

EAF/5/4

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: October 22, 2015

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

MEETING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROTOTYPE ELECTRONIC FORM

Fifth Meeting Geneva, March 25, 2015

REPORT

adopted by the Meeting on the Development of a Prototype Electronic Form

Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance

Welcome and opening

- 1. The fifth meeting on the development of a prototype electronic form ("EAF/5 meeting") was opened and chaired by Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General, UPOV, who welcomed the participants in Geneva and those who participated in the meeting by means of electronic conference.
- 2. The list of participants is reproduced in Annex I to this report.

Approval of the agenda

3. The meeting adopted the draft agenda as proposed in document EAF/5/1 Rev.

Overview of the prototype electronic form project

- 4. The meeting considered documents EAF/5/2 "Overview concerning the prototype electronic form project" and EAF/5/3 "Electronic form: user interface".
- 5. The participants received a presentation by the Office of the Union on the latest developments in relation to the prototype electronic form, as reproduced in Annex II to this document.
- 6. The participants were informed that the next phase of the development of the prototype will start in April 2015 and would focus on the data exchange functionalities (import/export facility) and on the on-line electronic form (user interface). Participating members would be invited to test the system in stages, through different interim releases, in order to obtain regular feedback. Comments would be taken into consideration for the development of subsequent releases in order to have a fully functioning prototype by August 2015, for a final test campaign in September 2015, before presentation at the sessions of the CAJ and the Consultative Committee in October 2015, as appropriate.

Two-letter code to represent UPOV

7. The meeting noted that the request to WIPO for a two-letter code "XU" to represent the name of UPOV had been accepted and included in the revised version of WIPO ST.3 "Recommended Standard on Two Letter Codes for the Representation of States, Other Entities and Intergovernmental Organizations".

Commonality of application forms and technical questionnaires

8. It was agreed that one of the main benefits of a UPOV electronic form would be to enable applicants to use data from one application in subsequent applications. The system would allow the reuse of data from a single application, with one authority, or to use a combined set of data for a variety for which applications had been made in several authorities. The table reproduced below, presented at the meeting, illustrates the percentage of elements used by all participating authorities or by at least two participating authorities¹:

Indicators	Application Form	Technical Questionnaire (Lettuce)		
Percentage of Elements used by all participating authorities ¹	6%	1%		
Percentage of Elements used by at least two participating authorities ¹	67%	18%		

9. The tables below provide the information in common for the application form and the technical questionnaire for lettuce for the authorities that provided information as part of the Electronic application form project:

Application Form

	AU	BR	CA	JP	KR	NL	NZ	QZ	US	VN
AU		40%	39%	39%	17%	44%	24%	29%	34%	33%
BR	55%		48%	52%	31%	47%	31%	35%	43%	36%
CA	50%	51%		33%	29%	44%	37%	30%	34%	37%
JP	42%	56%	24%		19%	39%	22%	29%	24%	26%
KR	46%	59%	51%	46%		51%	31%	38%	41%	44%
NL	50%	39%	34%	41%	22%		31%	29%	21%	28%
NZ	54%	50%	37%	46%	26%	61%		52%	35%	37%
QZ	23%	20%	16%	21%	11%	42%	18%		12%	13%
US	48%	44%	33%	32%	22%	26%	22%	22%		25%
VN	53%	42%	41%	39%	27%	39%	27%	27%	28%	

Technical Questionnaire

	AU	BR	CA	JP	KR	NL	NZ	QZ	US	VN
AU		16%	8%	8%	3%	8%	12%	14%	5%	12%
BR	27%		16%	13%	9%	16%	18%	24%	11%	18%
CA	56%	78%		22%	22%	44%	11%	44%	33%	44%
JP	8%	67%	3%		6%	8%	18%	14%	3%	14%
KR	4%	9%	4%	9%		7%	7%	9%	9%	2%
NL	15%	18%	10%	15%	8%		35%	39%	5%	25%
NZ	25%	22%	11%	36%	8%	39%		42%	8%	75%
QZ	19%	20%	7%	19%	7%	53%	28%		6%	30%
US	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%		1%
VN	24%	22%	11%	27%	3%	27%	73%	43%	8%	

Participating members of the Union who provided their forms for the development of the prototype electronic form were: Australia; Brazil; Canada; European Union; Japan; Netherlands; New Zealand; Republic of Korea; United States of America and Viet Nam (see document EAF/3/3 "Report", paragraph 11).

