

Image: WIPO/Berrod

UPOV Newsletter: October 2026 Edition

Welcome to our newsletter, where we share the latest updates on global Plant Variety Protection (PVP) statistics and news from the UPOV 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: UPOV members gathered in Geneva for the 2026 sessions, reappointing **Daren Tang** as Secretary-General, welcoming **ASIPI** as a new observer and hearing from farmers in Chile, New Zealand and the United Republic of Tanzania in a new **seminar** about what new varieties have meant on the ground. Discover also how the UPOV PRISMA Plus pilot is exploring ways to cut duplication

for applicants, with up to 85 percent of application data potentially reusable across authorities. Further in, explore case studies from Brazil, Canada, China, Peru, and more.



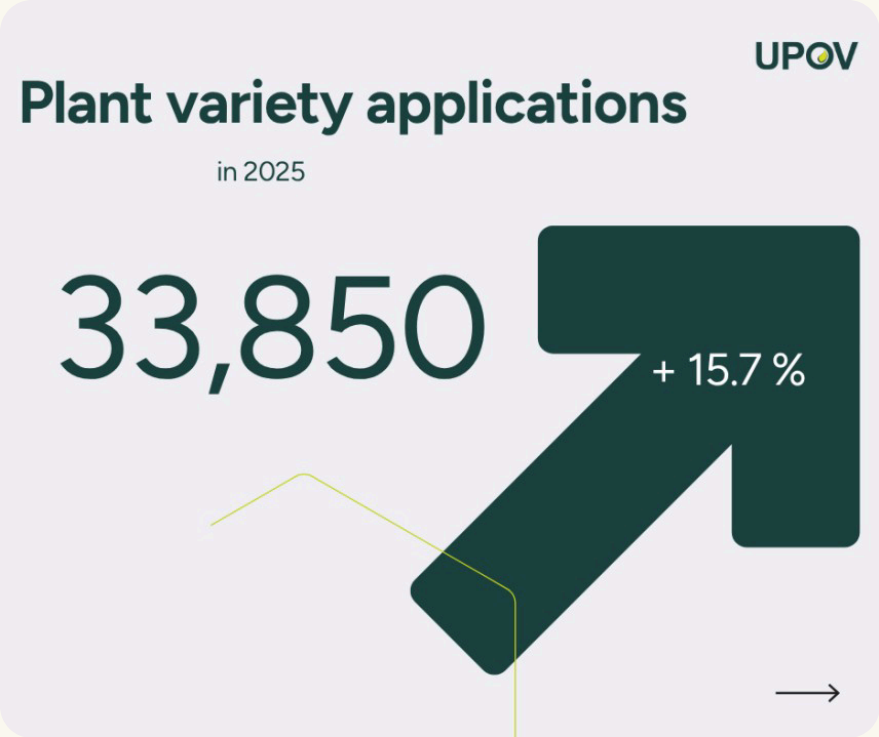
Image: WIPO/Berrod

2026 UPOV Sessions Close with Second Term for Secretary-General Daren Tang, a Seminar with a Focus on Farmers and a New Observer

The 2026 UPOV sessions closed in Geneva on Friday, October 23, after a week in which members appointed Mr. **Daren Tang** to a second term as Secretary-General, welcomed a new observer organization from the Americas, **ASIPI**, and explored how protected varieties reach the people who grow our food, what opportunities they open up, and what remains to be improved.

Read more →

Global Plant Variety Protection Trends in 2025



Video: UPOV/Frimpong

In 2025, 33,850 plant variety applications were filed worldwide, representing a staggering 15.7% increase over 2024 and the tenth consecutive year of growth. China remained the leading destination for plant variety applications, receiving 20,967 filings and accounting for 61.9% of the global total. The **Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)** of the European Union followed with 2,897 applications (8.6%), ahead of the United States of America (1,298), Ukraine (895) and the United Kingdom (825).

By the end of 2025, over 209,000 plant varieties were in force worldwide, up 3.0% from 2024. The highest numbers of active titles were recorded in China (45,519), the CPVO (31,798), the United States (27,947), the United Kingdom (20,211) and Ukraine (14,460).

Delve deeper into the statistics →



Image: UPOV/Martin

UPOV Seminar Bringing Innovation to Farmers: New Varieties, New Opportunities

Missed the UPOV seminar “Bringing Innovation to Farmers: New Varieties, New Opportunities,” or want to revisit a session? The presentations and full event recording will soon be available on the UPOV website. Hear first-hand from farmers, breeders and policy makers on how innovation reaches producers through improved varieties, effective seed systems and supportive policies.

