



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

### Biographies of the Speakers of the Symposium

Symposium on Possible Interrelations between the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV Convention)

**Mr. Peter Button**, Vice Secretary-General, UPOV

**Mr Kent Nnadozie**, Secretary *ad interim* of the ITPGRFA

**Ms. Szonja Csörgő**, Director, Intellectual Property and Legal Affairs, European Seed Association (ESA), Belgium

**Mr. Bryan Harvey**, Professor Emeritus, Plant Sciences Department, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

**Mr. Bram de Jonge**, Seed Policy Officer, Oxfam Novib, Netherlands

**Ms. Sangeeta Shashikant**, Legal Advisor, Third World Network International Secretariat, Malaysia

**Mr. Stephen Smith**, Professor in Agronomy, Iowa State University, United States of America

**Mr. Raimundo Lavignolle**, President, Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE, Argentina)

**Mr. Anthony Parker**, Commissioner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canada

**Ms. Päivi Mannerkorpi**, Head of Sector – Unit E2, Plant Reproductive Material, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANCO), European Commission

**Mr. Simon Maina**, Head, Seed Certification and Plant Variety Protection, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Kenya

**Ms. Svahild-Isabelle Batta Torheim**, Senior Advisor, Department of Forest and Natural Resource Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell**, Head of Varieties and Seeds Policy, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom



**Peter BUTTON**

Mr. Peter Button was appointed Vice Secretary-General of UPOV on December 1, 2010, having previously held the role of Technical Director at UPOV since 2000.

Mr. Button, a national of the United Kingdom, holds a B.Sc. Honors degree in Biological Sciences. From 1981 to 1987 he worked for Twyford Seeds Ltd., a UK plant breeding company, in the development of new cereal varieties. Between 1987 and 1994 he was the General Manager of Twygen Ltd., a company which developed micropropagation systems for the commercial production of seed potatoes and soft fruit stocks. He continued in the role of General Manager of GenTech Propagation Ltd., following the change of ownership and company name in 1994. In 1996, Mr. Button joined the British Society of Plant Breeders Ltd. (BSPB) as Technical Liaison Manager, where his responsibilities included the operation of officially licensed variety trials. In 1998, he became Technical Liaison Officer for the UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Plant Variety and Seeds Division), where he was responsible for the operation of the tests and trials associated with the UK Plant Breeders' Rights and National List schemes and Seed Certification in England and Wales, and was the United Kingdom representative in the UPOV Technical Committee.



### **KENT NNADOZIE**

Mr Kent Nnadozie is the Secretary, *ad interim*, of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. A lawyer by training, Mr Nnadozie holds a Doctor of Civil Law (PhD) degree from the McGill University, Montreal, Canada with a focus on the international relations and international legal systemic issues regarding genetic resources. Mr Nnadozie also has a Master degree in Business Administration (MBA).

During the last ten years, he has had extensive experience working for FAO on legal and policy matters and procedures, with the International Treaty, and the Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Prior to his appointment as Secretary, *a.i.*, he was the Senior Officer of the Treaty, coordinating various technical areas of the Programme of Work of the Secretariat and promoting closer cooperation and synergies with international organizations, especially the biodiversity-related Conventions.

Before joining FAO, Mr Nnadozie was in private legal practice and also consulted widely for various international organisations, non-governmental organizations and other institutions on environmental law, as well as policy and legal issues in agriculture and has extensive practical experience working with related international processes and legal instruments, including legal drafting, implementation, legal support, research and analysis.



## **SZONJA CSÖRGŐ**

Director Intellectual Property and Legal Affairs, European Seed Association (ESA)

Szonja is Hungarian and holds a degree in law from ELTE Budapest University, an MA in French and European Law from Panthéon-Assas University (Paris) and an L.L.M. in IP and Competition Law from the University of Liège (Belgium). Before joining ESA she worked at the Budapest office of an international law firm and at the European Commission. In 2009 she became ESA's Manager Intellectual Property and Legal Affairs. Within ESA she is primarily responsible for issues related to intellectual property protection and plant genetic resources and also handles all seed legislation related legal questions. She represents ESA towards relevant international organizations and European Institutions.