Future actions and program

10. Participating members agreed the following program for development of the first version of the prototype electronic form:

Test Campaign	Milestone Release (MR) Contents/ Functionalities to be tested				
Release 1	Login , Create new application with export application data as XML				
Release 2	Create new application from existing XML data, Save, Submit new application, User feedback from MR1				
Release 3	Dashboard, View Recommendations, Copy application, Edit Application, User feedback from MR2				
Release 4	Remove Application, PDF View, User feedback from MR3				
Final Release	Full prototype				

- 11. It was agreed that the dates for the different releases would be communicated to the participating members at a later stage.
- 12. The meeting agreed the plan to make a presentation of version 1 of the prototype electronic application form to the CAJ and Consultative Committee at their sessions in October 2015 and to invite the CAJ and Consultative Committee to consider proposals for the ways forward for the project.
- 13. With regard to work after October 2015, subject to discussions at the CAJ and Consultative Committee, it was planned to extend the prototype to cover potato, rose and apple, to explore further harmonization and to consider proposals for a launch of the electronic form.

Experiences of participating members of the Union with electronic application systems

14. Mr. Jeffery Haynes, Deputy Commissioner, Plant Variety Protection Office, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), made a presentation on "Update of U.S. ePVP System", a copy of which is attached as Annex III to this report.

Date of next meeting

- 15. It was agreed that the sixth meeting would be held in Geneva on October 26, 2015, at 18.00, with the possibility of participation by means of electronic conference.
- 16. The participants agreed that the following matters should be discussed at the sixth meeting:
 - (a) review version 1 of the prototype electronic application form;
 - (b) legal aspects, including payment modalities and authorization, filing/priority date, data confidentiality;
 - (c) technical aspects, including payment authorization and user authentication, electronic signatures, high availability, interaction with existing systems (e.g. GENIE /WIPO accounts);
 - (d) maintenance and support; and
 - (e) the way forward for the project, including possible plans for implementation.
 - 17. This report was adopted by correspondence.

EAF/5/4

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. MEMBERS

ARGENTINA

Raimundo LAVIGNOLLE, Presidente del Directorio, Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE), Buenos Aires (e-mail: rlavignolle@inase.gov.ar)

AUSTRALIA

Tanvir HOSSAIN, Senior Examiner, Plant Breeder's Rights Office, IP Australia, Discovery House 47 Bowes Street, Woden, ACT 2606 (email: tanvir.hossain@ipaustralia.gov.au)

BRAZIL

Fabrício SANTANA SANTOS, Coordinator, National Plant Variety Protection Office (SNPC), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Brasilia (e-mail: fabricio.santos@agricultura.gov.br)

CANADA

Anthony PARKER, Commissioner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Room 59-1E-335 - 59 Camelot Drive |, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0Y9 (e-mail: anthony.parker@inspection.gc.ca)

CHINA

Jianren Zhou, Division Director, Office for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, State Forestry Administration, 18 Hepingli East Street, Beijing 100714 (e-mail: webmaster@cnpvp.net)

Li JUAN, Project Administrator, Beijing (e-mail: lijuan@sipo.gov.cn)

Xin LU (Ms.), DUS Examiner, DUS testing Division, Development Center for Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing (e-mail: luxin@agri.gov.cn)

COLOMBIA

Ana Luisa DÍAZ JIMÉNEZ (Sra.), Directora Técnica de Semillas, Dirección Técnica de Semillas, Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), Carrera 41 No. 17-81, Piso 4°, Zona Industrial de Puente Aranda, Bogotá D.C. (e-mail: ana.diaz@ica.gov.co)

EUROPEAN UNION

Mr. Martin EKVAD, President Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), European Union 3, boulevard Maréchal Foch CS 10121 49101 ANGERS CEDEX 02, France (e-mail: ekvad@cpvo.europa.eu)

Jean MAISON, Deputy Head, Technical Unit, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), CS 10121, 49101 Angers CEDEX 02 (e-mail: maison@cpvo.europa.eu) [via WebEx]

Marc ROUILLARD, Webmaster, Supporting Services, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), 3, boulevard Maréchal Foch, B.P. 10121, 49101 Angers CEDEX 02 (e-mail: rouillard@cpvo.europa.eu) [via WebEx]

