



Image: Hong Son/Pexels

UPOV Newsletter: June 2026 Edition

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

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

N.B: This publication is released biannually: in June and October.

In this edition: Technical experts from UPOV members and observers gathered across three continents to work through Test Guidelines, statistical tools, and molecular techniques, while UPOV's digital infrastructure received some new updates. Also dive in to discover how a new Vietnamese rice variety turned saline soil into a global award-winner. Elsewhere, Uruguay has updated its legislation on essentially derived varieties, we published the first set of PVP legal case summaries from China on the UPOV website, Nigeria hosted the 2nd

PVP Bootcamp training a new cohort of young professionals, and UPOV opened its certification program to private sector experts for the first time.



Image: UPOV/Taveira

TWA/55 Advances Tools and Test Guidelines for Agricultural Crops in Seoul

The fifty-fifth session of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA) was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from June 15 to 18, 2026, bringing together over 120 DUS experts, breeders, and technical specialists from UPOV members and observer organizations.

Over four days, the TWA advanced work on a wide range of tools and approaches to strengthen the examination of agricultural crops. Participants discussed proposed amendments to document TGP/7 on the duration of growing cycles, and considered measures to improve support for DUS examination, including possible enhancements to Test Guidelines and the web-based TG Template.

[Read more →](#)



Image: Courtesy of Kat Deeks, UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Software, Phenotyping, and Molecular Techniques Take Centre Stage at the Fourth Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM/4)

The fourth session of the Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM) was held in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from June 2 to 5, 2026, drawing over 130 experts in DUS testing, molecular techniques, statistics, and image analysis from UPOV members and observer organizations.

Building on the work of the previous session in Beijing, TWM/4 advanced developments in statistical tools such as COYU and COYD, software innovations, and image analysis and artificial intelligence for phenotyping and variety identification.

[Read more →](#)



Image: UPOV/Taveira

From Asparagus to Tomato Rootstocks: Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV/60) Reviews a Full Slate of Test Guidelines

The sixtieth session of the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV) was held in Pacific Grove, California, from May 18 to 21, 2026, bringing together some 70 DUS experts, breeders, and technical specialists from UPOV members and observer organizations.

Participants advanced work on the assessment of disease resistance characteristics, reviewed draft Test Guidelines for asparagus, garlic, ginger, vegetable marrow/squash, and parsley, and considered partial revisions for cucumber, gherkin and tomato rootstocks.

[Read more →](#)



Image: Courtesy of Tran Quang Vu

ST25: The Rice Variety That Turned Saline Fields Into Opportunity in Viet Nam's Mekong Delta

When ST25 won the World's Best Rice title at the 2019 World Rice Conference in the Philippines, it made history as the first Vietnamese rice variety to claim the top prize.

Behind ST25 is Ho Quang Cua: an agronomist, and Ho Quang Tri private enterprise established in 1990 in Soc Trang, a coastal province in the Mekong Delta. The company's guiding principle coined by him states, "Improved Seed is a Catalyst of Prosperity."

[Learn more →](#)



Image: Kosamtu/iStock

UPOV Opens Access to International Certification on Plant Variety Protection for Private Sector Experts

Private sector professionals working in plant variety protection can now earn internationally recognized credentials through a new certification program launched by the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

[Learn more →](#)



Image: UPOV/Frimpong

UPOV Working Group Discusses Independent Expert Study on Breeder's Right and Exhaustion

The ninth meeting of the Working Group on Harvested Material and Unauthorized Use of Propagating Material (WG-HRV) was held virtually on March 19, 2026, bringing together UPOV members and observers to discuss an independent expert study on the scope of the breeder's right and its relationship with the exhaustion of the breeder's right under the UPOV 1991 Convention.

[Learn more →](#)



Image: UPOV/Frimpong

UPOV Launches PRISMA Plus Pilot Project to Streamline Plant Variety Protection at 7th Electronic Applications Meeting

At the seventh Electronic Applications Meeting (EAM/7) held virtually on March 16, 2026, UPOV members reviewed progress across the organization's digital plant variety protection tools and advanced the UPOV PRISMA Plus Pilot Project, an initiative aimed at harmonizing and simplifying the application process for plant breeders filing across multiple jurisdictions.

[Learn more](#) →



Image: Courtesy of Charles Onwuka

Young Nigerian Professionals Gain Insights on Plant Variety Protection at PVP & IP Boot Camp

Thirty young Nigerian lawyers, plant breeders, and agricultural professionals converged in Abuja from March 2 to 6, 2026, for the second edition of the plant variety protection (PVP) & Intellectual Property (IP) Boot Camp, learning how plant variety protection can build climate-resilient food systems and drive agricultural innovation in Nigeria.

[Learn more →](#)

In case you missed it...

Catch a recap of previous events and developments below:



Image: WIPO/Berrod

World Seed Partnership Meeting

Effective seed systems start with enhanced collaboration. In April 2026, UPOV welcomed partners from the OECD Seed Schemes, ISTA – International Seed Testing Association, and the International Seed Federation to Geneva for a World Seed Partnership (WSP) meeting. [Learn more →](#)



Image: Courtesy of AFSTA

AFSTA 2026 Congress

UPOV Vice Secretary-General [Yolanda Huerta](#) delivered virtual opening remarks at the 2026 [African Seed Trade Association \(AfSTA\)](#) Congress, contributing to a panel on the role of international organisations in facilitating quality seed trade — a timely conversation as African seed systems continue to grow.



