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UNION INTERNATIONALE
POUR LA PROTECTION
DES OBTENTIONS VÉGÉTALES

GENÈVE, SUISSE

INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF
NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Genève 20

UPOV Press Release No. 1

Geneva, October 8, 1982

UPOV COUNCIL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

UPOV

The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) is an intergovernmental organization based on the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, signed in Paris in 1961 and most recently revised in Geneva in 1978. UPOV cooperates in administrative matters with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and has its headquarters in the WIPO building in Geneva. The purpose of the Convention is to encourage the development of agriculture by safeguarding the interests of breeders of new plant varieties. To that end, the member States of UPOV provide breeders with the possibility to obtain an intellectual property right (plant breeder's right), either in the form of a special title of protection or, in a few member States, of a patent.

Sixteen States are members of UPOV: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

UPOV Council Meeting, 1982

All major decisions of UPOV are taken by its Council, in which each member State has one vote. The Council will hold its sixteenth annual ordinary session at the headquarters of UPOV from October 13 to 15, 1982. On that occasion, Japan, which became a member of UPOV on September 3, 1982, will be represented for the first time as a member State.

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UPOV Symposium, 1982

In recent years, it has become traditional to open the ordinary session of the Council with a Symposium on a topic of current interest and importance. The 1982 Symposium, entitled "Genetic Engineering and Plant Breeding," is devoted to the possible impact, on classical plant breeding, of the application of some of the latest techniques of genetic engineering. Five lectures on technical and legal aspects will be given by eminent speakers from UPOV member States. Details are set out in the attached program.

More than 100 experts, including representatives from member and observer States, intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations, are expected to attend. Representatives of the press will be most welcome at the Symposium, which will be opened at 9.30 a.m. on October 13, 1982, in Conference Room A of WIPO.

Further information on UPOV and on the 1982 Symposium can be obtained from the UPOV Office.

UPOV

SYMP/1982/1

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

S Y M P O S I U M

"Genetic Engineering and Plant Breeding"

Program of lectures and discussions
on the occasion of the sixteenth ordinary
session of the Council of UPOV

Geneva, October 13, 1982

"Genetic Engineering and Plant Breeding"

Wednesday, October 13, 1982

- 9.30 Opening of the Symposium by Dr. W. Gfeller, Switzerland, President of the Council of UPOV
- 9.45 "Genetic Engineering: a New Tool for Plant Breeders"
- Lecture by Dr. David J. Padwa, Chairman of the Board and President of Agrigenetics Corporation, Denver, Colorado, United States of America
- 10.30 "The Scientific Background of Genetic Engineering: Current Technologies and Prospects for the Future"
- Lecture by Dr. Robert H. Lawrence, Vice President and Director of Research of Agrigenetics Corporation, Denver, Colorado, United States of America
- 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.45 "Intellectual Property Aspects of Plant Variety Genetic Engineering: Views of an American Lawyer"
- Lecture by Sidney B. Williams, Jr., Attorney, The Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan, United States of America
- 12.30 Lunch
- 15.00 "The Contribution of New Techniques to Plant Breeding"
- Lecture by Max Rives, Director of Research, French National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA), Versailles, France
- 15.45 "Intellectual Property Aspects of Plant Variety Genetic Engineering: Views of a European Lawyer"
- Lecture by Dr. Peter Kreye, Attorney-at-Law, Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany
- 16.30 Coffee break
- 17.00 Panel discussion
- 18.00 Closing of the Symposium by the President of the Council of UPOV
- 18.15 Reception given by the Secretary-General of UPOV on the occasion of the Symposium