

# Intellectual Property and Legal Affairs Manager for the International Seed Federation, Nyon, Switzerland

## The Organisation

The International Seed Federation ([www.worldseed.org](http://www.worldseed.org)) is based in Nyon, Switzerland. Its mission is to facilitate the international movement of seed and promote plant breeding innovation; to mobilise and represent the private seed sector at a global level; to inform its members of developments that may have an impact on the business; and to promote the interests and raise the profile of the seed sector.

In order to fulfil its mission, ISF positions itself as the voice of the seed sector at the international level and engages with the stakeholders and international organizations to pursue its vision of “a world where quality seed is accessible to all”.

## Job Description

ISF seeks a highly-motivated and qualified **Intellectual Property and Legal Affairs Manager** who will be responsible for promoting intellectual property rights in relation to seed, advocating for fair and workable systems for access and benefit sharing of genetic resources and engaging the seed sector against illegal seed practices. The ideal candidate will be responsible for representing the organization in various meetings, conferences, and seminars at the international, regional and national levels.

## Key Tasks

The Intellectual Property and Legal Affairs Manager will be working within the dynamic ISF Secretariat, reporting directly to ISF's Secretary General.

Together with ISF's members, (s)he will spearhead efforts to build broader understanding within and outside the seed sector on the following topics:

- Promotion of intellectual property policies related to seed varieties and innovation, especially under the UPOV Convention, supporting innovative breeding to provide quality seed to farmers.
- Advocating for fair and workable systems for access and benefit sharing of genetic resources, as well as sustainable conservation, access, and use of genetic resources, especially under the ITPGRFA and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Monitoring and analyzing laws, regulations, and policies related to intellectual property and access and benefit sharing obligations for seed companies
- Participating in the engagement of the seed sector against illegal seed practices.
- Participating in the engagement of the seed sector in seed resilience initiatives.
- Fostering the long term relationship of the seed sector with farmers
- Collaborating with internal and external stakeholders, including government agencies, industry associations, and other organizations, on the above-mentioned topics

## Skills / Background/ Education

- Master's degree in law, agriculture, plant science, or a related field
- In-depth knowledge of international and national laws, regulations, and policies related to intellectual property and management of plant genetic resources
- Ability to collect, review and analyse a significant amount of information and present them in a simple, comprehensive and straightforward manner
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Excellent communication, negotiation, and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously and meet tight deadlines.
- Strong attention to detail and accuracy.
- Discrete, of good judgement, flexible and tactful when dealing with ISF members and officials
- Ability to travel internationally
- Fluent in written and spoken English, knowledge of other major languages is an asset.
- At least 5-8 years' experience at the international level, preferably in the seed sector.

The position will be open until 15 April 2023. Interested candidates can send a cover letter and a resume to Michael Keller, Secretary General, International Seed Federation [careers@worldseed.org](mailto:careers@worldseed.org)  
Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and the position shall remain open until a suitable candidate has been engaged.