The book under review seeks to provide a fundamental understanding of one of the most hotly-debated topics at International level – “Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and Food Security” in all its aspects. The book offers a well-researched defence and examines the tasks including the international bond linking IPRs, agricultural biotechnology, and access to biological resources, food security and globalization, paying meticulous attention to suggestions for the protection of Farmers’ Rights, traditional knowledge, GM crops and the impact of competition laws. It advises a number of proposals for action in installing IPRs in order to reach greater food security internationally.


Hunger is a weighty outrage to human dignity and human rights. It is an elementary limitation to progress, flues disagreement and fault, diminishes output and shortens the life span. At the inception of the Green Revolution, no deliberations had taken place regarding part which IP might play in agricultural modernization. It was largely, the advancement of the new biotechnology foundation upon genetic engineering which impetuous IP into the food security arena. Threading together of issues like Sustainable Agriculture, Effect of Trade specially Agreement on Agriculture, SPS Agreement, WTO Agreement on TBT, Agreement of TRIPS and others initiate on Food security and thereby locate the IPR within the bounce of food security strategies.

The debate on agriculture-proper subject for IP Protection considered the principle categories of IP that are pertinent to food security specifically PVRs, patents, industrial designs, trademarks, GIs, confidential information, copyright and database rights. The international setting of Intellectual Property and the looms taken to the affiliation among IPR, agricultural biotechnology, access to biological resources, food security and globalization, that are managed by the WTO, FAO, CBD and WIPO among the diverse international and development groups highlighted.

The account on the effectiveness of PVRs in context of Food Security is traced from historical growth of UPOV to Plant Variety Protection under the Paris Convention to TRIPS Agreement. It is noteworthy “No country has so far initiated food security concerns as an issue in applying PVR protection”. TRIPS Article 27.3(b) and its relationship to the CBD, PVR in developing countries and IP defence of plants and seeds in developing countries is very critical. The major impact upon food security is the way in which IP rights limit access to genetic resources. Thus, the international initiative and regime ranging from CBD to Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources to secure the access of genetic resources has become very significant in this regard.

The imperative responsibility of traditional farmers in preserving landraces and cultivars from which improvement can be derived call for the recognition of farmer’s rights and the stir for the defence of the traditional knowledge which often provides access to the useful genetic resources. Farmers Rights range from Resolution of the 1989 FAO Conference to OAU Model Legislation. The International Proposals for the defence of TK, CBD, TRIPS, and Regional and National Agreement for the Protection of TK along with the issues of Remuneration of Farmers and TK Owners has filament together outstandingly.

The defence of genetically modified (GM) crops is accomplished through patent protection, Bio-safety Legislation of various jurisdictions with special reference to environmental effects, economic effects, and morality issues under GM crops with the NGO agitation and international efforts. Thus, scrutinizes the intellectual property insinuations in deploying GM crops as a technological way out to Food insecurity. Further it’s noteworthy that Geographical Indication (GI) plays an important role in the rejuvenation of the countryside since it guarantees that agri-foodstuffs are produced in a way that safeguards local plant varieties, rewards local people, ropes rural diversity and social cohesion, and encourages new job opportunities in production, processing and other related services.

The implication of competition law on IPR (patent licensing, patent pools and patent thickets) under Food Security is very interesting. IP Law catalyzes & incentivizes innovation in Agricultural by promoting research and projects. Agricultural research plays a significant role in ameliorating food insecurity. The consequences of the Green Revolution & Public-Private Collaboration for Agricultural research have been very crucial.

The last chapter “Assessment of the Relationship between IPR and Food Security”, forwards a catena of suggestions for action in installing intellectual property law in the battle for food security. It is noteworthy that the recommendation ranges from policy capacity building to Establishment of a world Agriculture Organization.

The Michael Blakene’s work on the highly controversial topic of Intellectual Property Rights and Food Security is certainly a significant contribution in International Intellectual Property Regime. His critical assessment of various International Agreements, Treaty, Convention and Municipal legislation of different Jurisdictions and the Supreme Court decisions relating to Intellectual Property Rights and Food Security is worth appreciation. He supported the legitimacy of Intellectual Property Rights throughout the work, though he argued the justifications for legitimacy of Intellectual Property Rights in battle for food security specifically in the last chapter. This great work is certainly an impressive scholastic piece and recommended for dynamic intellectual exercise.
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