Catch up on the highlights →



Image: UPOV/Frimpong

Suriname Welcomes Positive Advice from the UPOV Council

At the UPOV sessions, the Council took a positive decision on the conformity of Suriname's Draft Law with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, an important step towards Suriname becoming a member of the Union. Speaking on behalf of the Government of Suriname, Rinette Soeropawiro, Head of the Seed-Unit Division and Chair of the National Seed Board of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, thanked the Council and explained why the decision matters for the country's farmers, food security and natural heritage.

> *"With plant breeders' rights protected under the UPOV 1991 standard, international plant breeders can entrust us with their best genetics, including high-yielding and climate-resilient crops that were previously beyond the easy reach of our farmers," she said. "Better varieties enable our farmers to produce more food per hectare. By producing more on the land we already cultivate, we can reduce the pressure to clear additional forest."*

The delegate also underlined that smallholder farmers, described as the foundation of Suriname's agriculture, will remain at the heart of the law's implementation, before closing with a look to the future: "Oil revenue will not last forever. A strong seed sector, productive farms and a protected rainforest will endure."



Image: WeimingDong/GettyImages

Protected New Plant Varieties Drive Industrial Development in Northwest China

Beneath the oak trees of northwest China, two protected plant varieties of Tian Ma, an orchid used in traditional Chinese medicine, are helping create local jobs, boost farming incomes and supply more than 20 products — from noodles to capsules. Backed by plant variety protection, the story shows how plant breeding and new varieties can turn local resources into new opportunities.

Discover the story →



Image: Courtesy of Roland Joannin

‘Ó:iase’: How a New Apple Variety is Helping Revive an Indigenous Language

How can a new apple variety help keep an Indigenous language alive? For plant breeder Roland Joannin, seventeen years of work led to ‘Ó:iase’, meaning “new apple” in Kanien’kéha, the Mohawk language. Developed in Quebec, the protected variety carries a name chosen with the Mohawk Language Custodian Association, and a commitment to share royalties from tree sales to support its language programmes.

Read the full story →



Image: Courtesy of Ede Balbinotti

“Produce More with the Same Land”: How a Fifth-Generation Small Farm in Southern Brazil Bets on Better Varieties

For fifth-generation farmer Ede Balbinotti in southern Brazil, choosing better varieties is central to producing more on the same land. On his 14-hectare farm, protected maize and citrus varieties are helping him pursue higher yields and adapt to increasingly frequent droughts. Learn how access to new plant varieties is helping Ede meet today’s challenges while carrying forward his family’s farming legacy.

Full story →



Image: UPOV/Wang

Fruit Crop Experts Review Growing-Cycle Wording and Citrus Taxonomy at Technical Working Party in Leipzig, Germany

The fifty-seventh session of UPOV's Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF) was held in Leipzig, Germany, from September 7 to 10, 2026, hosted by the **Bundessortenamt**, Germany's Federal Plant Variety Office. Chaired by Ms. **Carole Dirwimmer** (France), the session brought together over 120 participants both online and in person from UPOV members and observer organizations.

Read more →



Image: Balwan/Getty Images

Color Under the Microscope: TWO 58 Discusses New Tools for Ornamental Variety Testing

For plant variety examiners, few characteristics are trickier to pin down than color. A chrysanthemum petal may require examiners to compare multiple color charts to accurately determine a color. That challenge sat at the heart of the 58th session of UPOV's Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO), chaired by **Hilary Papworth**, as delegates explored how emerging technologies can increase efficiency of the assessment of ornamental varieties.

Read more →

In case you missed it...

Catch a recap of previous events and developments below:



Image: UPOV/Frimpong

WIPO Assemblies

This year's **World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO** Assemblies brought together countries, organizations and stakeholders from across the world into Geneva, and once again gave the UPOV community a welcome chance to deepen the global conversation on plant variety protection. **Get the highlights here →**



Visit from OIV

UPOV was pleased to welcome representatives from **OIV - International Organisation of Vine and Wine** for discussions on areas of common interest and opportunities for continued cooperation. The exchange covered topics including variety denominations and identification, as well as related discussions with the **World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO** on geographical indications and trademarks.

From Our Social Channels



Image: UPOV/Frimpong

In the years since Peru joined UPOV in 2011, its grape sector has been transformed. A set of data cards drawing on **Indecopi Oficial**'s latest report, alongside FAOSTAT and Trade Map figures, traces how production, exports and the number of protected varieties grew together, with the area under grapes expanding from around 15,000 hectares to 37,804. The story they tell: when breeders can protect their work, farmers gain access to the varieties that help them compete in global markets. **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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