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news release

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HEARING SCHEDULED ON BILL TO IMPLEMENT INTERNATIONAL PACT ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR PLANT BREEDERS

For immediate release, Tuesday, May 17, 1994

WASHINGTON -- Legislation proposing to implement a 1991 international agreement that updates patent-like protection for plant breeders around the world, including in the United States, and its effect on the U.S. agricultural sector are the focus of a May 24 public hearing by the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations and Nutrition, announced Subcommittee Chairman Charles Stenholm, D-Texas.

The hearing on H.R. 2927, the Plant Variety Protection Act Amendments of 1993, will be held Tuesday, May 24, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in Room 1300 of the Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

H.R. 2927 was introduced last year by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Kika de la Garza, D-Texas, and Ranking Minority Member Pat Roberts, R-Kan. The bill proposes revisions in U.S. law (known as the Plant Variety Protection Act) to conform with an international agreement reached in 1991 by representatives to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (referred to as UPOV). In general, the 1991 UPOV Convention would strengthen intellectual property rights for plant breeders and accommodate advancements in knowledge and technology.

There are 24 member countries in UPOV, 13 of which have signed the revised Convention (including the United States). However, no country has ratified the new UPOV Convention to date.

For further information on the hearing, contact Stan Ray of the Subcommittee staff at 202-225-1495.

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