The Organization

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people’s lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

With novel partnerships, the Alliance generates evidence and mainstreams innovations to transform food systems and landscapes so that they sustain the planet, drive prosperity, and nourish people.

The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

About the position

The Intellectual Property (IP) Lawyer will provide global IP counsel, recommendations, and alternatives for complex global legal inquiries and issues related.

Key Responsibilities

- Serve as trusted counsel on all IP issues locally and globally (Africa, Asia, Europe and Americas), by giving solid and practical IP legal advice.
- Provide strategic management of global IP portfolios for organization’s programs, including trademark, copyrights, patent prosecution, patent maintenance and associated IP diligence.
- Serve as the focal point of Intellectual Property in the organization before the CGIAR System (OSC), including OSC’s annual report on Intellectual Property Management, and act as the focal point for issues related to reports on compliance with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- Represent the organization in the Genetic Resources Policy Group of CGIAR, work in the advisory group of the System’s Administration Board (SMB) and in international treaties related to Intellectual Property (for instance: crop resources, general genetic resources, protection of plant varieties).
- Assist Head of the Legal Office in analysis of IP issues.
- Provide IP/legal support (status reports, due diligence, etc.) for other groups within the organization, e.g. Business Development, Research, Regulatory, IT, Partnerships & Communications, etc.
- Stay up to date on emerging trends in intellectual property law through continuing legal education, reading, professional conferences, and participating in professional associations.
- Aligns IP strategies with research, business and strategic plans, including regularly attending IP.
- Willing to work on the smallest and simplest, as well as the most complex, IP matters.
- Train members of the business and R&D Teams in IP matters and best practice.
- Researches and develops understandable and usable presentations on relevant IP landscapes for the organization.
• Drafts and negotiates IP-related agreements (e.g., licensing or collaboration agreements).
• Evaluation and update of policies, guidelines and processes related to the collaboration and relationship with the private sector.
• Support the organization in the negotiation of contractual terms that include the generation or use of Intellectual Property.
• Develop and review contracts, including licenses, from the perspective of Intellectual Property.
• Evaluate and analyze the best way to protect the organization's Intellectual Property.
• Enable management of germplasm, specifically for improvement and improved materials, according to international and institutional applicable policies.
• Enable management of data as well as other assets based on relational data, for example: copyrighted assets and adequate licenses, data privacy, and ethical procedures to share the benefits derived from the use of genomic information, according to international and institutional applicable policies.
• Evaluate the need to manage biological and non-plant based genomic resources that are used or kept within the organization.

Qualifications and requirements:

• Advance degree in law studies and Master’s degree intellectual property
• Experience in IP processes of at least six (6) years
• Experience in the agribusiness, R&D, international cooperation sector performing IP diligence would be considered a plus
• Must have relevant experience in a law firm or in house supporting life sciences; desirable
• Degree in a Life Science field is an added benefit
• Experience, understanding and working knowledge in drafting and supporting Global patents
• Professional proficiency in English language (written, spoken)

Terms of employment

This is a Colombian national recruitment. The position will be based at the Americas Hub, located in Palmira, Colombia. The selected candidate will be appointed through a fixed term contract for one (1) year, subject to a probation period of two (2) months, and is renewable depending on performance and availability of resources.

The Alliance Bioversity-CIAT offers a multicultural, collegial research environment with competitive salary and excellent benefits. We are an equal opportunity employer, and strive for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

Applications

Applicants are invited to send a cover letter illustrating their suitability for the above position against the qualifications, competencies, skills together with a detailed curriculum vitae, including names and addresses of three referees knowledgeable about the candidate’s professional qualifications and work experience (all these documents must be written in English language). All correspondence should be addressed to the Human Resources Office, at (t.solis@cgiar.org) and should clearly indicate “Application: IP Lawyer”.

Please note that only short listed candidates will be contacted.


We invite you to learn more about us at: