

Council**C/54/21.****Fifty-Fourth Ordinary Session
Geneva, October 30, 2020****Original:** English
Date: October 30, 2020

REPORT*adopted by the Council*Opening of the session

1. The Council of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) held its fifty-fourth ordinary session via electronic means on October 30, 2020, chaired by Mr. Marien Valstar (Netherlands), President of the Council.
2. The session was opened by the President who welcomed the participants and the new Secretary-General of UPOV, Mr. Daren Tang.
3. The list of participants is reproduced in Annex I to this report.
4. The intervention made by the Secretary-General is reproduced in the Appendix of Annex II to this report.

Adoption of the agenda

5. The Council adopted the revised draft agenda, as presented in document C/54/1 Rev..

Outcome of the consideration of documents by correspondence

6. The Council considered document C/54/17.
7. The Council noted the information on the outcome of the procedure for consideration of documents by correspondence, as reported in document C/54/17.

Appointment of the Secretary-General

8. The Council noted that document C/54/11 had been considered by correspondence.
9. The Council noted the report from the President that the Council, in the procedure by correspondence, had appointed, on October 25, 2020, Mr. Daren Tang as the Secretary General of UPOV for the period from October 30, 2020, to September 30, 2026 (see document C/54/17 "Outcome of consideration of documents by correspondence", paragraphs 12 and 13).
10. The Delegation of Brazil congratulated the new Secretary-General for his appointment and the Vice Secretary-General for the extension of his appointment. The Delegation expressed satisfaction on the progress made by procedure by correspondence in combination with the virtual sessions and reported on developments in the digital application system in Brazil.
11. The Delegation of China congratulated the new Secretary-General for his appointment and expressed appreciation for his decision not to receive an indemnity as Secretary-General of UPOV and to use that indemnity in the UPOV program and budget for financing activities of particular interest to developing countries. The Delegation congratulated also the Vice Secretary-General for the extension of his appointment.

12. The Delegation of the European Union congratulated the new Secretary-General for his appointment and the Vice Secretary-General for the extension of his appointment and expressed its support for continued fruitful cooperation with the Office of the Union.

13. The Delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania congratulated the new Secretary-General for his appointment and the Vice Secretary-General for the extension of his appointment.

Extension of the appointment of the Vice Secretary-General

14. The Council noted that document C/54/12 had been considered by correspondence.

15. The Council noted the report from the President that the Council, in the procedure by correspondence, had extended, on October 25, 2020, the appointment of the Vice Secretary-General from December 1, 2021, until November 30, 2022 (see document C/54/17 "Outcome of consideration of documents by correspondence", paragraphs 14 and 15).

Report by the Vice Secretary-General on developments in UPOV

16. The Council noted that a pre-recorded video presentation in English, with subtitles in English, French, German and Spanish, had been made available on the C/54 webpage. A copy of the presentation was provided in document C/54/INF/2.

17. The Council noted that, since the posting of the video presentation, Mr. Amit Sharma had been appointed as IT Support Officer on a temporary appointment, starting on November 1, 2020. The Council was further informed that the Office of the Union would return to remote working from November 2, 2020. The Vice Secretary-General also reported on plans to enable zip file downloading of UPOV sessions documents from the website and plans to introduce information in the subject line of UPOV's e-mail circulars to enable readers to know the type of content, e.g. whether for action, invitations to meetings, posting of documents or other information.

Report by the President on the work of the ninety-seventh session of the Consultative Committee; adoption of recommendations, if any, prepared by that Committee

18. The Council considered document C/54/13.

19. The Council noted the intervention by the representative of the Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES) on the following matters:

- (a) a request for providing a report on the use of the premium service of PLUTO;
- (b) welcoming the work of UPOV in relation to possible guidance regarding the implementation of the exception of acts done privately and for non-commercial purposes in relation to smallholder farmers, while expressing disappointment that a decision had not been made to revise the explanatory notes on exceptions. He expressed the interest of APBREBES to contribute to the process;
- (c) a request for clarification on the mandate of the Office of the Union in the representation of UPOV in other international fora.

20. The Council noted the following reply by the Vice Secretary-General:

- (a) in relation to PLUTO, he confirmed that the Office of the Union would provide information on the use of the premium service of PLUTO in its reports on PLUTO to the relevant UPOV bodies;
- (b) in relation to the interest to contribute to the process on the work on possible guidance on smallholder farmers, he noted that it was a matter for consideration by the members of the Union;
- (c) in relation to the mandate of the Office of the Union in other international fora, he noted that the interventions and contributions of the Office of the Union would need to reflect the UPOV Convention.

21. The Council noted the intervention by the representative of the International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Horticultural Plants (CIOPORA) that, in relation to possible guidance regarding the implementation of the exception of acts done privately and for non-commercial purposes in relation to smallholder farmers, careful consideration should be made to the wording in relation to excluding propagating material for fruits. The representative expressed the interest of CIOPORA to contribute to the process.

22. The Council noted the intervention by the representative of the International Seed Federation (ISF), which expressed its appreciation for the decision of the Consultative Committee to start work with a view to providing guidance regarding the implementation of the exception of acts done privately and for non-commercial purposes in relation to smallholder farmers. The representative expressed the interest of ISF to contribute to the process.

23. The Delegation of Switzerland proposed to add “and observers” after “members of the Union” in paragraph 25(a) of document C/54/13.

24. The Delegation of Norway expressed support to the proposal by the Delegation of Switzerland.

25. The Council decided to change paragraph 25(a) of document C/54/13, as follows:

“25. The Consultative Committee agreed the following in relation to providing guidance regarding the implementation of the exception of acts done privately and for non-commercial purposes in relation to smallholder farmers, taking into account the concerns raised at the session:

“(a) a circular to be sent to members of the Union and observers requesting contributions on their experience and on their views on the implementation of the exception of acts done privately and for non-commercial purposes in relation to smallholder farmers;
[...].”

26. The Council noted that a revised version of document C/54/13 (document C/54/13 Rev.) to reflect the change in paragraph 25(a) would be prepared and posted, accordingly.