### **BRYAN HARVEY**

Bryan Harvey is an internationally recognized scholar, scientist, administrator and public servant. He has taught classes in plant sciences, genetics and plant breeding at the diploma, baccalaureate and postgraduate levels. He has a special interest in curriculum development and teacher evaluation and has served on numerous committees in these areas. He developed the Accreditation regime for programs in Agrology managed by the Agricultural Institute of Canada and is Director of Accreditation for that organization. He has participated in accreditation reviews of programs at all of Canada's Agricultural Universities as well as outside Canada.

As a scientist he has published over 150 technical articles including books, book chapters, refereed journal articles, conference proceedings and technical reports. He is the breeder or co-breeder of over 60 varieties of barley. A number of these have played a dominant role in the industry in Canada and abroad. The most famous of these is Harrington which set an international standard for malting and brewing quality which is still targeted over 30 years after its release. This has resulted in billions of dollars for the Canadian economy and made Canada a major player in the export of malt and malting barley. Other varieties of note include Stein which in many years exceeded Harrington in exports to China. Manley noted for its very high enzymatic activity and excellent disease resistance thus used as a parent for a number of other varieties. CDC Kendall very popular in Japan and the base variety for Polarstar. CDC Copeland an excellent field performer and a good fit for all-malt beers and craft brewing.

As an administrator he has headed the largest research department at the University of Saskatchewan and helped to forge it into a centre of excellence in grain breeding. He was later responsible for agricultural research, university wide in 17 departments in 6 colleges. The culmination of his research administration was as Vice President Research at the University of Saskatchewan. During his term in that office he co-authored the University's strategic plan for research intensiveness. He has served on numerous grant review panels and reviewed research programs for provincial governments, federal governments and universities in Canada and abroad.

As a public servant he has served on numerous committees, executives and boards of professional, scientific, industry and civil society organizations. Examples include President Agricultural Institute of Canada, Vice President Canadian Agrifood Research Council, District Governor Master Brewers Association of the Americas, Chairman Canada Committee on Crops, Chairman Minister's Advisory Committee on Plant Breeder's Rights, Member Biodiversity Advisory Committee,

In addition to his work in plant breeding he has had a special interest in germplasm conservation and utilization and has served on many committees in this field. He chaired the Canadian Expert Committee on Plant and Microbial Genetic Resources. He represented Canada on the USA National Committee on Plant Genetic Resources. He served on the Advisory Committee for the Station which houses Canada's Genebank. He has chaired Canada's Advisory Committee on Variety Registration and the Minister's Advisory Committee on Plant Breeders Rights. He Received the Crop Science Society of America President's

Award in recognition of his work in genetic resource conservation. He has represented the seed sector on Canada's delegations to negotiate the Convention on Biological Diversity and subsequent COP's of that Treaty. He also played this role in negotiating the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. He presided over the meeting of the Interim Governing Body of that Treaty, unusual for a non government employee. He also served as Vice President and chair of WGII at the First meeting of the Governing Body.

He has served on more than 30 Boards including the Chair of the Board of Trustees of IITA, Ibadan , Nigeria and Chair of the CGIAR Alliance.

Dr. Harvey's contributions have been recognized by a number of awards. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, the highest civilian award for Canadians. He is also a member of The Saskatchewan Order of Merit. The highest honor granted by the Government of Saskatchewan. He has received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal. He has been inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame. He is a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Saskatchewan, Alberta and Canadian Seed Growers Associations and received their highest award the Clarke-Newman-Clayton Award. He received the University of Saskatchewan's Alumni Achievement Award their highest award. He also received a Presidents' Award from the Crop Science Society of America one of only two given each year. He also received a number of recognition awards for his contributions to the seed, brewing and grain industries.



