate the 17th World Intellectual Property (IP) Day, this year's theme, 'Innovation: Improving Lives', could not be more appropriate. This was observed by MaryKay Loss Carlson the Charg'd' Affaires at the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi. She further said as under:

"With its robust economic growth, youthful population, and growing influence around the world, modern India is at a consequential moment in history. There is a growing sense that across this large, diverse country, India's innovative spirit is awakening".

"The US is proud to play a part in that awakening. The US's most innovative companies have had a strong presence in India for many years and we are seeing more innovative Indian firms invest in the US. In government, our extensive bilateral dialogues and cooperation on issues such as public health, education, cyber, and military relations reflect the goals that Washington and New Delhi share".

"One particularly noteworthy aspect of our relationship is our work together on science and technology cooperation, including through the US-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF). The fund is a joint effort between our two governments that provides grant financing, up to Rs 2.5 crore, to Indian and US innovators for jointly developed, socially relevant innovation and entrepreneurship".

"Over seven years, the programme has supported 25 projects in a variety of fields. It was this fund that provided crucial capital and support for the NeoBreathe neonatal resuscitator, Aquasap bio-stimulant, and the Qora fecal incontinence device. These and many other projects, developed jointly by innovators in India and the US, provide solutions that benefit not only the citizens of our two countries, but the global community".

3. Patent issues challenging, but India's IPR regime balanced and neutral

In an interview Monica Magnusson, Vice-President of Ericson recently observed that it is becoming increasingly challenging for Ericsson to deal with handset companies over fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms and conditions to license its standard-essential patents (SEPs) around technologies like 2G and 3G among others. She, however, said the Indian IPR regime was balanced.

She added further the current IPR policy seems very balanced and neutral and that's very positive. It is important to keep the balance between those who invest money in developing standards and those who invest money in commercialising and productising those standards. And that balance is so important that it can often be lost because of the fact that there are so few of us.

It is more challenging, and it's not as regional because the commitment is global. The players are globally active. The objective is to share the technology and to get rewarded for its use.

She further said that at Ericson, we have these commitments of licensing out patents to those who manufacture equipment. The commitment also includes us being non-discriminatory, which means we need to reach out to all players and make sure they are licensed. It's often challenging to try and talk to them. At the end of the day, the objective is to have an agreement with all of them.

It really hasn't changed so much. We recently made an announcement that we will consider a reasonable royalty for Ericsson's technology in 5G. In fact, we did the same for 4G and 3G also.

IV. IPRs AT THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

At the University, filing of applications for patents continues to receive top priority. As against six applications filed in 2015-16, 11 applications were filed during the year 2016-17. In the year 2017-18, all efforts are being made to file as many applications as possible. In the area of Designs, applications are being compiled. Progress made in these areas is presented as under:

4.1 Filing and compiling of Patent Applications

In the year 2017-18, one application for patent has already been filed. This is related to "Production of Fabrics Comprising of Certain Fibres like Girardinia, Agave, Sugarcane (Bagasse) Fibers". The invention has been made by Dr. Yogita Pandey and Dr. Manisha Gahlot of College of Home Science, Deptt. of Clothing & Textiles. Besides following applications have been processed and compiled for filing.

S.No.	Title	Inventors	College/Deptt.
1	A New Process of Iron Biofortification in Wheat through Priming of Seeds with Iron Oxide Nanoparticles	Dr. Manoj Singh, Dr. Anil Kumar	College of Basic Science & Humanities Deptt. of Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering
2	Distribution Transformer Monitoring System	Dr. Ravi Saxena, Mr. Ayush Kaushik & Mr. Atul Pant	College of Technology Deptt. of Electrical Engg.
3	Pant-Mini Plant Propagator (PMPP)	Mr. Khajan Singh Bisht	Deptt. of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture
4	Pant High Fibre Soup Sticks	Ms. Shweta Suri & Dr. Anuradha Dutta	Deptt. of Foods & Nutrition, College of Home Sciecnce
5	Pant Interculture and Mulching machine for Sugarcane	Dr. R.N. Pateriya, Mr. Himanshu Adhikari, Dr. T.K. Bhattacharya & Dr. D.S. Pandey	College of Technology/ College of Agriculture, Deptt. of Farm Machinery & Power Engg./ Agronomy

In the area of Industrial Designs, six applications have been developed by Ms. Anuradha Arya and Dr. Manisha Gahlot of the College of Home Science. These have been processed and compiled for filing with the Intellectual Property Office at Kolkata.

Dr. J. Kumar
Patron-Vice Chancellor

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