27. In relation to the Calendar of meetings, the Council noted the developments at the virtual UPOV sessions in 2020 concerning the calendar of meetings in 2021 approved by the Council (see document C/54/8). The Council noted the following information reported in document C/54/13 and agreed that a revised version of document C/54/8 be prepared:

Administrative and Legal Committee

WG-EDV/1 December 8, 2020 (virtual meeting)
Working Group on Essentially Derived Varieties (WG-EDV)

(Seminar on harvested material: date to be decided)

CAJ/78 October 27
EAF/17 March 25 ~~(morning)~~ (virtual meeting from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm (Geneva time))
EAF/18 October 26 (evening)
Meeting on the Development of an Electronic Application Form (EAF)

Seminar on strategies that address policies involving plant breeding and plant variety protection
(date to be decided)

28. The Council noted the work of the Consultative Committee at its ninety-seventh session, as reported in document C/54/13.

29. Based on the recommendation of the Consultative Committee reported in document C/54/13, the Council approved the organization of a seminar, which would be open to members and observers, in the week of the UPOV sessions in 2021 to exchange information and experiences on strategies involving plant breeding and plant variety protection that address broad policy issues, as set out in paragraphs 17 to 18 of document C/54/13.

Adoption of documents

30. The Council noted that document C/54/3 Rev. had been considered by correspondence.

31. The Council noted that the decisions in document C/54/3 Rev. had been taken and the following documents had been approved by the Council by correspondence, as provided in document C/54/17, paragraphs 16 and 25.

Information Materials

Document UPOV/INF/4	Financial Regulations and Rules of UPOV (Revision of Regulation 4.6) (document C/54/19)
Document UPOV/INF/16:	Exchangeable Software (Revision) (document UPOV/INF/16/9 Draft 2)
Document UPOV/INF/22:	Software and Equipment Used by Members of the Union (Revision) (document UPOV/INF/22/7 Draft 1)
Document UPOV/INF-EXN:	List of UPOV/INF-EXN Documents and Latest Issue Dates (Revision) (document UPOV/INF-EXN/14 Draft 2)

TGP Documents

Document TGP/5:	Experience and Cooperation in DUS Testing, Section 6: UPOV Report on Technical Examination and UPOV Variety Description (Revision) (document TGP/5: Section 6/3 Draft 1)
Document TGP/7:	Development of Test Guidelines (Revision) (document TGP/7/8 Draft 1)
Document TGP/14:	Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents (Revision) (document TGP/14/5 Draft 1)
Document TGP/15:	Guidance on the Use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) (Revision) (document TGP/15/3 Draft 1)
Document TGP/0:	List of TGP documents and latest issue dates (Revision) (document TGP/0/12 Draft 1)

Financial statements for 2019

32. The Council noted that document C/54/5 had been considered by correspondence.

33. The Council noted that the decision in document C/54/5 had been taken by the Council by correspondence, as provided in document C/54/17, paragraph 26.

Report of the External Auditor

34. The Council noted the information contained in the Report of the External Auditor, as presented in document C/54/6, in conjunction with an oral report made by Mr. Damian Brewitt, Director, National Audit Office.

35. The Council expressed its gratitude to the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom for acting as External Auditor of the UPOV accounts.

Arrears in contributions as of September 30, 2020

36. The Council considered document C/54/10.

37. The Council noted the status of payment of contributions as of September 30, 2020, and noted that due to recent payments, Ireland, Sweden and Ukraine had no arrears. The Council noted that Ecuador had made a recent payment leaving only a balance of 588 Swiss francs.

Financial Management Report for the 2018-2019 Biennium

38. The Council noted that document C/54/4 had been considered by correspondence.

39. The Council noted that the decision in document C/54/4 had been taken by the Council by correspondence, as provided in document C/54/17, paragraph 27.

Performance Report for the 2018-2019 Biennium

40. The Council noted that document C/54/9 had been considered by correspondence.

41. The Council noted that the decision in document C/54/9 had been taken by the Council by correspondence, as provided in document C/54/17, paragraph 29.

Annual report of the Secretary-General for 2019

42. The Council noted that document C/54/2 had been considered by correspondence.

43. The Council noted that the decision in document C/54/2 had been taken by the Council by correspondence, as provided in document C/54/17, paragraph 30.

Consolidation of financial and performance reports

44. The Council noted that document C/54/18 had been considered by correspondence.

45. The Council noted that the decision in document C/54/18 had been taken by the Council by correspondence, as provided in document C/54/17, paragraph 31.

Merger of the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT) and the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC)

46. The Council noted that document C/54/14 had been considered by correspondence.

47. The Council noted that the decisions in document C/54/14 had been taken by the Council by correspondence, as provided in document C/54/17, paragraphs 33 to 35, and reproduced in the following paragraphs.

48. The Council approved the establishment and the following terms of reference for the TWM, to encompass the work of the TWC and BMT:

Title:

Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM)

Tasks:

As directed by the Technical Committee, to:

- (a) Consider methods relevant for the examination of DUS.
- (b) Review and provide guidance on software and equipment relevant for:
 - (i.) DUS trial design and data analysis
 - (ii.) Data recording and transfer
 - (iii.) Image analysis
 - (iv.) Biochemical and molecular data.
- (c) Consider matters relating to trial design and data analysis;
- (d) Consider the possible application of biochemical and molecular techniques in DUS testing;
- (e) Develop guidelines regarding the management and harmonization of databases;

- (f) If appropriate, establish guidelines for biochemical and molecular methodologies and their harmonization;
- (g) Review general developments in biochemical and molecular techniques;
- (h) Maintain an awareness of relevant applications of biochemical and molecular techniques in plant breeding;
- (i) Provide a forum for discussion on the use of biochemical and molecular techniques in the consideration of essential derivation and variety identification.

49. The Council established the TWM with the above terms of reference, to take effect from 2022.

50. The Council elected the Chairperson of the BMT to act as Chairperson of the TWM, ending with the fifty-seventh ordinary session of the Council, in 2023.

