



INTERNATIONALER  
VERBAND  
ZUM SCHUTZ VON  
PFLANZENZÜCHTUNGEN  
  
GENÈVE, SUISSE

UNION INTERNATIONALE  
POUR LA PROTECTION  
DES OBTENTIONS  
VÉGÉTALES  
  
GENÈVE, SUISSE

UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL  
PARA LA PROTECCIÓN  
DE LAS OBTENCIONES  
VEGETALES  
  
GINEBRA, SUIZA

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

## PRESS RELEASE

### UPOV Press Release 103

Geneva, October 29, 2015

### **UPOV Council Holds its Forty-Ninth Ordinary Session**

The Council of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) held its forty-ninth ordinary session on October 29, 2015.

#### **Round-up of key developments:**

#### Examination of the conformity of the “Act of Plant Varieties Registration, Control and Certification of Seeds and Plant Materials of 2003” of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention

The Council recommended that the Islamic Republic of Iran incorporate certain additional provisions and amendments in the “Act of Plant Varieties Registration, Control And Certification of Seeds And Plant Materials of 2003”, and recommended that once the additional provisions and amendments had been incorporated in the Law, the amended Law should be submitted to the Council for examination in conformity with Article 34(3) of the 1991 Act.

#### Program and Budget of the Union for the 2016-2017 Biennium

The Council approved the Program and Budget for the 2016-2017 biennium, amounting to 6,823,000 Swiss francs, representing a 0.4% increase on the 2014-2015 biennium (6,794,000 Swiss francs). This budget contains no change in the value of the contribution unit by members of the Union and no change in the total number of posts for the Office of the Union.

#### Plant Variety Protection Statistics

A total of 59 members of the Union now offer protection to all plant genera and species (58 in 2014), with 14 members of the Union offering protection to a limited number of plant genera and species. Of those 14, two members (Brazil and Morocco) extended protection to additional plant genera and species in 2015.

The Council noted that, in 2014, the number of applications in UPOV members had exceeded 15,000 for the first time. There was a 4.8 percent increase in the number of applications for plant variety protection (15,499 in 2014; 14,788 in 2013), comprising a 2.8 percent increase in the number of applications by residents (9,770 in 2014; 9,502 in 2013) and an 8.4 percent increase in the number of applications by non-residents (5,729 in 2014; 5,286 in 2013). The number of titles granted increased from 10,052 in 2013 to 11,569 in 2014 (15.1 percent increase).

The total of 106,081 titles in force in 2014 represented a 2.7 percent increase on figures for 2013 (103,261).

#### Cooperation in the Examination of New Plant Varieties

In 2015, the number of plant genera and species for which there were agreements between members of the Union for cooperation in the examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability totaled 2,002, compared to 2,005 in 2014.

### Adoption of documents

The Council adopted revised versions of the following documents:

(a) TGP documents:

TGP/5	Experience and Cooperation in DUS Testing
TGP/9	Examining Distinctness
TGP/14	Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents

(b) Explanatory notes:

UPOV/EXN/CAN	Explanatory Notes on Cancellation of the Breeder's Right under the UPOV Convention
UPOV/EXN/NUL	Explanatory Notes on the Nullity of the Breeder's Right under the UPOV Convention
UPOV/EXN/PRP	Explanatory Notes on Provisional Protection under the UPOV Convention

(c) Information documents:

UPOV/INF/6	Guidance for the preparation of laws based on the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention
UPOV/INF/12	Explanatory Notes on Variety Denominations under the UPOV Convention
UPOV/INF/16	Exchangeable Software
UPOV/INF/22	Software and Equipment Used by Members of the Union

All adopted documents will be published in the UPOV Collection (see [http://www.upov.int/upov\\_collection/en/](http://www.upov.int/upov_collection/en/)).

### Election of President and Vice-President of the UPOV Council

The Council elected, in each case for a term of three years ending with the fifty-second ordinary session of the Council, in 2018:

- (a) Mr. Luis Salaices Sánchez (Spain), President of the Council;
- (b) Mr. Raimundo Lavignolle (Argentina), Vice-President of the Council.

The Secretary-General of UPOV, Mr. Francis Gurry awarded Ms. Kitisri Sukhapinda (United States of America) a UPOV Gold Medal in recognition of the contribution made during her term as President of the Council of UPOV from November 2, 2012 to October 29, 2015.

Mr. Gurry highlighted the following developments during Ms. Sukhapinda's presidency:

- The number of UPOV members had grown from 70 to 74, with the membership of Serbia; the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI); Montenegro; and the United Republic of Tanzania
- The number of States covered by the UPOV Convention had increased from 73 to 93
- Ratification of the 1991 Act by Canada
- The number of PBR titles in force had exceeded 100,000 for the first time and, in 2014, the number of applications had exceeded 15,000 for the first time
- UPOV had developed a communication strategy, including the introduction of a series of important FAQs
- Building on the success of the distance learning course DL-205 "Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection Under the UPOV Convention", UPOV had launched an advanced distance learning course "Examination of applications for plant breeders' rights" (DL-305 )
- The Council had adopted important new guidance documents on:
  - Definition of Breeder
  - Harvested material
  - Use of biochemical and molecular techniques in the examination of DUS

### Distance Learning Courses

Two sessions of each of the following UPOV Distance Learning Courses will be run in 2016:

- DL-205 “Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention”
- DL-305 “Examination of applications for plant breeders’ rights”
- DL-305A “Administration of Plant Breeders’ Rights” (Part A of DL-305)
- DL-305B “DUS Examination” (Part B of DL-305)

The timetable for all courses will be the following:

#### Session I - 2016

Registration: January 1 to February 7  
Study period: February 15 to March 20  
Final exam: March 14 to 20

#### Session II – 2016

Registration: August 15 to September 18  
Study period: September 25 to October 30  
Final exam: October 24 to 30

The categories of participants are as follows:

#### *Category 1:*

Government officials of members of the Union endorsed by the relevant representative to the UPOV Council  
*No fee*

#### *Category 2:*

Officials of observer States / intergovernmental organizations endorsed by the relevant representative to the UPOV Council  
*(One non-fee paying student per State / intergovernmental organization;  
Additional students: 1,000 Swiss francs per student)*

#### *Category 3:*

Others

*Fee: 1,000 Swiss francs*

More detailed information concerning course contents and on-line registration is available on the UPOV website: <http://www.upov.int/resource/en/training.html>

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

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