



Intellectual property rights and human rights

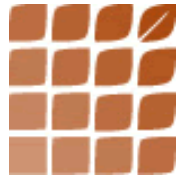
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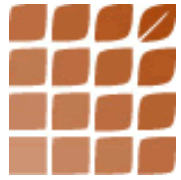
Thursday 13th March, 1.45 - 3 pm, Room XXVII, Palais
des Nations, Geneva

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Relationship between IPRs and human rights

1. Impacts of intellectual property rights on the realisation of human rights
2. Human right claims over knowledge otherwise protected by intellectual property rights
3. ‘Other’ knowledge (local knowledge, farmer knowledge, ‘traditional’ knowledge) protection through human rights



Impacts of IPRs in agriculture on the realisation of human rights

- Restrictions on knowledge (monopoly) restricts free flows (open access).
- IPRs in agriculture impact control and use of seed (even in most countries where seed itself is not protected)
- IPRs in agriculture foster commercialisation of agriculture, monocultures and cash crops



IPR-related strategies

- Participation in IP-related policy processes leading to development new IP standards
- Lobby for containing IPRs in cases where affect human rights (food, health)
- Challenge the increasing commodification of knowledge



Human right focused strategies

- Actively participate in debates over interpretation of Article 15(1)a ICESCR and ensure Article 15(1) interpreted as a single provision.
- Ensure that seemingly unavoidable increase in commodification of knowledge used to ensure realisation of weakest, poorest (Art. 31 Indigenous People Declaration, Farmers' rights etc)