FAQ “How the UPOV system supports sustainable development”

51. The Council noted that document C/54/15 had been considered by correspondence.

52. The Council noted that the decision in document C/54/15 had been taken by the Council by correspondence, as provided in document C/54/17, paragraph 37.

Program of meetings

Approval of work programs for the Administrative and Legal Committee, the Technical Committee and the Technical Working Parties

53. The Council considered document C/54/7 and received an oral presentation by the Office of the Union, on behalf of the Chair of the CAJ, on the work of the seventy-seventh session of the CAJ, based on document CAJ/77/10 “Report”.

54. Based on the recommendation by the CAJ, the Council decided to organize a seminar in the first half of 2021, to exchange information on matters concerning harvested material and unauthorized use of propagating material.

55. The Council approved the work program for the seventy-eighth session of the CAJ, as presented in the report of the seventy-seventh session of the CAJ (see document CAJ/77/10 “Report”, paragraph 46).

56. The Council noted the work of the Technical Committee (TC) and of the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) and the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT), and the oral presentation made by the Office of the Union on the work of the fifty-sixth session of the TC, based on document TC/56/23 “Report”.

57. The Council approved the work of the TC and the work programs of the TWPs and BMT reported to the Council, as provided in document TC/56/23.

Election of the new Chairpersons of the Technical Working Parties and the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT)

58. The Council noted that document C/54/16 had been considered by correspondence.

59. The Council noted that the decision in document C/54/16 had been taken by the Council by correspondence, as provided in document C/54/17, paragraph 41, as follows:

- (a) Ms. Renée Cloutier (Canada) as Chairperson of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA);
- (b) Mr. Christopher Barnaby (New Zealand) as Chairperson of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF);

- (c) Ms. Ashley Balchin (Canada) as Chairperson of the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO);
- (d) Ms. Marian van Leeuwen (Netherlands) as Chairperson of the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV); and
- (e) Ms. Beate Rücker (Germany) as Chairperson of the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT).

Matters for information:

60. The Council noted the following documents under item 20 “Matters for information”, which had been posted for information on the C/54 webpage:

- (a) Report on activities during the first nine months of 2020 (document C/54/INF/3)
- (b) Situation in the legislative, administrative and technical fields:
 - (i) Reports by representatives of members and observers (document C/54/INF/4)
 - (ii) Cooperation in examination (document C/54/INF/5); List of the taxa protected by the members of the Union (document C/54/INF/6); Plant variety protection statistics for the period 2015-2019 (document C/54/INF/7)

61. The Council noted the oral presentation made by the Office of the Union concerning information contained in (ii): Cooperation in examination; List of Taxa protected and PVP statistics (see Annex II).

Press release

62. The Council considered the draft press release, as contained in document C/54/20.
63. The Council approved the draft press release, as reproduced in Annex II to this report.

Retirement

64. The President noted that Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Controller of Plant Variety Rights, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (United Kingdom), would retire before the next session of the Council. On behalf of the Council, the President expressed his thanks to Mr. Andrew Mitchell for his contribution to the work of the Union and wished him a long and happy retirement.

UPOV Medal

65. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to UPOV, the Secretary-General awarded a UPOV gold medal to Mr. Francis Gurry, the former Secretary-General of UPOV from October 30, 2008 to September 2020.

66. This report was adopted by the Council at the close of its session, on October 30, 2020.

[Annexes follow]

ANNEXE I / ANNEX I / ANLAGE I / ANEXO I

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS /
TEILNEHMERLISTE / LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

(dans l'ordre alphabétique des noms français des membres /
in the alphabetical order of the French names of the Members /
in alphabetischer Reihenfolge der französischen Namen der Mitglieder /
por orden alfabético de los nombres en francés de los miembros)

I. MEMBRES / MEMBERS / VERBANDSMITGLIEDER / MIEMBROSAFRIQUE DU SUD / SOUTH AFRICA / SÜDAFRIKA / SUDÁFRICA

Noluthando NETNOU-NKOANA (Ms.), Director, Genetic Resources, Department of Agriculture, Rural development and Land Reform, Pretoria
(e-mail: noluthandon@daff.gov.za)

ALLEMAGNE / GERMANY / DEUTSCHLAND / ALEMANIA

Elmar PFÜLB (Mr.), President, Bundessortenamt, Hannover
(e-mail: elmar.pfuehb@bundessortenamt.de)

ARGENTINE / ARGENTINA / ARGENTINIEN / ARGENTINA

María Laura VILLAMAYOR (Sra.), Coordinadora de Relaciones Institucionales e Interjurisdiccionales, Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE), Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca, Buenos Aires
(e-mail: mlvillamayor@inase.gob.ar)

Betina FABBIETTI (Ms.), Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Geneva
(e-mail: betina.fabbietti@missionarg.ch)

AUSTRALIE / AUSTRALIA / AUSTRALIEN / AUSTRALIA

Nik HULSE (Mr.), Chief of Plant Breeders' Rights, Plant Breeder's Rights Office, IP Australia, Woden
(e-mail: nik.hulse@ipaaustralia.gov.au)

AUTRICHE / AUSTRIA / ÖSTERREICH / AUSTRIA

Maximilian POCK (Mr.), Policy Officer - Plant Health, Seed and Varieties, Abteilung II/5, Pflanzliche Produkte, Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus, Vienna
(e-mail: maximilian.pock@bmlrt.gv.at)

Birgit GULZ-KUSCHER (Ms.), Legal Advisor for Seed Law and Plant Variety Protection Law, Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, Wien
(e-mail: birgit.gulz-kuscher@bmlrt.gv.at)

BÉLARUS / BELARUS / BELARUS / BELARÚS

Tatsiana SIAMASHKA (Ms.), Deputy Director of DUS Testing, State Inspection for Testing and Protection of Plant Varieties, Minsk
(e-mail: belsort@sorttest.by)

BELGIQUE / BELGIUM / BELGIEN / BÉLGICA

Shannah BOENS (Ms.), Attaché, FOD Economie, KMO, Middenstand en Energie, Algemene Directie Economische Reglementering, Dienst voor de Intellectuele Eigendom, Bruxelles
(e-mail: shannah.boens@economie.fgov.be)