FRANCE

Arnaud DELTOUR, Directeur general Groupe d'étude et de contrôle des variétés et des semences (GEVES), 25 rue Georges Morel CS 90024, 49071 Beaucouzé, France (e-mail: arnaud.deltour@geves.fr)

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Virginie BERTOUX, Responsible Instance nationale des obtentions végétales (INOV) INOV-GEVES, 25 Rue Georges Morel CS 90024, 49071 Beaucouzé (e-mail: virginie.bertoux@geves.fr)

JAPAN

Akira MIYAKE, Senior Policy Advisor, New Business and Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, 100-8950 Tokyo (e-mail: akira miyake@nm.maff.go.jp)

NETHERLANDS

Marcel RIJSBERGEN, Ing, Team DUS Vegetables, Naktuinbouw, Sotaweg 22, Postbus 40, 2370 AA Roelofarendsveen (e-mail: m.rijsbergen@naktuinbouw.nl) [via WebEx]

Kees VAN ETTEKOVEN, Head of Variety Testing Department, Naktuinbouw NL, 2370 AA Roelofarendsveen (e-mail: c.v.ettekoven@naktuinbouw.nl)

Wim SANGSTER, Team DUS Vegetables, Naktuinbouw, Sotaweg 22, P.O. Box 40, 2370 AA Roelofarendsveen (e-mail: w.sangster@naktuinbouw.nl) [via WebEx]

NEW ZEALAND

Christopher J. BARNABY, Assistant Commissioner / Principal Examiner for Plant Variety Rights, Plant Variety Rights Office, Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Private Bag 4714, Christchurch 8140 (e-mail: christBarnaby@pvr.govt.nz)

PARAGUAY

Blanca Julia NÚÑEZ DE MATTO (Sra.), Jefa, Departamento de Protección y Uso de Variedades, Dirección de Semillas (DISE), Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Sanidad Vegetal y de Semillas (SENAVE), San Lorenzo (e-mail: blanca.nunez@senave.gov.py)

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Seung-In YI, Deputy Head, Plant Variety Protection Division, Korea Seed & Variety Service (KSVS), 119 Hyuksin 8-Ro, Gimcheon-Si, Gyeongsangbuk-Do 740-220 (e-mail: seedin@korea.kr)

SWITZERLAND

Manuela BRAND, Plant Variety Rights Office, Federal Department of Economic Affairs Education and Research EAER Plant Health and Varieties, Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG, Mattenhofstrasse 5, 3003 Bern (e-mail: manuela.brand@blw.admin.ch)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Jeffery HAYNES, Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Plant Variety Protection Office, USDA, AMS, S&T, Plant Variety Protection Office, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Room 4512, USDA South Building, Washington D.C. (e-mail: jeffery.Haynes@ams.usda.gov)

II. ORGANIZATIONS

CROPLIFE INTERNATIONAL

Marcel BRUINS, Consultant, CropLife International, Brussels, Belgium (e-mail: mbruins1964@gmail.com)

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INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION (ISF)

Veronique BEEREN, Department Plant Variety Protection and Trademarks, Nunhems B.V. (e-mail: nunhems.varietyregistration.nl@bayer.com) [via WebEx]

Wiek CHERMIN, IT Department, Nunhems B.V. (e-mail: nunhems.varietyregistration.nl@bayer.com) [via WebEx]

Titus T. DE VRIES, Registration & Maintenance, Limagrain, P.O. Box 1, 4410 AA Rilland, Netherlands (e-mail: titus-de.Vries@limagrain.com) [via WebEx]

Dominique QUENNEVAT, Administrative Assistant, DuPont Pioneer Genetique, Chemin de l'Enseigure, 31840 Aussonne, France (e-mail: dominique.guennevat@pioneer.com) [via WebEx]

Astrid M. SCHENKEVELD, Specialist, Variety Registration & Protection, Rijk Zwaan Zaadteelt en Zaadhandel B.V., Burg. Crezeelaan 40, 2678 De Lier KX, Netherlands (e-mail: a.schenkeveld@rijkzwaan.nl)

Marlon THEUNISSEN, Rijk Zwaan Zaadteelt en Zaadhandel B.V., Burg. Crezeelaan 40, 2678 ZG De Lier, Netherlands (e-mail: m.theunissen@rijkzwaan.nl) [via WebEx]

