



Image: Quang Nguyen Vinh from Pexels

UPOV Newsletter: June 2025 Edition

Welcome to our newsletter, where we share the latest updates from UPOV and global Plant Variety Protection (PVP) figures.

This is your go-to resource to explore the latest advancements and opportunities in the world of PVP to promote agricultural innovation.

“By 2050, the global population is projected to reach 9.1 billion, with Africa—particularly Nigeria—experiencing one of the highest growth rates. As food demand rises, providing farmers with access to high-quality seeds is crucial to ensuring food security. In acceding to UPOV, Plant Variety Protection will drive the continuous development of improved, high-yielding,

and climate-resilient crop varieties, benefiting both farmers and the broader agricultural and horticultural sectors.”

Mr. Folarin Sunday Okelola

Registrar of the Nigerian Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Office

Nigeria becomes 80th member of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

Nigeria has joined the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) as the 80th member of the leading international standard-setting organization in plant variety protection (PVP).

Read more →

UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module

Product Features

- ✓ Make existing reports available through the tool. (option for bulk-uploading)
- ✓ Search for existing reports.
- ✓ Make a request for information on the possibility to obtain a report not yet made available.
- ✓ Track the history of each request.
- ✓ Communicate with the providing/receiving PVP office.
- ✓ Get notifications when a report is made available.
- ✓ Download available reports.

Media: UPOV/Frimpong

UPOV Launches New Report Exchange Module to Strengthen International Cooperation in the Examination of PVP Applications

The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) has launched a new version of the e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module, further strengthening international cooperation in plant variety protection (PVP).

The Exchange Module is a user-friendly online tool that allows UPOV members to share DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability) examination reports.

[Read more →](#)

ARIPO Joins UPOV PRISMA, Enabling Online Filing of Plant Variety Protection Applications

Breeders seeking plant variety protection through the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) can now submit their applications using the electronic platform UPOV PRISMA, a tailor-made online tool designed to facilitate plant variety protection (PVP) applications across PVP Offices worldwide.

[Read more →](#)

“The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) warmly welcomes its integration into the UPOV e-PVP system. This marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to modernize and streamline the administration of Plant Breeders' Rights across our Member States. Through this collaboration, applicants will benefit from a more efficient, secure, and transparent online application process under the Arusha Protocol. It is a step forward in reinforcing innovation, enhancing service delivery, and upholding the rights of plant breeders in ARIPO's Contracting States.”

Bemanya Twebaze

Director General, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)



Image: Robert Okayo

Robert Okayo: Championing Plant Breeding for Community Impact

In a small Kenyan village west of Nairobi, Robert Okayo's journey began with humble roots in subsistence farming.

By the age of six, he already knew he wanted to “bring science into what he saw his family and community were doing”. This perspective was sharpened when he entered university to study horticulture and agronomy, drawing inspiration from professors specializing in plant breeding and genetics.

[Read more →](#)

United Kingdom Joins UPOV e-PVP

The United Kingdom has officially joined the electronic plant variety protection (PVP) system known as UPOV e-PVP, a blockchain-based platform designed to streamline PVP administration through secure data exchange and improved efficiency.

[Read more →](#)

"The launch of the UK's customised UPOV e-PVP module and adoption of the DUS/VCU exchange reflect a forward-looking, innovative approach to digital transformation. The system addresses user feedback by enabling more transparent and efficient communication through customised workflows and automation. With strong collaboration between APHA, UPOV, and end users, the journey from UPOV PRISMA to UPOV e-PVP and DUS/VCU exchange has been rewarding. The next phase will focus on training and onboarding applicants, plant breeders, and staff."

Caroline Power

IT Strategy & Governance Senior Analyst, UK Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)



Image: UPOV/Oertel

Innovating DUS Testing in Ornamentals: Highlights from TWO's 57th Session in the Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO) held its 57th session in Roelofarendsveen, Kingdom of the Netherlands, from March 31 to

April 3, 2025, bringing together experts and stakeholders to develop standards and enhance collaboration in DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability) testing.

A standout moment of the session was the presentation from a French expert on using Genotyping-by-Sequencing (GbS) to support DUS testing in Hydrangea. The study introduced a targeted use of SNP markers, 20 to confirm species and 40 to distinguish *H. macrophylla* varieties. Promising results showed strong correlations between genetic markers and traits like flower color, paving the way for more efficient testing and up to a 33% reduction in trial sizes.

Participants also reviewed six Test Guidelines covering a range of ornamental plants, including Ginkgo, Magnolia, and Zantedeschia, alongside a partial revision for Dianthus.

