



American Society of Plant Biologists

15501 Monona Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20855-2768 • telephone 301-251-0560 • fax 301-279-2996

JUL 21 2003

July 7, 2003

Deborah P. Delmer
Associate Director for Food Security
The Rockefeller Foundation
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10018-2702

Dear Debbie:

The American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) commends the Rockefeller Foundation, McKnight Foundation, and universities in the United States that are participating in the Public Sector Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture (PIPRA) initiative. PIPRA is addressing the need for cooperative management of Intellectual Property (IP) so that it will be more easily available for work on specialty crops in the U.S. and for work on subsistence crops in the developing world. At the same time, PIPRA has acknowledged in a discussion paper that potential new approaches to management of intellectual property relating to agricultural biotechnology should not restrict an institution's ability to benefit from the commercial potential of such technologies. ASPB encourages PIPRA to continue its efforts to bring the tremendous, life-sustaining advances in agricultural biotechnology to hungry people throughout the world and to offer needed help for specialty crop growers here in the U.S.

Founded in 1924, ASPB is a non-profit society of nearly 6,000 plant scientists. Headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, ASPB publishes two of the most frequently cited plant science journals, *Plant Physiology* and *The Plant Cell*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel R. Bush".

Daniel R. Bush
President, American Society of Plant Biologists