Sietske WOUDA, Lead Global Germplasm PVP/MA, Syngenta International AG, Schwarzwaldallee 215, P.O. Box, 4002 Basel, Switzerland (e-mail: sietske.wouda@syngenta.com) [via WebEx]

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF BREEDERS OF ASEXUALLY REPRODUCED ORNAMENTAL AND FRUIT VARIETIES (CIOPORA)

Edgar KRIEGER, Secretary General, International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Varieties (CIOPORA), Gänsemarkt 4520354 Hamburg, Germany (e- mail: edgar.krieger@ciopora.org)

Yael Victoria MIARA, IPR Manager, Grapa Varieties Ltd 19 Hazait St., P.O. Box 2039 30900 Zichron Yaakov, Israel (e-mail: vered@grapaes.com) [via WebEx]

Hélène JOURDAN, Secrétaire générale, AOHE, Responsible COV & Marques, Meilland International S.A., Association des Obtenteurs Horticoles Européens (AOHE), Domaine de Saint-André, Le Cannet des Maures, 83340 Le Luc en Provence, France (e -mail: licprot@meilland.com) [via WebEx]

Dominique THÉVENON, Board member, Treasurer – CIOPORA AIGN®, International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Plants (CIOPORA), Gänsemarkt 45, 20354 Hamburg, Germany (e-mail: t.dominique4@aliceadsl.fr) [via WebEx]

SEED ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAS (SAA)

Diego A. RISSO, Secretary General Seed Association of the Americas (SAA), Rondeau 1908 - Esc. A CP:11800 Montevideo, Uruguay (e-mail: drisso@saaseed.org)

III. OFFICE OF WIPO

Michael JUNG, Head of External Web Applications Section [via WebEx]

Young-Woo YUN, Senior Industrial Property Information Officer

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IV. OFFICE OF UPOV

Peter BUTTON, Vice Secretary-General

Yolanda HUERTA (Ms.), Legal Counsel

Jun KOIDE, Technical/Regional Officer (Asia)

Ben RIVOIRE, Technical/Regional Officer (Africa, Arab countries)

Leontino TAVEIRA, Technical/Regional Officer (Latin America, Caribbean countries)

Hend MADHOUR (Ms.), Database Modeler, Business Needs and Analyst

Wegahtabrhan SEREKE (Ms.), Intern

[Annex II follows]

Electronic Application System Project EAF/5 Meeting

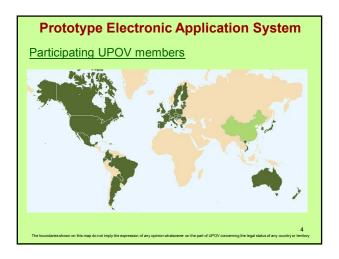
Documents EAF/5/2 and EAF/5/3

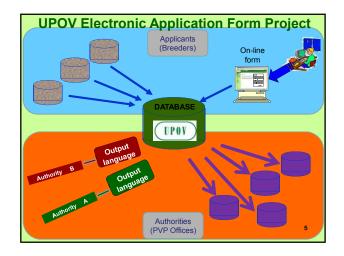
OVERVIEW

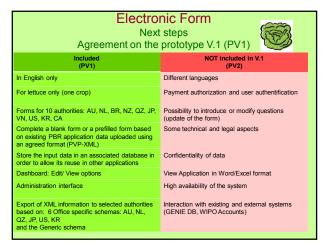
- Background
- · Report on latest developments
- · Presentation of the mock-up
- Future program
- · Matters for consideration
- Next steps

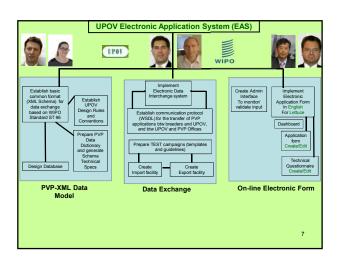
2

Prototype Electronic Application Form Participating UPOV members **Partners** UPOV Office Argentina Japan **WIPO** Australia Mexico • Brazil Netherlands CPVO New Zealand • ISF Canada Colombia Paraguay CIOPORA • Republic of Korea Dominican Republic • Ecuador Switzerland • United States of America • European Union France Viet Nam Germany Approx. 56% of the total applications within • (China) UPOV members (66 % including China) See document C/48/7 "Plant Variety Protection Statistics for the Period 2009-2013"









