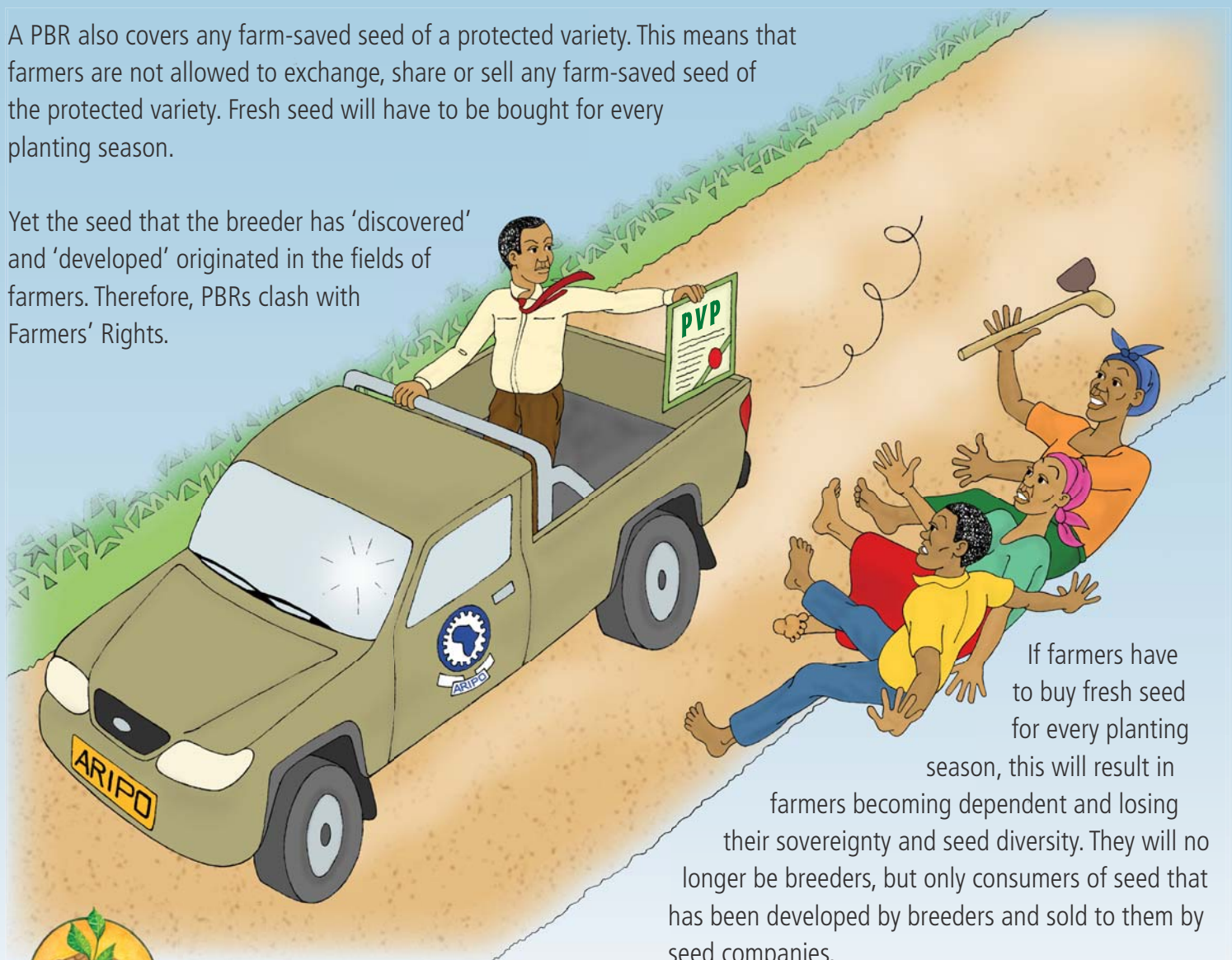


# WHAT IS PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION (PVP) AND PROTECTED VARIETIES?

**P**lant Variety Protection (PVP), under UPOV, is the legal protection given to a breeder who has discovered and developed a new plant variety. This protection is given by granting a right to the breeder to own that variety and claim payment (royalties) from anyone who wants to use it. This right given to a breeder is called a Plant Breeder's Right (PBR). A new plant variety is, for example, a hybrid maize seed. It is also known as a "protected variety."

A PBR also covers any farm-saved seed of a protected variety. This means that farmers are not allowed to exchange, share or sell any farm-saved seed of the protected variety. Fresh seed will have to be bought for every planting season.

Yet the seed that the breeder has 'discovered' and 'developed' originated in the fields of farmers. Therefore, PBRs clash with Farmers' Rights.



If farmers have to buy fresh seed for every planting season, this will result in farmers becoming dependent and losing their sovereignty and seed diversity. They will no longer be breeders, but only consumers of seed that has been developed by breeders and sold to them by seed companies.

