The ABS & BioTrade experience in Southern Africa

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Export of fresh plants from Namibia to the EU

1 - The context

* Namibia is a party to the Nagoya Protocol, ABS measures are in place but the ABS law has not yet been published\(^1\).

* The fresh plants come from a supposed endemic species from Southern Africa, and can easily be reproduced.

* The sap of this plant is “publicly” known for its skin healing properties but no official TK is associated.

* The sap extraction could be done through simple mechanical means, but this would not allow obtaining a “competitive ingredient”.

* No other advanced extraction technology is available locally or in the region.

\(^1\) as of 23\(^{rd}\) of June 2016
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2 – Utilization considerations

* Valorization of the species:

- Need to benefit locally from extraction technics that will create a competitiveness advantage
- Need to retain “ownership” over potential IPRs
- Need to access, export then utilize the whole fresh plant
- Need to create a long term valorization strategy benefiting to the local SME investing in this new product development
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3 – 1: Lessons learned / ABS & BioTrade considerations

* Namibia is a party to the Nagoya Protocol, ABS measures are in place but the ABS law has not yet been published.

=> Local “users” need to comply with national ABS measures / so should international users despite the lack of a National ABS law.

* The fresh plants come from a supposed endemic species from Southern Africa, and can easily be reproduced.

=> Difficulties to easily access to a reliable list of endemic species / a National data base should be accessible on demand by local users willing to valorize a species.

* The sap of this plant is “publicly” known for its skin healing properties but no official TK is associated.

=> To increase legal certainties, when the species is accessed, a note should be given to manage TK rights for this project.
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3 – 2: Lessons learned / ABS & BioTrade considerations

* The sap extraction could be done through simple mechanical means, but this would not allow obtaining a “competitive ingredient”.

* No other advanced extraction technology is available locally or in the region.

=> To be discussed during the session / technology transfer
* Valorization of the species:

- Need to benefit from extraction technics that will create a competitiveness advantage
  => To decrease asymmetry strengths between developed and least developed countries

- Need to retain “ownership” over potential IPRs
  => Mechanisms to be developed

- Need to access, export then utilize the whole fresh plant
  => “one-stop-shop” approach to fulfill various regulations obligations
  => Harmonization amongst similar regulations (Phytosanitary requirements)

- Need to create a long term valorization strategy benefiting to the local SME investing in this new product development
  => Local support for market knowledge and requirements
  => Is it BioTrade or Bioprospecting?
Questions and answers

The seeds we plant today
Are the fruits of tomorrow
Our future lies in our hands

Thank you

For further information: www.biotrade.org