

Food, Biotechnology and Agriculture

Course outline

Professor Michael Blakeney
University of Western Australia
michael.blakeney@uwa.edu.au

Lecture Schedule - Introduction

1. Food Security

- Definition of food security
- Political responses
- The right to food
- Sustainable development

2. Food Loss and Waste

- Definitions
- Metrics
- Minimising FLW

Biotechnology and patenting

3. Plants, Plant Breeding and Biotechnology

- WTO TRIPS Agreement
- Invention and genetic engineering
- Myriad Genetics litigation
- Genetic modification and patenting

4. Biotechnological patenting and climate change

- Climate change
- Climate-ready patents
- GM and negligence
- GM crops in developing countries

5. GM Agriculture

- Food from GE agriculture-should we worry?
- EU legislation
- Genome editing - CRISPR

Plant Breeding

6. Plant Variety Rights

- The UPOV Convention, 1991 Act
- Regional Arrangements (eg CPVR)
- National Legislation
- Patenting of plant breeding methods

Biopiracy and access to genetic resources

7. Biopiracy Case Studies

- Plant breeding
- Biodiversity
- Biopiracy
- Case studies
- Role of patents in biopiracy

8. Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- The Bonn Guidelines
- The Nagoya Protocol

Geographical indications

9.1 Introduction to GIs

- What are GIs
- History of GIs
- GIs and Trademarks
- International Protection of GIs
- Protection of GIs in Europe
- Australia and USA v EU in the WTO

9.2 EU GIs project

9.3 Protection of GIs in Europe

- EU trade in GIs products
- EU legislation
- Infringement
- Traditional Specialities Guaranteed
- Proposed extension of EU law to handicrafts

9.4 EU Agricultural Policy and GIs

- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- Regulation 1308/2013
- New World v Old World

Food Safety

10.1 Biosafety -The Cartagena Protocol

10.2 Food Safety and the Precautionary Principle

- Starlink Corn
- Food Scares
- EU-Framework Legislation Feed and Food Safety

10.3 Labelling of GMOs

- EU legislation
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- GM labelling

WTO Agreements and Food

11. SPS and TBT Agreements

- Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement
- Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement

Enforcement

12 Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Field of Agriculture

- WTO TRIPS Agreement
- EU Draft Criminal Enforcement Directive
- EU Civil Enforcement Directive
- EU Customs Regulation

Exam

- The exam will be held in the last class of the course.
- A question will be distributed in the penultimate class.
- Your answers will be written in the final class.
- I will assess these exams.
- For students unable or unwilling to sit the exam in the final class, further exams will be organised by the faculty. A question paper will be provided and examined on the scheduled dates and will be assessed by me.

TEXTBOOK(S) & RESOURCES

No Required Text – course materials have been provided.

On-line Materials

International Organisations

- Convention on Biological Diversity www.cbd.int
- Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) www.fao.int
- United States Patent And Trade Mark Office:
www.uspto.gov/
- World Health Organization: www.who.org/
- World Intellectual Property Organisation: www.wipo.org/
- World Trade Organisation Intellectual Property Page:
www.wto.org/wto/intellect/intellect.htm

Questions?