Image: Courtesy of ISF

ISF World Seed Congress, Lisbon

UPOV Vice Secretary-General [Yolanda Huerta](#) represented UPOV at the [International Seed Federation \(ISF\)](#) World Seed Congress in Lisbon, joining a Business Leaders Meeting and a series of bilateral engagements with seed associations and breeding companies from across the global seed sector. These conversations strengthened UPOV's partnerships with industry leaders and surfaced shared priorities for advancing plant variety protection in a rapidly evolving breeding landscape.



Image: Courtesy of CIOPORA

CIOPORA 65th Annual General Meeting, Alicante

UPOV joined CIOPORA's 65th Annual General Meeting in Alicante, where ornamental and fruit breeders, IP experts and industry leaders came together around a common purpose: ensuring that innovation in horticulture is properly protected to deliver impact. Speaking at the IP and Enforcement Symposium, UPOV shared findings from its Horizon Scanning exercise, pointing to a clear conclusion: the PVP system is at a crossroads, and the path forward must be shaped with breeders, growers and the wider value chain. [More](#) →



ARIPO Symposium on Plant Variety Protection, Maseru

UPOV Director of Legal Affairs [Martin Ekvad](#) delivered opening remarks at the [African Regional Intellectual Property Organization \(ARIPO\)](#) Symposium on Plant Variety Protection in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho, on 20–21 May 2026. Held as ARIPO marked its 50th anniversary, the Symposium brought together Heads of IP Offices, Ministries of Agriculture and partners from across the region to reflect on the role of PVP in advancing food security and innovation in African agriculture. [More](#) →

Legal Updates

China — Seed Industry IP Case Summaries

A first set of nine summaries of PVP legal cases by the People's Republic of China has been published on the UPOV website. The addition broadens the range of legal information represented in UPOV's jurisprudence section, which brings together case law relevant to plant breeders' rights. [Learn more](#) →



Image: valoragricola

Uruguay — Essentially Derived Varieties

Uruguay has adopted the concept of [essentially derived varieties](#) in its legislation, a move spearheaded by the country's National Seed Institute INASE Uruguay and approved by Parliament. An essentially derived variety is a new variety, predominantly

developed from an existing protected variety, retaining the key characteristics of the original while introducing changes that make it distinct. According to the new rules, these varieties can be protected, but cannot be commercialized without permission from the breeder of the initial variety. As a UPOV member since 1994, Uruguay's reform strengthens breeders' rights and continues to encourage innovation and the development of new varieties. [More →](#)

MEET THE TEAM

UPOV



Kaho Terayama
Associate Program Officer

With experience planning and coordinating the implementation of Japan's Plant Variety Protection and Seed Act, and a knowledge of the East Asian PVP landscape, Kaho will focus on gathering and communicating cases and practices in UPOV, bringing fresh regional perspective and practical expertise to the team.

Meet the Team

The UPOV Team is growing! In May 2026, UPOV was delighted to welcome Kaho Terayama as an Associate Program Officer. With experience planning and coordinating the implementation of Japan's Plant Variety Protection and Seed Act, and a knowledge of the East Asian PVP landscape, Kaho will support the

implementation of UPOV's Strategic Business Plan, including the Communication Strategy and Training and Assistance Strategy through identifying and analyzing cases, practices and relevant information that showcases the impact of the UPOV PVP system.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

- **TWO — Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees.** Online, 6–9 July 2026. Experts will advance DUS examination work for ornamental and forest tree varieties. [Details →](#)
 - **TWF — Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops.** Leipzig, Germany, 7–10 September 2026 (hybrid). UPOV members and observers will review the latest developments in DUS testing for fruit crop varieties. [Details →](#)
 - **2026 UPOV Sessions.** Geneva, 19–23 October 2026 (hybrid). Sessions include the Enlarged Editorial Committee, Technical Committee, Meeting on Electronic Applications, Administrative and Legal Committee, Working Group on Harvested Material and Unauthorized Use of Propagating Material, Consultative Committee, and the UPOV Council. [Details →](#)
 - **UPOV Seminar: "Bringing Innovation to Farmers: New Varieties, New Opportunities".** Geneva, 21 October 2026 (afternoon, hybrid). Exploring how plant variety protection drives agricultural innovation and supports farming communities around the world. [Details →](#)
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From Our Social Channels

UPOV

**THE GRASS, THE MERCHANDISE,
THE SNACK IN YOUR HAND.**

Behind every sporting moment, there's a new plant variety someone spent years developing.

This World IP Day, we're celebrating the plant breeders and farmers behind the game.

#WORLDIPDAY
IP AND SPORTS: READY, SET, INNOVATE!



Image: UPOV

For World IP Day 2026, UPOV took the theme "IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate!" onto the pitch — literally. [A two-part interview series](#) with turfgrass experts Crystal Fricker (Pure Seed) and Stig Oddershede (DLF), alongside a LinkedIn carousel on the role of plant varieties in sport, traced the connection from the grass beneath the players' feet to the ball, the jersey and beyond. The thread running through all of it: plant variety protection is what makes the investment in these innovations possible.

[Revisit the content and explore the cards here →](#)

We welcome contributions, feedback, and story leads from UPOV members, observers, and partners. If you have news to share or would like to feature in an upcoming edition, please get in touch with the UPOV Communications team at upov.mail@upov.int.

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