Training Course on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Agricultural Innovation

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Agriculture	**Duration**	10 Days
Base Fee	$3,000 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

In the rapidly evolving landscape of agricultural innovation, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) serve as a critical mechanism for protecting creativity, incentivizing research, and enabling technology transfer. Training Course on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Agricultural Innovation is designed to equip participants with a deep understanding of the legal, economic, and strategic aspects of IPR in agriculture. It emphasizes the role of IPR in promoting sustainable agriculture, biotechnology development, agri-entrepreneurship, and fostering a robust innovation ecosystem.

With the rise of climate-smart agriculture, agri-tech startups, and digital farming solutions, it is crucial for stakeholders to comprehend how patents, plant variety protection, trademarks, geographical indications, and trade secrets impact innovation and market access. This course will help policymakers, researchers, legal professionals, farmers, and agribusinesses leverage IPR tools to protect indigenous knowledge, stimulate investment, and foster competitive advantages. Real-world case studies and actionable insights will ensure participants can implement IPR strategies in various agricultural contexts.

Programme Curriculum

Training Course on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Agricultural Innovation

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Course Objectives

1. Understand the fundamentals of Intellectual Property Rights in agriculture.
2. Analyze different forms of IPR including patents, copyrights, trademarks, and plant variety protection.
3. Explore IPR's role in biotechnology and genetic resource innovation.
4. Examine the impact of geographical indications on market access and product branding.
5. Learn how to safeguard traditional and indigenous knowledge using IPR.
6. Understand international treaties like UPOV, TRIPS, WIPO, and their influence on agricultural innovation.
7. Develop skills to draft patent claims and file applications.
8. Identify challenges and opportunities in commercializing agricultural IPR assets.
9. Study IPR enforcement mechanisms and legal remedies in agri-innovation.
10. Enhance the capacity for IPR policy formulation in the agricultural sector.
11. Strengthen knowledge on IPR licensing, technology transfer, and partnerships.
12. Learn about digital innovations and data rights in precision agriculture.
13. Promote IPR awareness and best practices among farming communities and researchers.

Target Audiences

1. Agricultural researchers and scientists
2. Agri-tech entrepreneurs and startup founders
3. Legal professionals in IP law
4. University faculty and students in agriculture and law
5. Policymakers and government officials in agriculture
6. Agribusiness owners and managers
7. NGOs and development partners focused on rural innovation
8. Farmers’ associations and cooperative leaders

Course Duration: 10 days

Course Modules

Module 1: Introduction to IPR in Agriculture

- Definition and significance of IPR
- Types of IPR relevant to agriculture
- Historical development of agricultural IPR
- Key legal frameworks and international treaties
- IPR and innovation ecosystems
- **Case Study**: The rise of Bt Cotton and patent rights in India

Module 2: Patents and Patentability in Agri-Innovation

- Patentability criteria in agriculture
- Filing process and timelines
- Scope of protection and rights of patent holders
- Agricultural biotech patents

- Patent databases and search tools
- **Case Study**: CRISPR technology and patent disputes

Module 3: Plant Variety Protection and UPOV Convention

- Principles of plant breeders' rights
- Comparison of UPOV 1978 and 1991 Acts
- Application process and DUS testing
- Benefit sharing and farmer exemptions
- National PVP policies and institutions
- **Case Study**: Kenya's experience with PVP implementation

Module 4: Trademarks and Branding in Agriculture

- Importance of trademarks for agri-products
- Registration process and duration
- Collective marks and certification marks
- Branding strategies for rural products
- Legal implications and enforcement
- **Case Study**: Trademarking of organic tea in Sri Lanka

Module 5: Geographical Indications and Market Access

- What are geographical indications (GI)?
- Benefits of GI for rural development
- Registration and protection of GI
- GI and export promotion
- GI vs trademark: key differences
- **Case Study**: Darjeeling Tea GI success story

Module 6: Copyrights in Agricultural Communication

- Role of copyright in knowledge dissemination
- Protection of training materials and research outputs
- Licensing and fair use in agri-education
- Digital copyright and e-learning
- Open access vs protected works
- **Case Study**: Copyright challenges in agri-extension services

Module 7: Trade Secrets in Agribusiness

- Defining and identifying trade secrets
- Protection strategies and legal framework
- Contractual approaches to confidentiality
- Case law analysis and litigation
- Relevance for input suppliers and agro-processors
- **Case Study**: Trade secrets in hybrid seed formulation

Module 8: Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Rights

- Defining traditional knowledge (TK)
- Global frameworks for TK protection
- Benefit-sharing mechanisms
- Community protocols and databases
- Legal and ethical issues
- **Case Study**: Use of TK in herbal pest control in West Africa

Module 9: Digital Agriculture and Data Ownership

- IPR issues in precision farming and agri-drones
- Big data, cloud computing, and ownership
- Data sharing and licensing models
- Privacy and cybersecurity concerns
- Legal frameworks for agri-data protection
- **Case Study**: Data ownership in smart farming startups

Module 10: Technology Transfer and Licensing

- Role of IPR in innovation transfer
- Licensing models and negotiation
- Technology incubators and accelerators
- IP valuation and monetization
- IP commercialization strategies
- **Case Study**: African universities licensing drought-resistant seeds

Module 11: International IPR Frameworks (TRIPS, WIPO, UPOV)

- Overview of TRIPS Agreement
- WIPO's role in agri-innovation
- UPOV membership implications
- National compliance and enforcement
- South-South cooperation in IPR
- **Case Study**: East African countries' TRIPS compliance

Module 12: Legal Enforcement and Dispute Resolution

- Legal remedies for IP infringement
- Administrative, civil, and criminal enforcement
- Role of IP offices and courts
- Alternative dispute resolution (ADR)
- IP audits and compliance strategies
- **Case Study**: Patent litigation in agricultural biotech

Module 13: IPR Policy and Institutional Frameworks

- Policy formulation process
- Institutional actors and coordination
- National IP strategies and priorities
- Capacity building and infrastructure
- Monitoring and evaluation systems
- **Case Study**: Ghana's national IP policy in agriculture

Module 14: IPR Awareness and Community Engagement

- Public outreach and sensitization strategies
- Farmer training and IP literacy
- Community-based IPR initiatives
- Participatory policy development
- Role of CSOs and NGOs
- **Case Study**: IP education in rural farmer cooperatives

Module 15: Future Trends in IPR and Agricultural Innovation

- Emerging technologies and IP implications

- AI, synthetic biology, and agri-IP
- Climate change adaptation and IP
- Open innovation and licensing
- Blockchain for IP protection
- **Case Study**: Blockchain for tracking GI products in Africa

Training Methodology

- Interactive expert-led lectures and discussions
- Practical group activities and simulations
- Real-world case studies and peer learning
- Hands-on IP search and drafting exercises
- Role-playing and legal scenario analysis
- Field experience sharing and policy dialogue

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Online	$2,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$3,000

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$9,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000

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