BOLIVIE (ÉTAT PLURINATIONAL DE) / BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) /
BOLIVIEN (PLURINATIONALER STAAT) / BOLIVIA (ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE)

Mariana NARVAEZ VARGAS (Sra.), Segundo Secretario, Misión Permanente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia ante Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales en Ginebra, Ginebra
(e-mail: yarmila.nv@gmail.com)

BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE / BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIEN UND HERZEGOWINA / BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA

Mirjana BRZICA (Ms.), Head, Department of seeds, seedling and protection of new varieties of plants, Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Sarajevo
(e-mail: mirjana.brzica@uzzb.gov.ba)

BRÉSIL / BRAZIL / BRASILIEN / BRASIL

Ricardo ZANATTA MACHADO (Mr.), Federal Agricultural Inspector, Coordinator, Serviço Nacional de Proteção de Cultivares (SNPC), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Brasília D.F.
(e-mail: ricardo.machado@agricultura.gov.br)

Laís TAMANINI (Ms.), Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Geneva
(e-mail: lais.tamanini@itamaraty.gov.br)

CANADA / CANADA / KANADA / CANADÁ

Anthony PARKER (Mr.), Commissioner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Ottawa
(e-mail: anthony.parker@canada.ca)

CHILI / CHILE / CHILE / CHILE

Manuel Antonio TORO UGALDE (Sr.), Jefe Departamento, Registro de Variedades Protegidas, División Semillas, Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG), Santiago de Chile
(e-mail: manuel.toro@sag.gob.cl)

CHINE / CHINA / CHINA / CHINA

Wen WEN (Ms.), Deputy Division Director, Division of DUS Tests, Development Center of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), Beijing
(e-mail: wenwen@agri.gov.cn)

Xuhong YANG (Ms.), Deputy Division Director, Division of DUS Tests, Development Center of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), Beijing
(e-mail: yangxuhong@agri.gov.cn)

Ling ZHANG (Ms.), Deputy Division Director, International Cooperation Department, China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), Beijing
(e-mail: zhangling_1@cnipa.gov.cn)

Yang YANG (Ms.), Senior Examiner, Division of Plant Variety Protection, Development Center of Science and Technology (DCST), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), Beijing
(e-mail: yangyang@agri.gov.cn)

Boxuan WU (Mr.), Program Administrator, Division I, International Cooperation Department, China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), Beijing
(e-mail: wuboxuan@cnipa.gov.cn)

COLOMBIE / COLOMBIA / KOLUMBIEN / COLOMBIA

Alfonso Alberto ROSERO (Sr.), Director Técnico de Semillas, Subgerencia de Protección Vegetal, Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), Bogotá
(e-mail: alberto.rosero@ica.gov.co)

CROATIE / CROATIA / KROATIEN / CROACIA

Dunja HALAPIJA KAZIJA (Mr.), Senior Advisor, Zagreb
(e-mail: dunja.h-kazija@mps.hr)

DANEMARK / DENMARK / DÄNEMARK / DINAMARCA

Gustav ESPENHAIN (Mr.), Clerk, The Danish Agricultural Agency, Copenhagen
(e-mail: gusesp@lbst.dk)

ÉGYPTE / EGYPT / ÄGYPTEN / EGIPTO

Mahasen Fawaz Mohamed GAD (Ms.), General Manager, Plant Variety Protection Office, Central Administration for Seed Certification (CASC), Giza
(e-mail: mahasen.f.gad@gmail.com)

Shymaa ABOSHOSHA (Ms.), Agronomic Engineer, Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO), Central Administration for Seed Testing and Certification (CASC), Giza
(e-mail: sh_z9@hotmail.com)

ÉQUATEUR / ECUADOR / ECUADOR / ECUADOR

Paulina MOSQUERA HIDALGO (Sra.), Directora Nacional de Obtenciones Vegetales y Conocimientos Tradicionales, Servicio Nacional de Derechos Intelectuales (SENADI), Quito
(e-mail: pcmosquera@senadi.gob.ec)

Heidi VÁSCONES (Sra.), Segunda Secretaria, Misión Permanente del Ecuador ante Organización Mundial de Comercio, Ginebra
(e-mail: t-hvascones@cancilleria.gob.ec)

ESPAGNE / SPAIN / SPANIEN / ESPAÑA

José Antonio SOBRINO MATÉ (Sr.), Subdirector general de Medios de Producción Agrícolas y Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales (MPA y OEVV), DG Producciones y Mercados Agrarios, Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación (MAPA), Madrid
(e-mail: jasobrino@mapa.es)

Nuria URQUÍA FERNÁNDEZ (Sra.), Jefe de Área de Registro de Variedades, Subdirección General de Medios de Producción Agrícola y Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales (OEVV), Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación (MAPA), Madrid
(e-mail: nurquia@mapa.es)

ESTONIE / ESTONIA / ESTLAND / ESTONIA

Anu NEMVALTS (Ms.), Head of Department, Organic Farming and Seed Department, Estonian Agricultural Board, Saku
(e-mail: anu.nemvalts@pma.agri.ee)

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / VEREINIGTE STAATEN VON AMERIKA / ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Elaine WU (Ms.), Senior Counsel, Office of Policy and International Affairs, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Alexandria
(e-mail: elaine.wu@uspto.gov)

Jeffery HAYNES (Mr.), Commissioner, Plant Variety Protection Office, USDA, AMS, S&T, Washington D.C.
(e-mail: Jeffery.Haynes@usda.gov)

Mara SANDERS (Ms.), Plant Variety Examiner, Plant Variety Protection Office, USDA, Washington D.C.
(e-mail: mara.sanders@usda.gov)

Kaylee LEWIS (Ms.), Plant Variety Examiner, Plant Variety Protection Office, USDA, Washington D.C.
(e-mail: kaylee.lewis@usda.gov)

