



DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA  
NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY



Visakhapatnam

# NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) AND PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION – ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

8th September, 2018.

In Association With



DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, VISAKHAPATNAM

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) AND PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION – ISSUES  
AND CHALLENGES

**About DSNLU:**

With growing importance for quality legal education, various national law schools acquired lot of importance. To meet the requirements of students of this State, the Government of Andhra Pradesh decided to establish a new Law University. Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU), was established by the Government of Andhra Pradesh vide DSNLU Act, 2008 at Visakhapatnam to impart quality legal education, is recognised u/s 2 (f) of UGC Act, 1956 and the BCI. Its mission is to design and deliver legal education, promote academic achievement and excellence in legal research. The University offers a 5 year integrated B.A. LL.B. (Hons) Degree and a one year LL.M. (Tax Laws) degree. The University has MOUs for student exchange programs with other National Law Universities at Bangalore, Kolkata, Patna and Patiala. Additionally, University has an MOU with ICADR; and is a deemed Study Centre by the IGNOU.

**About the Symposium:**

Intellectual property rights (IPRs) are legal rights established over creative or inventive ideas. IPRs are broadly divided into copyrights, trademarks, designs, patents, geographical indications (GI), plant variety protection and semi-conductor layout design protection. These IPRs generally allow the right holders to exclude the unauthorized commercial use of their creations/inventions by third persons. The rationale for the establishment of a legal framework on IPRs is that it ensures rewards and incentives to creative and inventive ideas.

Several of the IPRs mentioned above are relevant to the agricultural sector in that they can be used to protect goods or services produced in that sector. These are mainly patents, plant breeders' rights and geographical indications. Geographical Indication (GI) as the name implies, is an indication, in the form of name or sign, used on the goods that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to the place of origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place. In

addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin. Since the qualities depend on the geographical place of production, there is a clear link between the product and its original place of production. A geographical indication right enables those who have the right to use the indication to prevent its use by a third party whose product does not conform to the applicable standards.

After GI, another significant IPR that is plant variety protection law, because the importance of farmers cannot be undermined in any country in general, and in developing countries in special, as they need special protection due to their dependence on farming for their survival. In developing countries like India, farming is not yet an industrial activity, neither the farm produces just commodities. The farmers always had several problems connected with their profession. But, they had lot of freedoms such as the control over the seeds as to how to use them, to exchange them with other farmers, to save and re-use them. In all the phases of the Indian history where farmers had to face torture in the hands of the ruling class also, the tax collectors' eyes were on the farm produce and not on the seeds. This was because the seeds were not of any economic value. With the advent of the new intellectual property right (IPR) called the plant breeders rights (PBR); there emerged new problems for the farmers, and thus the need for new solutions. In fact, with the emergence of this new IPR, the farmers were compelled to defend themselves in order to continue their freedoms as before. So, there were attempts in the international level which had its impact in the national levels as well.

This symposium aims to discuss and deliberate various aspects aimed at protection, promotion of Geographical Indicators and the potential areas of threat to farmers' sovereignty (in their profession), due to the advent of plant breeders rights will be discussed.

### **Themes of the Symposium:**

- Building Brands through Geographical Indications : Legal and Regulatory aspects
- GI and Rural Development
- Multilateral Register (MR) for GI
- GI as a tool for Protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) : Meeting Points and Conflicts
- GI and Consumer Protection
- GI based on Appellation of origin/ Indication of Source

- Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPVFRA) and Farmers' Rights and Plant Breeders' Rights- Areas of Conflict and need for balance.
- Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)- The background of Plant Breeders Rights (PBR)
- International Convention for the Protection of Plant Varieties (UPOV) 1991- The nature and scope of Plant Breeders Rights (PBR)
- Access to the Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) and Traditional Knowledge (TK) of the farmers- the rights recognized by Convention on Bio-diversity (CBD)
- Farmers' Right to use and re-use the Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) of plant breeders Problems in the context of Biotechnology

The above themes are illustrative and not exhaustive. The participants are free to submit a paper on any issue related to Seminar theme.

### **Target Group/Eligibility:**

We invite papers from the members of corporate community, government officials, academicians, advocates, NGOs, researcher scholars and the students.

### **Submission Guidelines:**

- ❖ The word limit for abstract is 300-500 words in Times New Roman, 12 font size, 1.5 spacing.
- ❖ The abstract must be accompanied with biographical details of author(s) along with the title of the paper (Name, Designation, Institutional affiliation, contact no. and email address).
- ❖ The abstract must be submitted on or before 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.
- ❖ The selection of abstracts would be intimated on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- ❖ The registration for the symposium shall be done after the selection of abstract.
- ❖ The full paper should be of 3000-5000 words (exclusive of footnotes) and needs to be submitted on or before 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2018.
- ❖ The body of the submission must be in Times New Roman, 12 font size and 1.5 spacing.
- ❖ The footnotes must be in Times New Roman, 10 font size and single spacing.
- ❖ The margin of 1 inch on all sides must be maintained throughout the paper.
- ❖ The OSCOLA (4<sup>th</sup> edn.) style of citation must be strictly followed.

- ❖ All submissions should be sent in .doc/.docx format only.
- ❖ Any non-compliance with the prescribed guidelines would lead to prima facie rejection.
- ❖ Co-authorship up to two authors is allowed.
- ❖ No part of the paper should have been published earlier nor should it be under consideration for publication.
- ❖ All the submissions should be sent through e-mail to [solt@dsnlu.ac.in](mailto:solt@dsnlu.ac.in)
- ❖ Selected few papers will be published in a book with an ISBN number.

### **Venue:**

University Seminar Hall, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Nyayapratha, Sabbavaram, Visakhapatnam – 531035.

### **Travel and Hospitality:**

Accommodation will be provided by the organisers upon request by the paper presenters during the registration. The accommodation will be provided at an additional charge of Rs.500/- per day per head. The university would arrange the transportation from accommodation to the venue and back to the accommodation.

### **Registration Fee:**

- Research Scholars and students: Rs 500/-
- Academicians: Rs. 1000/-
- Others: Rs. 1500/-
- Institutions: Rs. 2500/-

Each of the co-authors needs to register separately.

### **Important Dates:**

- Deadline for Abstract Submission: 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.
- Intimidation of Selection of Abstract: 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.
- Deadline for Full Paper Submission: 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2018.
- Date of Symposium: 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.

## **Organising Committee:**

### **Patron:**

Prof. (Dr.) V. Kesava Rao  
Vice Chancellor (I/c)

### **Convenor**

Prof. (Dr.) Anita Rao  
Adjunct Professor

### **Co - Convenor**

Dr. P. Sree Sudha  
Associate Professor

### **Student Members**

Prasuna Sreerangam

K. Siva Rama Raju

Syed Owais Talib

Shaik Khaja Basha

### **Contact Details**

Prasuna Sreerangam - +91-9160740615

K. Siva Rama Raju - +91-8500118765

Mail us - [solt@dsnlu.ac.in](mailto:solt@dsnlu.ac.in)