



Intellectual Property and Publicly-funded Agricultural Research: Strategic Importance of Technological Innovation for Businesses in the Agro-Foods Sector

By

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agro-foods industries

organized by

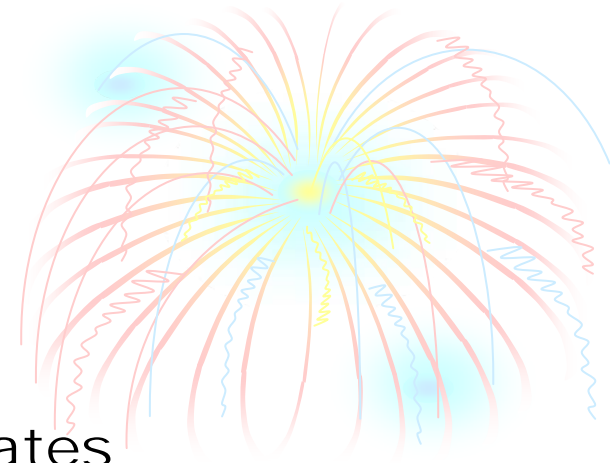
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Introduction



- Publicly funded Agri. research generates technologies that may meet the needs of the Agro-Food Sector and strengths business
- IP plays an essential role in stimulating inventive and innovative activities in the sector
- Purpose of presentation is to highlight the:
 - ✓ significance and status of publicly funded agri. research in LDCs,
 - ✓ use of IP in protecting and exploiting inventions and innovations,
 - ✓ the challenges faced, and
 - ✓ the steps that should be taken.

What is Intellectual Property?



- Relates to a right over the creations of the mind, granted by law for limited period of time
- Similarities and differences with movable or immovable property
- IP essential to promote creativity, inventive and innovative activities as well as facilitate exploitation of IP Assets

What is publicly funded agricultural research?



- Is a research made using public resources
- Research conducted mainly by Public Research institutions
- No or weak Private sector involvement in Agricultural research in LDCs
- LDcs have established institutions and supporting Agricultural research

Reasons for publicly funded agricultural research



- meet broad social and economic objectives such as food security-
FAO report 1996-more than 800 million people lack enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs and about 400,000 people die due to malnutrition daily
- adapt foreign technologies
- Address needs in areas where foreign R&D institutions have no or little interest etc.;

Impact of Publicly funded Agricultural Research in LDcs



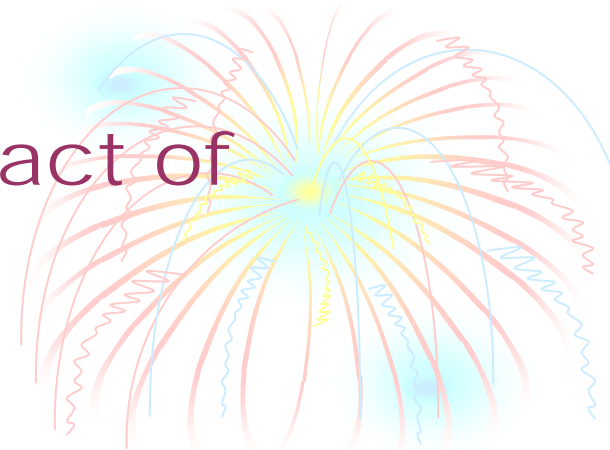
- There are research results that are developed and disseminated for use
- Majority of the research results are shelved
- Impact is negligible-
 - ✓ the Agricultural sector is characterised by low productivity,
 - ✓ Countries are food insecure and depend on food aid
 - ✓ Depend on technologies and variates generated from abroad etc.,

Reasons for Inadequate impact of publicly funded research



- Inadequate capacity to generate research results-
 - inadequate budget
 - Inadequate Scientific manpower- difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified MP
 - Weak R&D infrastructure
 - Lack of R&D Support service- example patent information service
- Lack of incentive scheme to stimulate researchers except academic promotion which is obtained by number of publications instead of tangible contributions to socio-economic development
- Absence of or inadequate information exchange and coordination between research institutions to optimally use limited facilities and deal with resource constraints
- Duplication of effort and wastage of scarce resources

Reasons for Inadequate impact of publicly funded research



- Inadequate dissemination and exploitation of research results
 - Lack of policy direction- No National and Institutional IP policies
 - Absence of IP management unit or technology transfer offices
 - wrong attitude of considering research results as public good
 - Lack of innovation support service such as technology incubation centers, startup and spinout companies etc.;
 - Lack of or inadequate access to finance-cost of commercialization and dissemination of IPAs etc.;

Measures that should be taken



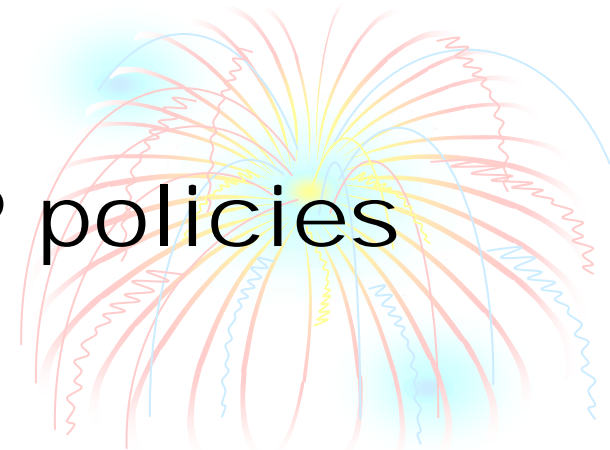
- Need to deal with the challenges in a holistic manner
- Subsequent power points limited to the steps that should be taken in the field of IP. There is need to:
 - ✓ Issue and implement National IP and Institutional Policies
 - ✓ Set up IP Management unit or TTO
 - ✓ establish and Provide for R&D support service- Patent information service