## **BRAM DE JONGE**

Bram De Jonge is seed policy advisor at Oxfam Novib, the Netherlands, where is involved in the Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security program ([www.sdhsprogram.org](http://www.sdhsprogram.org)). He is also a researcher at the Law & Governance Group of Wageningen University, specialised in the fields of Intellectual Property Rights, Access and Benefit-Sharing and Seed Laws (<http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Persons/Bram-de-Jonge.htm>), and involved in the Integrated Seed Sector Development Africa (ISSD Africa) program (<http://www.issdseed.org/>).



### **SANGEETA SHASHIKANT**

Sangeeta Shashikant is a legal and policy advisor for Third World Network, a research and advocacy organization. She obtained her Masters in Laws from the University College London in 2003 and her Bachelors in Laws, from the University of Malaya in 1999. She was elected as the President of the Board of Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES) in 2013 till to-date. She also writes for the South-North Development Monitor (SUNS).

Sangeeta Shashikant has extensive experience in research and advocacy on intellectual property and public policy matters. She has authored and contributed towards several publications including on Farmers' Rights and plant variety protection such as

- International Contradictions on Farmers' Rights: the interrelations between the international treaty, its Article 9 on Farmers' rights and Relevant Instruments of UPOV and WIPO, Third World Network and Berne Declaration, 2015 (in collaboration with Francois Meienberg)
- Plant Variety Protection in Developing Countries: A Tool for Designing a Sui Generis Plant Variety Protection System: An Alternative to UPOV 1991, APBREBES, 2015 (in collaboration with Carlos Correa and Francois Meienberg)
- Farmers' Right to Participate in Decision-making – implementing Article 9.2 (c) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Working Paper, APBREBES, September 2016 (in collaboration with Chee Yoke Ling, Barbara Adams and Laurent Gaberell)



**STEPHEN C. SMITH**

Affiliate Professor in Agronomy, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA.

Dr. Stephen Smith (B.Sc. University of London), M.Sc. (Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources) and Ph.D. (Evolution of Maize), University of Birmingham (England), began his research on the evolution of maize at the University of Birmingham U.K. and North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC, USA. He was a research employed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, then DuPont-Pioneer from 1980-2015 after which he took up academic pursuits at Iowa State University. In 2014 he received the Henry A. Wallace award for research and in 2015 the Lavoisier Award from DuPont. He continues to chair the IP committee of the International Seed Federation (ISF). He is a Fellow of the Crop Science Society of America and chaired the genetic resources division. Dr. Smith has served as a Board member of Bioversity International (previously the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute) of the CGIAR and Board President of the National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders. He currently serves on the US National Genetic Resources Advisory Council and in this role advises the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture on genetic resource issues. Dr. Smith secured a \$1m contribution to the Global Crop Diversity Trust soon after its inception and was instrumental in achieving U.S. support for the FAO Global Plan of Action in 1996 at Leipzig and U.S. ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 2016. He has published more than 100 peer reviewed scientific papers including on genetic resources and intellectual property protection.



### **RAIMUNDO LAVIGNOLLE**

Mr. Lavignolle is an agronomic engineer and has postgraduate studies in intellectual property rights and new technologies. He started his career as assistant of the seed testing laboratory of Northup King Seeds Argentina in 1983, running seed quality tests, mainly germination and vigor tests; whilst studying at the University of Buenos Aires. In 1990 entered as a staff of the Central Laboratory of Seed Testing, of the National Institute of Seeds (INASE), Argentina. At the end of that year, Mr. Lavignolle moved to become an examiner of applications for national list and plant breeder's rights of the Plant Variety Register of the INASE. In 1993, he became the director of the Plant Variety Register, responsible for the National Catalogue of Plant Varieties: i.e. the national list of varieties as well as for the granting of plant breeder's rights in Argentina. Since 1994, he represented Argentina at UPOV meetings, in particular at the Technical Committee and Council of UPOV. In 1998, he took up a position as Senior Program Officer of the International Union for the Protection New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and, in 2000, he was promoted to Senior Counsellor. He was responsible for the programs for cooperation and assistance in the development of plant breeder's rights systems in conformity with the UPOV Convention for countries in Latin-America, the Caribbean and Africa; the establishment and running of UPOV distance learning courses; coordination of the sessions of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA), the Technical Working Party for Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) as well as Spanish linguistic issues related to technical areas.