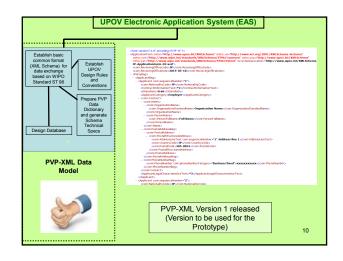
Target

Functioning Prototype by October 2015

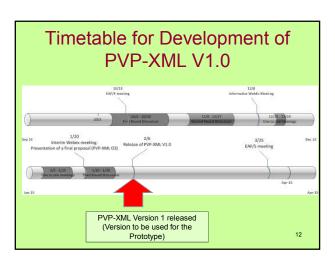
Data can be transferred from participating breeders to participating PVP Offices according to the specific information that they require for an application in the requested format

OVERVIEW

- Background
- · Report on latest developments
- · Presentation of the mock-up
- Future program
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- Next steps







PVP-XML V1.0

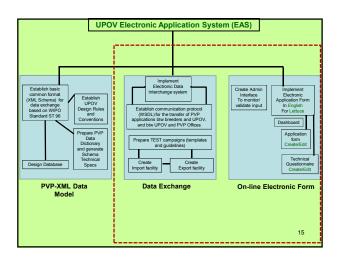
- XML Data Standard based on WIPO Standard ST.96
- Two Document Level schemas:
 - Application Form
 - Technical Questionnaire for <u>Lettuce</u>
- All common and participating authority specific questions

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PVP-XML V1.0 – Key achievements

- Well-defined structure to store application data
- Data placeholder for data exchange
- · Harmonization at XML level
 - Question wording may differ from one authority to another

14



On-going Work On-line Form User Interface specifications Posted on the wiki space Comments are welcome by April 3rd, 2015 Mockup Technical Architecture TentativeTimelines

OVERVIEW

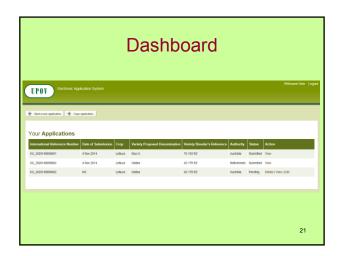
- Background
- Report on latest developments
- · Presentation of the mock-up
- Future program
- · Matters for consideration
- Next steps

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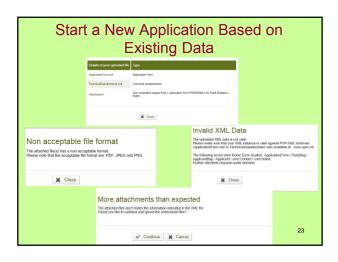
Presentation of mock-up form | Presentation | Pres









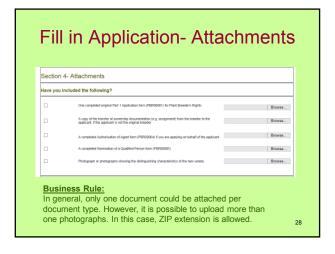


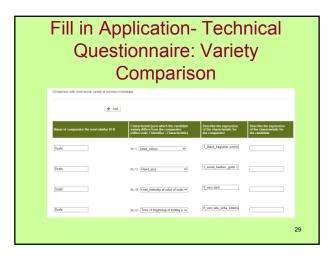












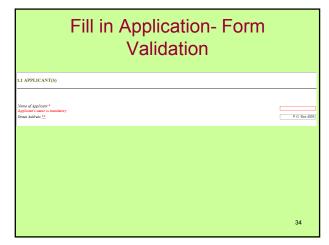
In order to describe how the candidate variety differs from the variety which, to the best of knowledge, is most similar, the system proposes to the breeder the possible expression of characteristics based on the chosen characteristics. The proposed expressions of characteristics have the following format: [note][characteristic value][example varieties]. For example, 3_black_kagraner sommer.

Issue ID-25 (Proposal)

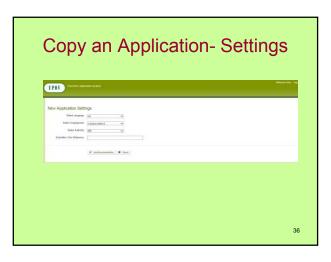
- The example varieties do change over time much more frequently than the values of the characteristics.
- The example varieties should not be in the drop down (enumeration list).
- i.e. 3_black will be displayed instead of 3_black_kagraner sommer

















Copy an Application- Different varieties • The new application should have a different IRN (see Matters for consideration)

OVERVIEW

- Background
- Report on latest developments
- · Presentation of the mock-up
- Future program
- Matters for consideration
- Next steps

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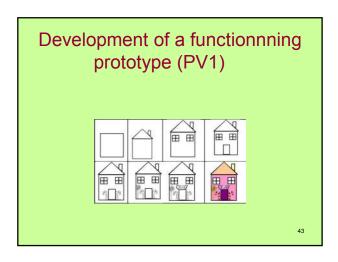
Target

Functioning Prototype by October 2015

=

Data can be transferred from participating breeders to participating PVP Offices according to the specific information that they require for an application in the requested format

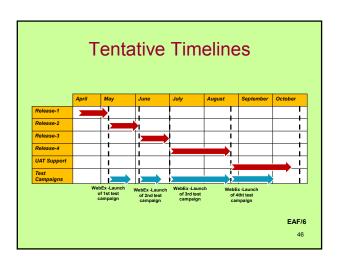
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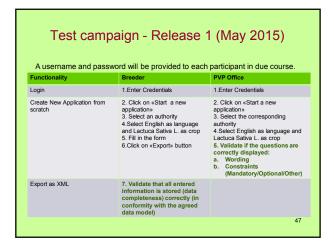


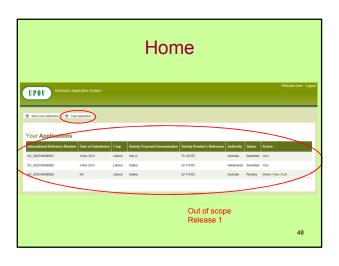


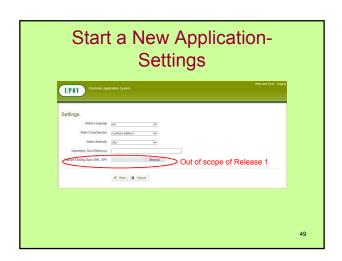
Sequence of work/ Participating members

- Participants will have 2 weeks to comment on each Milestone releases through 4 different Test campaigns
- Comments will be taken into consideration and amendments will be made to the subsequent Milestone release.



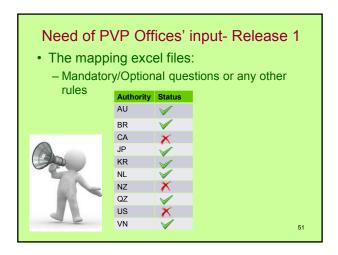


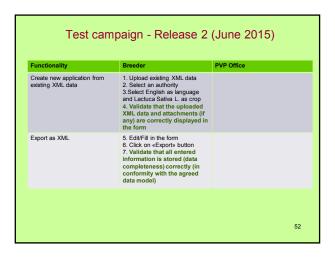


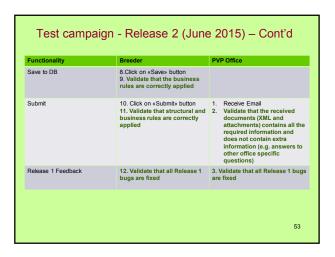


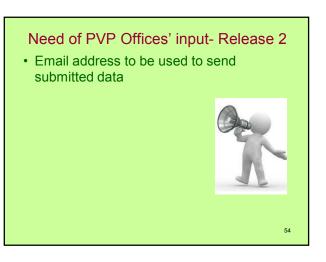
Mapping files- Benefits

- Generate the forms using the adequate question wording
- Transform the input data to the adequate XML format (PVP-XML components)
- Identify the reusable application data to be copied to another application
 - Share of the same tag name
- Propose recommendations on best alternatives for Copy

