

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. 38

Geneva, April 21, 1999

BOLIVIA ACCEDES TO UPOV

The Government of the Republic of Bolivia deposited today its instrument of accession to the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). The accession of Bolivia will help to secure access for Bolivian growers to the best and latest varieties, particularly for its important horticultural export industry.

The purpose of the UPOV Convention is to acknowledge the achievements of breeders of new plant varieties by granting them an exclusive property right on the basis of a set of uniform and clearly defined principles. To be eligible for protection, varieties have to meet certain conditions such as being distinct from existing, commonly known varieties and sufficiently homogeneous and stable. Protection is given to plant breeders both as an incentive to the development of agriculture, horticulture and forestry, and to safeguard the interests of plant breeders. Improved varieties are a necessary and cost-effective ingredient for achieving food security in a sustainable way.

The Director General of WIPO, Dr. Kamil Idris, who is also Secretary-General of UPOV, welcomed Bolivia's accession to the 1978 Act of the UPOV Convention. He said that the accession of an additional Latin-American State was especially welcomed by UPOV. The stimulus for plant breeding provided by the accession of Bolivia would contribute to agricultural development and food security in the region.

The accession of the Republic of Bolivia, which enters into force on May 21, 1999, brings the total number of member States of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) to 41. They are:

/...

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Ukraine, Uruguay.

UPOV, an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva, cooperates in administrative matters with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

For further information about UPOV, please contact the UPOV Secretariat:

Tel. (+41-22) 338 9155

Fax: (41-22) 733 0336

E-mail: upov.mail@wipo.int

Website: www.upov.int