In 2012, Mr. Lavignolle returned to Argentina as Director, Plant Variety Register at INASE.

In October 2013, he was appointed as President of INASE.

In October 2015, he was appointed Vice-President of the Council of UPOV.



**ANTHONY PARKER**

Anthony Parker is the Commissioner of Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) within the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and is Canada's Head of Delegation to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). Prior to becoming the PBR Commissioner, Anthony held several positions within the CFIA including; National Manager of the Fertilizer Program, Acting Director of the Crop Inputs Division, and Acting Director of the Horticulture Division. Before transferring to the CFIA, Anthony worked in a public maize breeding program for 7 years (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) and has a diverse educational background with a M.Sc in Agriculture (Plant Breeding and Genetics), a B.Sc in Environmental Studies, and BA in Political Science. Anthony was raised on a small farm and has been passionate about agriculture his whole life.



**PÄIVI MANNERKORPI**

Agricultural engineer with PhD in animal nutrition, University Kiel, Germany 1990. Research in animal and grassland production, Agricultural Research Centre of Finland 1991-1994 including short term assignment in development project in Egypt. Senior officer and Head of Animal Nutrition Section, Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Finland 1994-2001 Agricultural Counsellor and Head of policy and legislative unit including performance guidance of control authorities (plant production including organic agriculture and biotechnology, animal nutrition) Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Finland 2001-2004. Chair of Finnish Plant Health Advisory Board 2011-2004. Joined European Commission, Directorate-General on Health and Consumers, in 2004 as policy officer (EU legislation and policies on GMO's, novel foods, cloning, nanotechnology). Since 2008 Head of Sector/Team Leader for Plant Reproductive Material/Unit for Plant Health (marketing plant reproductive material, variety protection and genetic resources).



**SIMON MUCHERU MAINA**

Simon Mucheru Maina is the Head, Seed Certification and Plant Variety Protection department at the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS). He has worked in plant variety protection for fourteen years. Mr Maina has been part of Eastern African regional discussions on conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources and has a specific interest in the role of seed systems in promoting conservation and sustainable utilization of PGR. He holds a Masters degree in Botany (Genetics).



### **SVANHILD-ISABELLE BATTA TORHEIM**

Ms. Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim is a senior advisor in the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food (since 2013). She is the national focal point to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. For the biennium 2015-2017, she is the Vice-Chair from the European Regional Group in the Bureau of the ITPGRFA.

Ms. Torheim holds a Master degree in Political Science from University of Oslo. The thesis was analysing the negotiating process of the ITPGRFA and is available at <http://www.fni.no/pdf/FNI-R1304.pdf>. From 2005 to 2007 she worked for United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya, mainly involved in the secretariat for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and sustainable land management projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). From 2007 to 2013, she was in charge of Development Fund's (a Norwegian environmental and developmental NGO) policy work related to agricultural biodiversity, including issues such as patents on seeds, plant variety protection, GMOs and Farmers' Rights. From 2008 to 2013, she was member of the Norwegian government's advisory board on biotechnology.



**ANDREW MITCHELL**

Short biography for Symposium on Possible Interrelations between the ITPGRFA and the UPOV Convention, 26 October 2016

Andrew Mitchell is responsible for plant varieties and seeds issues at the UK Department for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, covering plant variety rights and legislation for variety registration and seeds marketing. This includes representing the UK at UPOV. He is also currently chair of the Administrative Council of the Community Plant Variety Office. He has a degree in biology and PhD in fungal ecology from the University of Bath. Through his career, he has worked as a phytopathologist and seeds specialist, before joining Defra in 2004.