Yasmine Nicole FULENA (Ms.), Intellectual Property Adviser, Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Chambésy
(e-mail: fulenayn@state.gov)

FINLANDE / FINLAND / FINNLAND / FINLANDIA

Tarja Päivikki HIETARANTA (Ms.), Senior Officer, Plant Variety Registration, Finnish Food Authority, Loimaa
(e-mail: tarja.hietaranta@ruokavirasto.fi)

FRANCE / FRANCE / FRANKREICH / FRANCIA

Mariem OMRANI (Mme), Chargée d'études, Bureau des semences et de la protection intégrée des cultures, Sous-direction de la qualité, de la santé et de la protection des végétaux, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, Paris
(e-mail: mariem.omrani@agriculture.gouv.fr)

Yvane MERESSE (Mme), Responsable INOV, Groupe d'Étude et de Contrôle des Variétés et des Semences (GEVES), Beaucouzé cedex
(e-mail: yvane.meresse@geves.fr)

GÉORGIE / GEORGIA / GEORGIEN / GEORGIA

Merab KUTSIA (Mr.), Head, Department of Inventions and New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds, National Intellectual Property Center (SAKPATENTI), Mtskheta
(e-mail: mkutsia@sakpatenti.org.ge)

HONGRIE / HUNGARY / UNGARN / HUNGRÍA

Dóra GYETVAINÉ VIRÁG (Ms.), Vice-President for Technical Affairs, Hungarian Intellectual Property Office, Budapest
(e-mail: dora.virag@hipo.gov.hu)

Katalin MIKLÓ (Ms.), Head, Patent Department, Hungarian Intellectual Property Office, Budapest
(e-mail: katalin.miklo@hipo.gov.hu)

ISRAËL / ISRAEL / ISRAEL / ISRAEL

Dikla DABBY-NAOR (Ms.), Chairperson, Plant Breeders' Rights Council, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Beit-Dagan
(e-mail: diklad@moag.gov.il)

JAPON / JAPAN / JAPAN / JAPÓN

Atsushi SUGINAKA (Mr.), Deputy Director General, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: atsushi_suginaka520@maff.go.jp)

Tomochika MOTOMURA (Mr.), Principal Deputy Director, Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: tomochika_motomur130@maff.go.jp)

Teruhisa MIYAMOTO (Mr.), Deputy Director of Plant Variety Office, Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: teruhisa_miyamoto170@maff.go.jp)

Hideki MAEDA (Mr.), Chief Examiner, Plant Variety Protection Office, Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: hideki_maeda860@maff.go.jp)

Yoshiyuki OHNO (Mr.), Examiner, Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: yoshiyuki_ono300@maff.go.jp)

Hiroyuki KAWANO (Mr.), Technical Official, PVP Office, Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Tokyo
(e-mail: hiroyuki_kawano750@maff.go.jp)

KENYA / KENYA / KENIA / KENYA

Simon Mucheru MAINA (Mr.), Ag. General Manager, Quality Assurance, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Nairobi
(e-mail: smaina@kephis.org)

Jacob CHEPTAIWA (Mr.), AG Head, Seed Certification and Plant Variety Office, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Nairobi (e-mail: jcheptaiwa@kephis.org)

Gentrix Nasimiyu JUMA (Ms.), Chief Plant Examiner, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Nairobi
(e-mail: gjuma@kephis.org)

LITUANIE / LITHUANIA / LITAUEN / LITUANIA

Sigita JUCIUVIENE (Ms.), Head, Plant Variety Division, Registration and Legal Protection, State Plant Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius
(e-mail: sigita.juciuviene@vatzum.lt)

MEXIQUE / MEXICO / MEXIKO / MÉXICO

Leobigildo CORDOVA TÉLLEZ (Sr.), Titular, Servicio Nacional de Inspección y Certificación de Semillas (SNICS), Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (SADER), México
(e-mail: leobigildo.cordova@agricultura.gob.mx)

Víctor Manuel VÁSQUEZ NAVARRETE (Sr.), Director de Variedades Vegetales, Servicio Nacional de Inspección y Certificación de Semillas (SNICS), Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (SADER), México
(e-mail: victor.vasquez@agricultura.gob.mx)

Maria del Pilar ESCOBAR BAUTISTA (Mrs.), Consejera, Misión Permanente de México ante las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales en Ginebra, Genève
(e-mail: pescobar@sre.gob.mx)

NORVÈGE / NORWAY / NORWEGEN / NORUEGA

Pia BORG (Ms.), Senior Advisor, Norwegian Food Safety Authority, Brumunddal
(e-mail: pia.borg@mattilsynet.no)

Elin Cecilie RANUM (Ms.), Advisor, Oslo
(e-mail: elin@utviklingsfondet.no)

NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE / NEW ZEALAND / NEUSEELAND / NUEVA ZELANDIA

Christopher James BARNABY (Mr.), PVR Manager / Assistant Commissioner, Plant Variety Rights Office, Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand, Ministry of Economic Development, Christchurch
(e-mail: Chris.Barnaby@pvr.govt.nz)

ORGANISATION AFRICAINE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE /
AFRICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION /
AFRIKANISCHE ORGANISATION FÜR GEISTIGES EIGENTUM /
ORGANIZACIÓN AFRICANA DE LA PROPIEDAD INTELECTUAL

Jean-Baptiste Noël WAGO (M.), Directeur Général Adjoint, Organisation africaine de la propriété intellectuelle (OAPI), Yaoundé
(e-mail: jean-baptiste.Wago@oapi.int)

Vladimir Ludovic MEZUI ONO (M.), Examineur des Brevets, chargé des obtentions végétales, Organisation africaine de la propriété intellectuelle (OAPI), Yaoundé
(e-mail: vladimir.mezui@oapi.int)

Odile FOUA KOUNOU (Mme), Chargée de la délivrance des brevets et certificats d'obtention végétale, Direction des Brevets et autres créations techniques (DBCT), Organisation africaine de la propriété intellectuelle (OAPI), Yaoundé
(e-mail: odile.fouda-kounou@oapi.int)

