

THE SEED: AN UNIDENTIFIED LEGAL OBJECT ?

#SEEDS #LEGAL STATUT #PHYTOSANITARY
PRODUCTS #BIOSTIMULATION

Background

The **SUCSEED** project is one of the 10 projects funded by the Priority Research Program "Cultiver et Protéger Autrement" (PPR-CPA). SUCSEED aims to make the seed a central player in plant health management by focusing on two major plant health problems: (i) seed-borne pathogens and (ii) damping-off. To reinforce the multi-disciplinary nature of this project we propose to recruit a cohort of five PhD students.

Summary

Although the term is present in various legal texts (intellectual property code, rural code ...), seeds are not subject to any definition in law. The term «seed» or «plant» sometimes designates them. However, these terms are not identical in botany. In particular, the seed is a seed intended to be cultivated.

The production and marketing of seeds are subject to particularly restrictive regulations, whether national or European. The scientific literature on seeds focuses on plant variety rights, farm seeds or the impact of legal rules on the economic organization of the seed sector. At a time when the reduction of the use of pesticides and other phytosanitary products in crops has become a major issue to meet societal and environmental expectations and when the acceleration of withdrawals of marketing authorization for phytosanitary products leaves seed companies and farmers who are often helpless in the face of the lack of means available to protect crops, the legal status of seeds becomes essential because much research is interested in alternative seed treatment solutions, in particular through biocontrol processes or biostimulation.

The objective of the thesis work will be to define the agricultural seed and to assess the consequences of the current regulations on the status of the seed when it is the subject of treatments such as coating, pelleting, priming or biostimulation for example. Does the seed subjected to these treatments become another product or does it remain seed?

Informations

Lab: Intellectual Property Research Institute (IRPI), Paris II Panthéon-Assas

Supervisors: Rose-Marie Borges (r-marie.borges@uca.fr) et Jean-Christophe Galloux

Graduate school: Droit privé (ED n° 6)

Starting date: October 2021 (Deadline : June 1st)