[Read the full report here →](#)



Image: Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)

3rd Session of TWM Advances Tools for Smarter DUS Testing in Beijing

The 3rd session of the Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM) was held in Beijing, China, from April 28 to May 1, 2025, drawing over 150 participants, ranging from DUS experts to molecular specialists and including plant breeders, both in person and online.

The session spotlighted cutting-edge developments aimed at enhancing the efficiency of DUS testing. Topics included molecular techniques, statistical tools and bioinformatics, image analysis and high-throughput phenotyping, all geared toward more effective and collaborative approaches to plant variety examination.

Participants also explored opportunities for greater cooperation among international organizations, starting with the harmonization of molecular terms, definitions, and methods. Discussions included strengthening collaboration on using molecular markers for different crops, reflecting a shared commitment to innovation and mutual supportiveness. The next session of the TWM is set to take place in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from June 1 to 4, 2026.

[Learn more →](#)



Image: UPOV/Taveira

TWA Explores Innovation and Tradition at 54th Session in Arusha

The Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA) held its 54th session in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from May 19 to 22, 2025, bringing together experts to exchange insights and practical guidance on DUS examination.

Participants also discussed a range of Test Guidelines, covering important crops such as Fodder Beet, Mung Bean, Sugarcane, Grain Amaranth, and Festulolium.

Partial revisions were made for Maize and Sweet Potato, reflecting ongoing efforts to update characteristics in view of developments in plant breeding.

A major highlight of the session was the field visit to the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI). Since its founding in 2000, TaCRI has developed 23 protected coffee varieties. Delegates toured the variety demonstration fields, nurseries, and research stations, gaining valuable insight into coffee breeding and propagation practices led by TaCRI's dedicated team of experts.

[For the full report, click here →](#)

In case you missed it...

Catch a recap of previous events and meetings below:

Technical Webinars

- Introduction to drafting UPOV Test Guidelines (UPOV)
- Drafting national test guidelines in the absence of Guidelines, Ms. Hilary Papworth (United Kingdom)
- Type of characteristics and their effect on Discrepancy (Czech Republic)
- Developing shape and color characteristics, Mr. M. (New Zealand)

Do you want to know more about the work of UPOV as an international technical standard setting organization? **[Click here.](#)**

Media: UPOV/Frimpong



How can appropriate enforcement help protect everyone in the value chain, from investors to farmers, who rely on and benefit from newly protected plant varieties? **[Find out here.](#)**

Image: WIPO/Berrod

Webinar Series on Cooperation in DUS Examination

UPOV members collaborate with us aspects of the plant variety process. This three-part webinar series begins in October.

8:00am CEST - 1st Preparatory Webinar
3:00pm CEST - 2nd Preparatory Webinar
9:00am CEST - 3rd Preparatory Webinar
12:14:30 pm CEST - Seminar on Cooperation with the event



Did you know that UPOV offers the option to conduct plant variety examinations in collaboration with breeders? But how do different UPOV members implement this in practice? **[Head here to learn more.](#)**

Media: UPOV/Frimpong



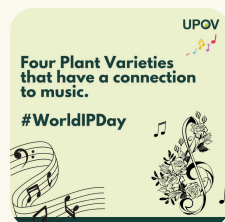
UPOV was invited to deliver opening remarks at the **[International Seed Federation](#)** World Seed Congress, highlighting the vital role of plant variety protection in driving innovation. **[Click here](#)** to explore our Vice Secretary-General's key takeaways.

Image: ISF

Upcoming Events and Meetings

- This week: June 23-26, 2025 the UPOV Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops is contributing to shaping the future of fruit variety innovation (Bursa, Türkiye).
- The agenda for the [2025 UPOV Sessions](#), our flagship annual event, is now available. This year's session will take place from October 20-24, 2025 (Geneva, Switzerland).
- Don't miss the first-ever [Seminar on Cooperation with Breeders in DUS Examination](#), a public side event open to all UPOV members and observers during the 2025 UPOV sessions, happening October 22, 2025 (Geneva, Switzerland).

From our social channels



In celebration of this year's #WorldIPDay, themed "IP and Music," we highlighted a few botanical stars protected under the UPOV system.

[Click here to see.](#)

Media: UPOV/Frimpong

How are smallholder farmers and plant breeders in Viet Nam using plant variety protection for

economic impact?



Image: Getty

Click [the video](#) to see some highlights of the socio-economic impact of plant variety protection (PVP) in driving food security and agricultural innovation. Meet Trinh Thi Lieu, a smallholder rice farmer from Viet Nam.

Stay connected with us on our other social channels for the latest news, updates, and more!

[UPOV X \(Twitter\) Account](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)