National & Institutional IP policies



- Help to integrate IP in to National development policies and strategies
- Guide, support & Promote creativity, inventive and innovative activities ex-Promote demand driven and contract research
- Clarify issues such as
 - ✓ ownership of publicly funded research results,
 - ✓ revenue distribution
 - ✓ disclosures and protection of IP Assets etc.;
- Prevent loss and misappropriation of IP assets

National & Institutional IP policies



- enhance collaboration with other R& D institutions as well as linkage between R&D institutes and the productive sector
- Build IP asset protection, management and exploitation of IP Assets
- Facilitates technology transfer
- improve the income of R&D institutes and lessen the burden on government budget etc.;
- Promote private sector participation in financing commercialization

IP Management Units/TTOs



- Identifies, Manages the protection and exploitation of research results made by publicly funded institutions
 - ✓ identifies the appropriate IP tool
 - ✓ prepare and process IP applications
 - ✓ Manages IP titles
- Implements or follow up the implementation of the Intellectual property policy of the research institute such as
 - ✓ rights and obligations of the researcher and the institute
 - ✓ Confidentiality
- Markets IP assets such as through licensing arrangement etc.;

R&D Support Service centers

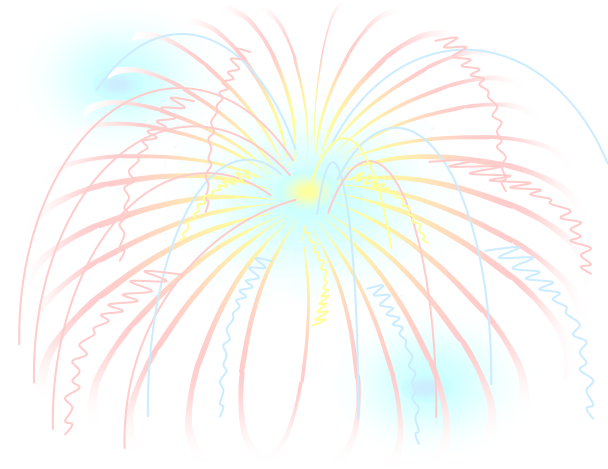


- Limited to Patent information Service
- PDs valuable sources of information
 - ✓ Not divulged and recent (2/3 never disclosed)
 - ✓ Complete and practical (Include prior art & ways of practical application
 - ✓ Immense but easily accessible etc.;
- Info. helps to:
 - ✓ Avoid reorienting the wheel-
 - ✓ Keep abreast with new developments
 - ✓ reorient Innovative or R&D effort etc.;

Conclusion

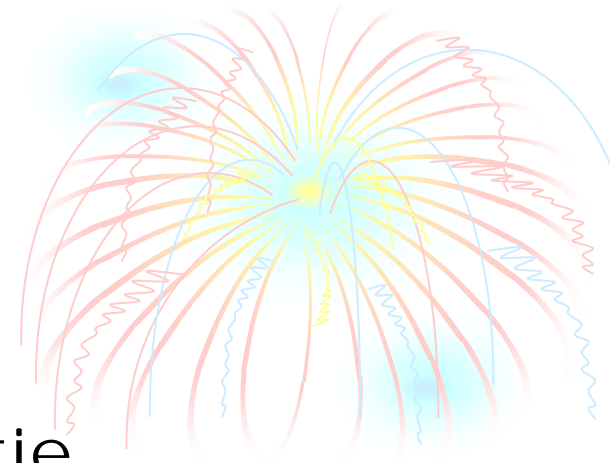


- LDCs can not afford the conduct of research for the sake of research or the shelving of research results
- Need to address the challenges faced by the publicly funded Agricultural research institutions
- Need to put in place an IP policy and institutional frame work
- Evaluate and review the impact of the IP instruments and update them to meet new needs and address new challenges
- Maintain and Update IP and research results data base



- Thank you very much for your attention!!

Contact Address



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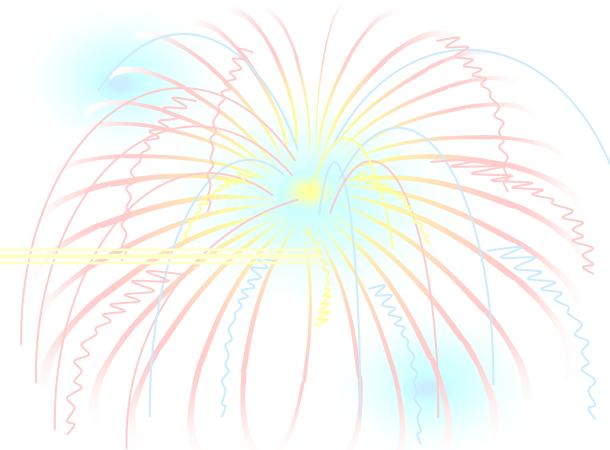
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Conclusion



- TMs, CMs, CMS and GIs will help to create wealth and improve competitive position of businesses in least developed countries
- Need to:
 - ✓ identify and use appropriate IP tool and complement it with relevant business and marketing strategies
 - ✓ build capacity to identify, protect, manage and exploit IP assets