Recent Patents on Food, Nutrition & Agriculture

Title of the issue: Intellectual Property Protection for Natural Products from Plants and Microorganisms

Background: Natural products encompass a wide variety of compounds from microorganisms, plants and animals with commercial use in pharmaceutical, food, feed and agriculture sectors. Ranging from enzymes used in food/feed processing, detergents, for biofuels and textile industries, to pharmaceuticals (antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anti-tumour etc.) used in pharma and healthcare sectors, nutritional supplements, dietary nutraceuticals and cosmetic ingredients, natural products have found increasing use in wide-ranging products and formulations. Forming the basic skeletons from which many synthetic compounds are derived, these are increasingly facing renewed interest globally. More bioprospection strategies are being formulated to mine for natural products from increasingly wide-ranging habitats.

Aims & Scope: With more resources being focussed on natural products, intellectual property protection becomes an integral part of such efforts. This thematic issue will focus on the different types of IPR protection mechanisms available and being used for natural products.

Description:

Topics covered (but not limited to):

1. Overview of intellectual property protection systems available for natural products
2. Patents and other IPRs for enzymes/other natural products utilized in food & agriculture
3. Recent patents on Additives/colorants used in food industry
4. IPR systems in transgenic plants and their implications
5. Effect of IPR in traditional knowledge systems
6. Perspectives of private sector on intellectual property regime
7. Perspectives of developing countries on intellectual property regime in food & agriculture

Submission Deadlines:
Manuscript submission deadline: July 30, 2016
Peer Review Due: August 15, 2016
Revision Due: September 30, 2016
Notification of acceptance by the Guest Editor: October 15, 2016
Final manuscripts due: November 30, 2016