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OREVADO receives study visit from CarIPI

The visit of representatives of the European Union is a recognition of the work of the Dominican Republic in terms of plant variety protection. OREVADO is the first and only plant variety protection office in the Caribbean.

SANTO DOMINGO, R.D.- The Office of Plant Variety Registration and Protection of Breeders' Rights (OREVADO), of the Ministry of Agriculture, received a visit by the CARIFORUM project on intellectual property rights and innovation (CarIPI), funded by the European Fund for Development and implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). On 19-20 May, CarIPI, the European Union's Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) organised a seminar on regional cooperation in plant variety protection in the Dominican Republic. Decision makers from agricultural ministries, IP offices and EPA coordinators attended the event.

Representatives of the aforementioned offices also visited the facilities of the Dominican Institute for Agriculture and Forestry Research, Bio-Arroz and fertiliser supplier company FERSAN. The aim was to create awareness of the importance of plant variety protection to promote plant-breeding activities in the Caribbean region and the need for efficient systems to grant plant variety protection.

Participants were able to discuss intensified cooperation in the CARIFORUM region in the field of PVP based on the feedback received on the policy paper jointly prepared by CarIPI, CPVO and UPOV, and learn from the results and experience of implementing PVR systems in the Dominican Republic and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

"In our country, the president is very interested in generating income through the agricultural sector, and at the local UPOV office (OREVADO), we are already registering top varieties." said Rafael Ortiz Quezada, Vice Minister of Scientific and Technological Affairs of the Dominican Republic.

The Vice Minister also highlighted the need for more human resources and exchanges among the Caribbean countries to strengthen the region.

Ambassador of the EU to the Dominican Republic, Katja Afheldt, highlighted that the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the CARIFORUM countries and the EU was designed not only for bilateral trade, but also as a development and promotion component of regional integration among the Caribbean countries.

During the event, CarIPI and EUIPO representatives also participated in delivering new plant variety protection certificates by OREVADO to:

- Seed producer Quisqueya (PROSEQUISA) - Arroz PAVA HSIEH and arroz QUISQUEYA;
- Ministry of Agriculture - Arroz LRC JUMA 6920;



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- Fertiliser supplier (FERSAN) - Arroz SABINA FL;
- United States represented by the Secretary of Agriculture - Frambuesa KOKANEE;
- Rijk Zwaan Zaadteelt - Tomate KIVU;
- William González, Cibao Seed Consortium - Arroz Yi-8 and arroz BANEQUE SSL;
- Florida Foundation Seed Producer, Inc - Fresa FL 12 121 5.

Because of this, these new plant variety producers will have reinforced protection for their products, both nationally and internationally.

Moreover, representatives of the intellectual property offices of Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines took advantage of this opportunity to participate in training sessions and study visits with OREVADO. The Dominican Republic is a pioneer in this field, as it is the first country in the Caribbean region to have a plant variety registration system. In fact, CarIPI supported its launch in 2020 and now the Dominican Republic is the only country in the region in a position to receive process and register applications for varieties of plants and seeds at the national and international level, through the PVR at the OREVADO offices. The PVR system complies with provisions of the UPOV, national legislation and other international organisations.

'We are pleased to know that CarIPI is part of the progress that the Dominican Republic has made in the area of plant variety protection. We will continue working together, as with the rest of the Caribbean countries that intend to follow the same steps, promoting intellectual property in the region', added Ignacio de Medrano, Head of the International Cooperation Service of the EUIPO.

Review

In 2007, the Dominican Republic signed the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties and subsequently approved the Plant Variety Registration Law (PVR). In February 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture launched the cooperation initiative with CarIPI, a regional CARIFORUM project, financed by the European Development Fund and managed by the EUIPO to deliver the processes, forms and procedures, as well as training personnel.

Thanks to this initiative, the country now provides a new tool for users, companies and producers to efficiently register the varieties of plants and seeds they produce and will later commercialise.

The intellectual property provisions for the protection of new plant varieties produced by breeders in the Dominican Republic originate with the issuance of Law 450 of 2006, which followed the guidelines of the UPOV, in accordance with the standards enshrined in the 1991 Act.

The creation of OREVADO, within the Ministry of Agriculture as the Competent National Authority, is highlighted in the standards. OREVADO officially opened on 29 March 2019.

The Dominican Republic approved the UPOV on 2 December 1961. It was revised in Geneva on 10 November 1972, 23 October 1978 and 19 March 1991.

The country joined the UPOV 1991 Act Agreement on 16 May 2007. This agreement establishes obligations for member countries that must provide a mandatory minimum protection for plant varieties.



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Law 450 on the Protection of the Rights of the Breeders of Plant Varieties was issued in 2006 and then regulated by the Decree 108 of 2015, only nine years later.

About CARIPI

CARIPI is a CARIFORUM regional cooperation project financed by the European Development Fund and implemented by the EUIPO. It was created to strengthen the intellectual property rights environment in the Caribbean as a means of promoting trade and investment, and stimulating innovation and competitiveness in the private sector.

Innovation and creativity are the core drivers of sustainable economic development, and intellectual property rights are the key tools to generate value from intangible assets.

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