PAYS-BAS / NETHERLANDS / NIEDERLANDE / PAÍSES BAJOS

Marien VALSTAR (Mr.), Senior Policy Officer, Seeds and Plant Propagation Material, DG Agro, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Hague
(e-mail: m.valstar@minlnv.nl)

Kees Jan GROENEWOUD (Mr.), Secretary, Dutch Board for Plant Varieties (Raad voor Plantenrassen), , Roelofarendsveen
(e-mail: c.j.a.groenewoud@raadvoorplantenrassen.nl)

Bert SCHOLTE (Mr.), Head Department Variety Testing, Naktuinbouw NL, Roelofarendsveen
(e-mail: b.scholte@naktuinbouw.nl)

POLOGNE / POLAND / POLEN / POLONIA

Edward S. GACEK (Mr.), Director General, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), Słupia Wielka
(e-mail: e.gacek@coboru.gov.pl)

Marcin BEHNKE (Mr.), Deputy Director General for Experimental Affairs, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), Słupia Wielka
(e-mail: m.behnke@coboru.gov.pl)

Małgorzata JANISZEWSKA-MICHALSKA (Ms.), Head, Legal and Human Resources Office, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), Słupia Wielka
(e-mail: m.janiszevska@coboru.gov.pl)

Alicja RUTKOWSKA- ŁOŚ (Ms.), Head, National Listing and Plant Breeders' Rights Protection Office, The Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), Słupia Wielka
(e-mail: a.rutkowska-los@coboru.gov.pl)

Marcin KRÓL (Mr.), Head, DUS Testing Department, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), Słupia Wielka
(e-mail: M.Krol@coboru.gov.pl)

Michał REBARZ (Mr.), Head, Foreign Cooperation Office, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU), Słupia Wielka
(e-mail: m.rebarz@coboru.gov.pl)

PORTUGAL / PORTUGAL / PORTUGAL

Carlos PEREIRA GODINHO (Mr.), Senior officer, Directorate General for Food and Veterinary, Lisboa
(e-mail: carlos.godinho@dgav.pt)

RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE / REPUBLIC OF KOREA / REPUBLIK KOREA / REPÚBLICA DE COREA

Hyoncheol KWON (Mr.), Reponsible PRISMA, Korea Seed & Variety Service (KSVS), Gyeongsangvuk-do
(e-mail: khcj500@korea.kr)

RÉPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE / DOMINICAN REPUBLIC / DOMINIKANISCHE REPUBLIK / REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

María Ayalivis GARCÍA MEDRANO (Sra.), Directora, Oficina para el Registro de Variedades y Obtenciones Vegetales (OREVADO), Santo Domingo
(e-mail: mgarcia@orevado.gob.do)

Víktor V. RODRÍGUEZ SILVA (Sr.), Director, Oficina de Tratados Comerciales Agrícolas (OTCA), Ministerio de Agricultura, Santo Domingo
(e-mail: vrodriguez@otca.gob.do)

RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE / CZECH REPUBLIC / TSCHECHISCHE REPUBLIK / REPÚBLICA CHECA

Daniel JUREČKA (Mr.), Director General, Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (ÚKZÚZ), Brno
(e-mail: daniel.jurecka@ukzuz.cz)

RÉPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE / UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA / VEREINIGTE REPUBLIK TANSANIA / REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE TANZANÍA

Patrick NGWEDIAGI (Mr.), Director General, Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI), Morogoro
(e-mail: ngwedi@yahoo.com; pat.ngwedi@gmail.com)

Twalib Mustafa NJOHOLE (Mr.), Registrar of Plant Breeders' Rights, Plant Breeders Rights' Office, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Dodoma
(e-mail: twalibnjohole8@gmail.com)

Jacqueline MBUYA MHANDO (Ms.), Principal Agricultural Officer, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Dodoma
(e-mail: jfranto@yahoo.com)

Joyce Eligi MOSILE (Ms.), Agricultural Officer, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Dodoma
(e-mail: Joyce.mosile@kilimo.go.tz)

Lawrence NDOSI (Mr.), Agricultural Officer, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Dodoma
(e-mail: lawrenceyobu@gmail.com)

Dorah BIVUGILE (Ms.), Research Officer, Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI), Morogoro
(e-mail: maydorah@gmail.com)

ROUMANIE / ROMANIA / RUMÄNIEN / RUMANIA

Teodor Dan ENESCU (Mr.), Counsellor, State Institute for Variety Testing and Registration (ISTIS), Bucarest
(e-mail: enescu_teodor@istis.ro)

ROYAUME-UNI / UNITED KINGDOM / VEREINIGTES KÖNIGREICH / REINO UNIDO

Andrew MITCHELL (Mr.), Controller of Plant Variety Rights, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Cambridge
(e-mail: andy.mitchell@defra.gov.uk)

SERBIE / SERBIA / SERBIEN / SERBIA

Jovan VUJOVIC (Mr.), Head, Plant Protection Directorate, Group for Plant Variety Protection and Biosafety, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Belgrade
(e-mail: jovan.vujovic@minpolj.gov.rs)

Gordana LONCAR (Ms.), Senior Adviser for Plant Variety protection, Plant Protection Directorate, Group for Plant Variety Protection and Biosafety, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Belgrade
(e-mail: gordana.loncar@minpolj.gov.rs)

SLOVAQUIE / SLOVAKIA / SLOWAKEI / ESLOVAQUIA

Lubomir BASTA (Mr.), National Coordinator for the Cooperation of the Slovak Republic with UPOV, Senior Officer, Department of Variety Testing, Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture (ÚKSÚP), Bratislava
(e-mail: lubomir.basta@uksup.sk)

SLOVÉNIE / SLOVENIA / SLOWENIEN / ESLOVENIA

Jože ILERŠIČ (Mr.), Secretary, Agriculture Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF), Ljubljana
(e-mail: joze.ilersic@gov.si)

SUÈDE / SWEDEN / SCHWEDEN / SUECIA

Magnus FRANZÉN (Mr.), Deputy Head, Plant and Control Department, Swedish Board of Agriculture, Jönköping
(e-mail: magnus.franzen@jordbruksverket.se)

