

INTERNATIONALER VERBAND
ZUM SCHUTZ VON
PFLANZENZÜCHTUNGEN
GENÈVE, SCHWEIZ



UNION INTERNATIONALE
POUR LA PROTECTION
DES OBTENTIONS VÉGÉTALES
GENÈVE, SUISSE

INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF
NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

UPOV Press Release No. 21

Geneva, October 14, 1996

ACCEPTANCE BY THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
OF THE 1991 ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION
OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands deposited its instrument of acceptance of the 1991 Act of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants on October 14, 1996, for the Kingdom in Europe.

UPOV is an intergovernmental organization which cooperates in administrative matters with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and has its headquarters in the WIPO building in Geneva, Switzerland.

The purpose of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants is to recognize and to ensure an intellectual property right to the breeder of a new plant variety. The member States of UPOV grant such a right in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, under their national legislation.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands, which is already a member State of UPOV, is the third State to ratify or accept the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. From the point of view of international treaty law, the 1991 Act will not enter into force for the Kingdom of the Netherlands until one month after two additional States have deposited instruments of adherence to the 1991 Act. From the point of view of national law, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has adapted its legislation to the 1991 Act. A number of other States also have laws which conform with the 1991 Act and can be expected to adhere to that Act in the months ahead.

The 1991 Act of the Convention makes the protection of all species of plants mandatory for member States after the expiration of a transitional period and strengthens the protection afforded to plant breeders. It does, however, leave protected varieties available, as at present, for use as a source of variation for the development of other varieties.

The strengthened protection for plant breeders will increase the incentive provided by the Convention for plant breeding and will lessen the threat to breeders from piracy of protected plant varieties and plagiaristic breeding activities.

[End]