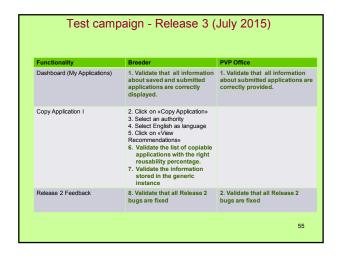


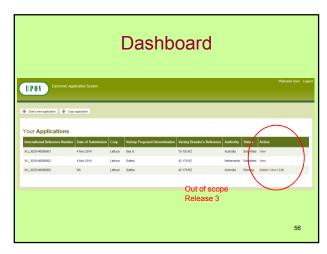


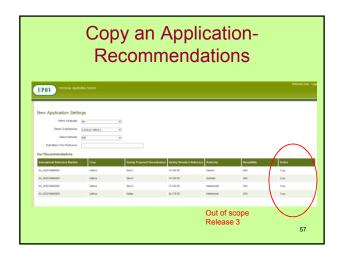


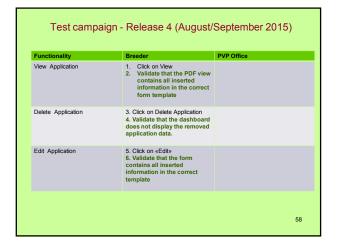


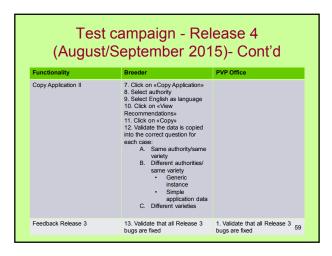
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OVERVIEW

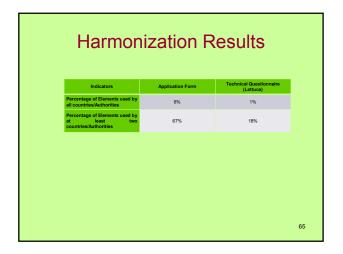
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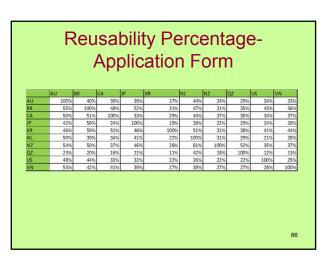
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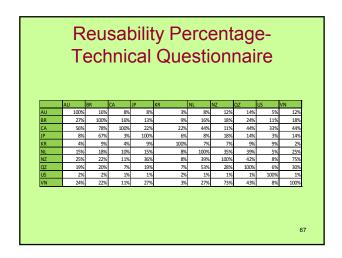


Mapping Files

- Map form questions to PVP-XML elements
- Revised by participating members during the one-to-one meeting
- Consolidated into one global sheet







Two-letter code to represent UPOV XU within WIRAST 2

"Recommended Standard on TwoLetter Codes for the Representation of States, Other Entities and Intergovernmental Organizations"

International Reference Number (IRN)

- IRN:
 - It identifies application data provided via UPOV electronic form
 - Based on WIPO Standard ST.13
 - The first two digits: Office Code (WIPO ST.3 Code) -> XU for UPOV
 - Unique per variety
 - For transparency, TQ data could only be copied when the same IRN is used.

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International Reference Number (IRN) and unique Breeder's reference

- In general, one variety has the same breeder's reference for applications with different PVP offices
- · IRN is unique per breeder's reference

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Other matters for clarification | VIPO | New |

Data confidentiality and Copy Function- Issue ID-26

- · Description:
 - Confidential data should be stored in a highly secured database
 - Confidential data may differ from one authority to another.
 - When a confidential data is copied to an application with less data protection restriction, what is the level of data confidentiality?



IssueID-26 (Proposal)

- We propose to split the data into two categories: Confidential and non confidential data.
- In order to improve the performance related to the access to non confidential data, in PV2, there will be two databases with different levels of security.
- Only data which is non confidential in all authorities can be stored in a non confidential database.

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Issue ID-27

- The way the date is displayed differs from one country to another.
- Alternative 1:
 - Based on the chosen authority, the date will be displayed differently.
- Alternative 2: Harmonize the way the date is displayed
 - Proposal: The date should be display as : "DD/MM/YYYY"

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Non Functional Requirements

- Do you have an operational online system?
- If yes, how many users are using your online system? Per year, per month, per day?
- How many applications do you receive? Daily, monthly, yearly?
- Have you set a degraded mode operation? What are the specified constraints? Does this mode depend on legal constraints?



PV2 Functional Requirements

- In which languages, the submitted application forms are acceptable?
- In PV1, the PVP office is receiving the submitted application through email. Is it acceptable to keep this feature in PV2?
- Is the mobile version required for the operational system?
- Should bulk upload (upload multiple forms at the same time) be considered for PV2?
- Should delegation functionality be considered for PV2?