SUISSE / SWITZERLAND / SCHWEIZ / SUIZA

Alwin KOPSE (M.), Chef des Affaires internationales, Unité Affaires internationales et Sécurité alimentaire, Office fédéral de l'agriculture (OFAG), Bern
(e-mail: alwin.kopse@blw.admin.ch)

Manuela BRAND (Ms.), Plant Variety Rights Office, Plant Health and Varieties, Office fédéral de l'agriculture (OFAG), Bern
(e-mail: manuela.brand@blw.admin.ch)

Eva TSCHARLAND (Frau), Juristin, Fachbereich Recht und Verfahren, Office fédéral de l'agriculture (OFAG), Bern
(e-mail: eva.tscharland@blw.admin.ch)

TUNISIE / TUNISIA / TUNESIEN / TÚNEZ

Omar BRAHMI (M.), Chef, Service d'homologation et de protection des obtentions végétales, Direction Général de la Santé Végétale et de Contrôle des Intrants Agricoles, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, Tunis
(e-mail: brahmi_omar@yahoo.fr)

UNION EUROPÉENNE / EUROPEAN UNION / EUROPÄISCHE UNION / UNIÓN EUROPEA

Elmar PFÜLB (Mr.), President, Bundessortenamt, Hannover
(e-mail: elmar.pfuehb@bundessortenamt.de)

Päivi MANNERKORPI (Ms.), Team Leader - Plant Reproductive Material, Unit G1 Plant Health, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission, Brussels
(e-mail: paivi.mannerkorpi@ec.europa.eu)

Stefan HAFFKE (Mr.), Policy Officer, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), Brussels
(e-mail: stefan.haffke@ec.europa.eu)

Dirk THEOBALD (Mr.), Senior Adviser, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), Angers
(e-mail: theobald@cpvo.europa.eu)

II. OBSERVATEURS / OBSERVERS / BEOBACHTER / OBSERVADORES

BRUNÉI DARUSSALAM / BRUNEI DARUSSALAM / BRUNEI DARUSSALAM / BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Nicholas Brian LIM (Mr.), Deputy Senior Counsel, Deputy Registrar and Head of the Brunei Darussalam Intellectual Property Office (BruIPO), Berakas
(e-mail: nicholas.lim@agc.gov.bn)

Siti Shahryenawaty HAJI MOHD SHAHRI (Ms.), Legal Counsel, Brunei Darussalam Intellectual Property Office (BruIPO), Berakas
(e-mail: shahryena.shahri@agc.gov.bn)

Nurulain HAJI MOHD JAAFAR (Ms.), Executive Assistant Officer, Brunei Darussalam Intellectual Property Office (BruIPO), Berakas
(e-mail: nurulain.jaafar@bruipo.gov.bn)

GHANA / GHANA / GHANA

Grace Ama ISSAHAQUE (Mrs.), Chief State Attorney, Registrar-General's Department, Ministry of Justice, Accra
(e-mail: graceissahaque@hotmail.com)

KAZAKHSTAN / KAZAKHSTAN / KASACHSTAN / KAZAJSTÁN

Adilkan UROMBAEV (Mr.), Chief Expert, Division for Formal Examination of Inventions and Selection Achievements, National Institute of Intellectual Property, Nur-Sultan
(e-mail: a.urombaev@kazpatent.kz)

Gulferuz Mairambekovna SEITPENBETOVA (Ms.), Specialist, State Commission for Variety Testing for Crops, Nur-Sultan
(e-mail: goskomkz@mail.ru)

PAKISTAN / PAKISTAN / PAKISTÁN

Muhammad Salman Khalid CHAUDHARY, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Geneva
(e-mail: salman_khalid9@hotmail.com)

SÉNÉGAL / SENEGAL / SENEGAL / SENEGAL

Cheikh Alassane FALL (M.), Coordinateur, Bureau de la Propriété Intellectuelle et des Ressources Génétiques, Institut sénégalais de recherches agricoles (ISRA), Dakar
(e-mail: alassane.fall@isra.sn)

THAÏLANDE / THAILAND / THAILAND / TAILANDIA

Sunanta KANGVALKULKIJ (Ms.), Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the WTO, Geneva
(e-mail: sunanta@thaiwto.com)

Pornpimol SUGANDHAVANIJA (Ms.), Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the WTO, Geneva
(e-mail: pornpimol@thaiwto.com)

Thidakoon SAENUDOM (Ms.), Director of the Plant Variety Protection Research Group, Plant Variety Protection Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Bangkok
(e-mail: thidakuns@hotmail.com)

Jaruwan SUKKHAROM (Ms.), Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the WTO, Geneva
(e-mail: jaruwan@thaiwto.com)

III. ORGANISATIONS / ORGANIZATIONS / ORGANISATIONEN / ORGANIZACIONES

CROPLIFE INTERNATIONAL

Marcel BRUINS (Mr.), Consultant, CropLife International, Bruxelles
(e-mail: mbruins1964@gmail.com)

INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION (ISF)

Hélène KHAN NIAZI (Ms.), International Agriculture Manager, International Seed Federation (ISF), Nyon
(e-mail: h.khanniazi@worldseed.org)

Judith DE ROOS-BLOKLAND (Ms.), Legal Counsel, Regulatory and Legal Affairs, Plantum NL, Gouda
(e-mail: j.deroos@plantum.nl)

John Howard DUESING (Mr.), Consultant, Consulting EDV Project Manager, American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), West Des Moines
(e-mail: jhd3@mchsi.com)

EUROSEEDS

Catherine Chepkurui LANG'AT (Ms.), Technical Manager Plant Breeding & Variety Registration, Euroseeds, Bruxelles
(e-mail: catherinelangat@euroseeds.eu)

ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT BREEDING FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOCIETY (APBEBES)

François MEIENBERG (Mr.), Coordinator, Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBEBES), Zürich
(e-mail: meienberg@bluewin.ch)

