

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. 41

Geneva, December 20, 1999

ACCESSION OF AUSTRALIA TO THE 1991 ACT OF THE INTER  
NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

The Australian Government deposited its instrument of accession to the 1991 Act of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants on December 20, 1999.

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.

Australia, which is already a member State of UPOV, is the thirteenth State to ratify or accept the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, or to accede to it. The 1991 Act will enter into force for Australia one month after the deposit of its instrument of accession, that is, on January 20, 2000.

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]