

SWATEE Organizes Workshop

A two-day workshop, 'Reimagining the Governance of Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property for Agriculture and Food Security in Asia', has been organized by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), together with the ARC Laureate Project on Intellectual Property and Food Security at the University of Queensland and Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI).

The workshop aimed to discuss policy options to safeguard the rights of farmers and breeders in the Asia-Pacific countries.

The two-day workshop discussed the options to



address the interests of all relevant public and private stakeholders including farmers, breeders and seed traders. It aimed to critically assess the arrangements related to plant genetic resources in national laws and international agreements such as the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Convention on Biodiversity, and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) at the WTO, pointed out that research and development in agriculture is not limited to scientists and laboratories but takes place in the field by farmers.