Survey on the Wiki



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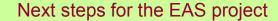
OVERVIEW

- Background
- Report on latest developments
- Presentation of the mock-up
- Future program
- Matters for consideration
- · Next steps

EAF/5/4 Annex II, page 14

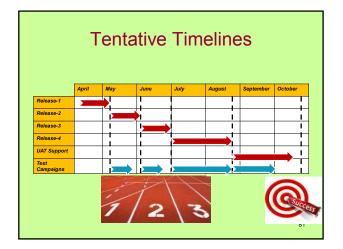
Next steps for the EAS project

- · First step on lettuce
- Next steps on other crops (see document CAJ/68/8 "Electronic application systems")
 - Crops/species for the prototype would be:
 - ➤ Lettuce (Lactuca sativa L.);
 - > Potato (Solanum tuberosum L.);
 - ➤ Rose (Rosa L.)
 - > Apple (Malus domestica Borkh.)
- The Office will request Application forms for selected crops



- · Legal aspects:
 - Payment modalities
 - Filing/Priority Date
 - Data Confidentiality
- Technical aspects:
 - Payment authorization and user authentication
 - Electronic signature
 - High Availability
 - Interaction with external systems: Genie DB/WIPO Accounts
 - Maintenance and support

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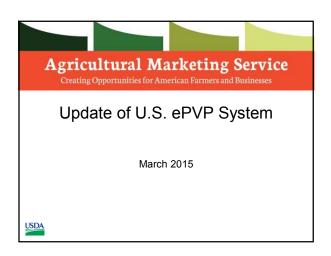


Electronic Application System Project EAF/5 Meeting

Documents EAF/5/2 and EAF/5/3

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[Annex III follows]



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Current ePVP Status

- The ePVP System version is 1.7.2015, which is the last deployment date. We are still using a beta version, but this will likely be the version that is used for the official launch.
- The ePVP Team, including all Examiners and Information Technology Specialists are:
 - Continuing to test the software
 - Developing user training videos to be posted to YouTube
 - Developing user manuals quick reference guide
 - Providing recommendations
 - Ensuring the system is fully capable for examining new varieties



ePVP Next Steps

- Feedback was provided to developer and many bugs were fixed with the new deployment.
- The developer deployed a new version of the software in January 2015, as indicated before.
- Additional software testing is underway by internal testers.
- STAR Database corrections are being made uspa simultaneously

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ePVP Next Steps

- The PVPO is working with the Agency's Information Technology Service group to further develop the roll-out plan of the ePVP by May 1, 2015.
- The ePVP System will have a forward facing, webbased system for external users - using Microsoft (MS) .NET Platform software.
- Internal user system is MS Customer Service Management software with relational database tables.
- The system will: accept applications, process payments and allow full examination of applications
 for new varieties.

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ePVP Development Plan

- A new task order/contract is being developed to add additional features that were not covered under the initial contract. This task order will also migrate more crop data from STAR to MS CRM.
- The ePVP system is still scheduled for release to the public on May 1, 2015 with a limited number of crops available.
- Additional crops will be added as they are corrected in STAR to fit the format of MS CRM.

USDA.

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Task Order Contract Details

- Continue development of the ePVP System until all features are available including:
 - Complete data migration from STAR
 - Data entry into the ePVP System for all crops
 - Upload of multiple applications electronically
 - Status updates for applicants
 - Other features added such as request for information, copies of certificates, etc.
 - Ensure full examination from the ePVP including distinctness searches for new data migrated from STAR



EAF/5/4 Annex III, page 2



Phase III Contract Details

- Last Phase of the ePVP System Project
- Includes support and maintenance
- Private contractor to perform the support and maintenance for 6-12 months
- Before end of contract, transition over to the Agency Information Technology Service for continued support and maintenance
- MS .NET and CRM Software fully supported by the Agency ITS



Challenges

- Allow staff time to assess current systems and new system; and to focus on the project.
- Allow more time for the migration of legacy data to the new system. STAR migration to MS CRM has been a very big challenge.
- Information Technology resources are critical, must ensure trained staff are available at all times
- Meeting notes and milestone dates are critical. Even with definitive dates expect delays due to programming, Internet connection problems, compatibility issues, etc.
- Also stress a standardized approach for documenting feedback and fixes in order to test the fixes.
- Major challenge has been continuing full examination during the development of the new system.



[End of Annex III and of document]