

Ethiopia: Bill Underway to Patent Indigenous Crops

The Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office (EIPO) is drafting a bill to upgrade patent inscription, protection, and promotion of social knowledge and biodiversity through a database management system.

The proclamation will prevent patent fraud and protect a patent right at an individual, organizational, and national level, as well as from international looters, according to Biruk Workineh, the communications affair acting director at EIPO. The stakeholders include traditional medicine and biodiversity researchers and indigenous knowledge protectors. The proclamation should become effective within a year.