

## **Draft ASSINSEL Position Paper on the Use of Public Maize Lines**

There is a considerable list of corn inbred lines developed by publicly funded programs including both Government and University based programs. Many of these lines have also been made available to all, on an equal basis, either with or without a fee and/or royalty. In many cases these inbred lines have not been protected by Plant Variety Protection mechanisms. Such universally available lines resulting from publicly funded programs are considered to be in the "Public Domain". These lines have in the past and should in the future constitute a valuable source of "freely available" germplasm for future maize improvement.

### **Recommendation**

Maize lines essentially derived from a Public Domain line that meets Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) criteria should be considered to be an Essentially Derived Variety (EDV) from the Public Domain line but there would be no Dependency since the Public Domain line was never protected.

ASSINSEL considers that breeders should never seek an initial variety status for these Essentially Derived lines and encourages breeders to commit themselves to follow this recommendation.