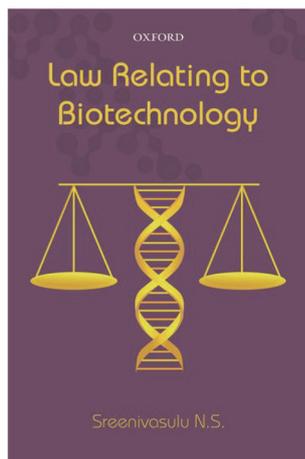


BOOK REVIEWS



Law Relating to Biotechnology. N. S. Sreenivasulu. Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, 1 Jai Singh Road, New Delhi 110 001. 2016. xii + 345 pages. Price: Rs 795.00. ISBN-13: 978-0-19-946748-8; ISBN-10: 0-19-946748-X.

The world is looking for creation and development in every fields. A curious mind looks to explore possibilities in every action. The realm of curiosity leads to create the fundamental theories. Mankind to fulfill their desired requirement tried to cover the new facts to generate the technology. The history of human evolution shows that technology has always revolutionized any given era. The breakthrough discoveries starting from wheel and fire to recent semi-conductors and DNA have formed the pillars to generate an ease of life. The 21st century is the place where it has utilized technology as before used. The integration of technology is profound in management, media, infrastructure, agriculture, architecture and inventions.

Biotechnology is a multidisciplinary branch that includes biochemistry, molecular biology, immunology, toxicology, molecular medicine, plant and animal physiology, clinical chemistry, nutrition, medical biochemistry, and molecular aspects of human diseases. 'Addressing the untold: a need of hour to look behind the curtain', this statement has been addressed by the author of this book. This book is authored by a professor of law, advisor and popular writer in legal jurisprudence, with adequate knowledge on legal issues pertinent to biotechnology. The book offers latest development and applications of biotechnology, including intellectual property,

trade policy, environmental concerns, biodiversity issues, regulatory matters and human rights connections.

The book focuses on regulatory regimes concerned with biotechnology, mainly dealing with global perspectives especially in the US, EU and India. This is perhaps the only book on this particular aspect that gives academicians, researchers, technicians, lawyers and policy-makers an accelerated start and handy tool to work in the Indian regulatory regime in about 350 pages. The book is a corpus of seven chapters with extensive literature that focuses on regulatory framework in biotechnology.

In a nutshell, the book is an excellent introduction to biotechnology and its connection with law. It is organized in a logical and convenient way, according to biotechnological integration with different regimes of trade, health, law and environment. The first chapter highlights classical and modern biotechnology from the production of wine, beer and bread using fermentation nearly 10,000 years ago to the Nobel Prize-winning work of James Watson and Francis Crick in describing the DNA double-helix structure. The second chapter deals with the biotechnological tools, techniques and inventions like plant breeding and hybridization, tissue culture and cell culture, hybridoma technology, r-DNA technology, antisense technology, GMOs and transgenic organisms, cloning, human genome project and stem cell research.

The third chapter deals with a policy framework for biotechnology in India. It discusses how the issues and challenges were overcome by the Government of India (GoI) and also the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology, GoI which shaped the Biotechnology Policy for India. The fourth chapter is dedicated to intellectual property rights and biotechnology. It starts with the provision of TRIPS Agreement and then focuses on the protection of biotechnological inventions in different regions globally, especially the US, EU and India. It also discusses patents on transgenic plants, animals and genetically modified microorganisms, status of trademarks and trade secrets in biotechnological innovations.

In the fifth chapter, the author has included the international trade regime on biotechnological regulations. The national and international agreements

and technical barriers to trade are discussed. The role of international organizations and treaties like IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization), WTO (World Trade Organization), WHO (World Health Organization), and UN (United Nation) in legitimating the international disputes were discussed. Various case studies and disputes are also discussed in this chapter. The following chapter deals with human rights concerns in biotechnology. It begins with various international conventions like UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights), ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), and protocols like the Paris Protocol, Strasbourg Protocol, Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (UDHGHR) that protect human rights and research directives. The chapter also includes the directives framed by the EU, USA and India for GM crops, GM foods, stem cell and embryonic research and food security.

The last chapter of the book deals with biotechnological regulation in India. It includes various guidelines, regulations, legislations and measures to institutional mechanism. The chapter ends with the Indian attempt for regulation in a form of Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 2013.

Overall, the framing of each chapter covered biotechnological regulations at national to international level. The interdisciplinary content of this book may prove useful for both graduate and undergraduate students. The index provided at the end is also helpful. I recommend this book for readers from all backgrounds: science, technology, law or others.

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