

breeders rights. This item is characterized as "other intellectual property" because, in the U.S., some plant varieties are protected under the Patent Act while others are protected under the Plant Varieties Act. In both cases, users of protected seeds and plants are required to compensate rights holders who have developed the new varieties. The U.S. would like to see similar legislation in Canada although the magnitude of their concerns is not known.

In Canada, Agriculture Canada is expected to come forward with proposals for a Plant Breeders Rights Act in the coming year. Domestic opposition is very strong, particularly from the large farm unions who are concerned about increased seed costs and church organizations who feel that plant breeders rights represent commercialization of naturally occurring gifts of God. At the present time, most plant variety research is carried out in public institutions and has been considered successful in terms of meeting Canadian needs. International seed houses with current or future commercial interests in Canada are the main proponents of new legislation.

Canadian Interests

EXEMPT
Sec. 15(1)