Claire GALLONI D'ISTRIA (Ms.), Director, Fondation Salvia, Geneva
(e-mail: claire.gallonidustria@graduateinstitute.ch)

ORGANISATION RÉGIONALE AFRICAINE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE (ARIPO) /
AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (ARIPO) /
AFRIKANISCHE REGIONALORGANISATION FÜR GEWERBLICHES EIGENTUM (ARIPO) /
ORGANIZACIÓN REGIONAL AFRICANA DE LA PROPIEDAD INTELECTUAL (ARIPO)

Emmanuel SACKKEY (Mr.), Intellectual Property Development Executive, Harare
(e-mail: esackey@aripo.org)

COMMUNAUTÉ INTERNATIONALE DES OBTENTEURS DE PLANTES HORTICOLES À
REPRODUCTION ASEXUÉE (CIOPORA) /
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF BREEDERS OF ASEXUALLY REPRODUCED HORTICULTURAL
PLANTS (CIOPORA) /
INTERNATIONALE GEMEINSCHAFT DER ZÜCHTER VEGETATIV VERMEHRBARER
GARTENBAULICHER PFLANZEN (CIOPORA) /
COMUNIDAD INTERNACIONAL DE OBTENTORES DE PLANTAS HORTÍCOLAS DE REPRODUCCIÓN
ASEXUADA (CIOPORA)

Edgar KRIEGER (Mr.), Secretary General, International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Horticultural Plants (CIOPORA), Hamburg
(e-mail: edgar.krieger@ciopora.org)

ASSOCIATION DES OBTENTEURS HORTICOLES EUROPÉENS (AOHE) /
ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN HORTICULTURAL BREEDERS (AOHE) /
VERBAND EUROPÄISCHER GARTENBAUZÜCHTER (AOHE) /
ASOCIACIÓN DE OBTENTORES HORTÍCOLAS EUROPEOS (AOHE)

Dominique THÉVENON (Ms.), President, Association of European Horticultural Breeders (AOHE), Hamburg
(e-mail: t.dominique4@orange.fr)

Hélène JOURDAN (Mme), Secrétaire générale, Association des Obtenteurs Horticoles Européens (AOHE), Responsable COV & Marques, Meilland International S.A., Le Luc en Provence
(e-mail: licprot@meilland.com)

SEED ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAS (SAA)

Diego A. RISSO (Mr.), Director Ejecutivo, Seed Association of the Americas (SAA), Montevideo
(e-mail: drisso@saaseed.org)

Stevan MADJARAC (Mr.), Germplasm IP Lead, Bayer Crop Science, Ankeny
(e-mail: stevan.madjarac@bayer.com)

ASSOCIATION AFRICAINE DU COMMERCE DES SEMENCES (AFSTA) /
AFRICAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION (AFSTA) /
AFRIKANISCHES SAATGUTHANDELSVERBAND (AFSTA) /
ASOCIACIÓN AFRICANA DE COMERCIO DE SEMILLAS (AFSTA)

Grace GITU (Ms), Technical Officer, Africa Seed Trade Association (AFSTA), Nairobi
(e-mail: gitu@afsta.org)

IV. BUREAU DE L'OMPI / OFFICE OF WIPO / BÜRO DER WIPO / OFICINA DE LA OMPI

Chitra NARAYANASWANY (Ms.), Director, Program Planning and Finance (Controller), Department of
Program Planning and Finance

Janice COOK ROBBINS (Ms.), Director, Finance Division, Department of Program Planning and Finance

Isabel MONTAGNE (Ms.), Senior Project Manager, Program Performance and Budget Division, Department
of Program Planning and Finance

V. VÉRIFICATEUR EXTERNE DE L'UPOV / EXTERNAL AUDITOR OF UPOV /
EXTERNER REVISOR DER UPOV / AUDITOR EXTERNO DE LA UPOV

Damian BREWITT (Mr.), Director, National Audit Office, United Kingdom

Simon IRWIN (Mr.), Audit Manager, National Audit Office, United Kingdom

VI. BUREAU / OFFICER / VORSITZ / OFICINA

Marien VALSTAR (Mr.), President

Yehan CUI (Mr.), Vice-President

VII. INVITED GUEST

Francis GURRY (Mr.)

VIII. BUREAU DE L'UPOV / OFFICE OF UPOV / BÜRO DER UPOV / OFICINA DE LA UPOV

Daren TANG (Mr.), Secretary-General

Peter BUTTON (Mr.), Vice Secretary-General

Yolanda HUERTA (Ms.), Legal Counsel and Director of Training and Assistance

Ben RIVOIRE (Mr.), Head of Seed Sector Cooperation and Regional Development (Africa, Arab Countries)

Leontino TAVEIRA (Mr.), Head of Technical Affairs and Regional Development (Latin America, Caribbean)

Hend MADHOUR (Ms.), IT Officer

Manabu SUZUKI (Mr.), Technical/Regional Officer (Asia)

Caroline ROVERE (Ms.), Communication and Events Officer

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UPOV Press Release 127

Geneva, October 30, 2020

UPOV Council Holds its Annual Session

The Council of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) held its fifty-fourth ordinary session by virtual means on October 30, 2020. The Council took decisions on the following matters at the session or by correspondence in advance of the session. The report of the session, with information on decisions taken by correspondence, is provided in documents C/54/21 and C/54/17 (see https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=55680)

Round-up of key developments:

Appointment of the Secretary-General

The Council appointed Mr. Daren Tang as the Secretary-General of UPOV for the period from October 30, 2020, to September 30, 2026.



The intervention made by the Secretary-General is reproduced in the Appendix to this press release.

Note: the Agreement between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (WIPO/UPOV Agreement, document UPOV/INF/8), signed on November 26, 1982, Article 4 provides as follows: "(1) The Council of UPOV shall appoint as Secretary-General of UPOV the Director General of WIPO." The General Assembly of WIPO, at its fifty-second (28th extraordinary) session, conducted on May 7 and 8, 2020, in the form of a written procedure, appointed Mr. Daren Tang as the Director General of WIPO for the period from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2026.

Extension of the appointment of the Vice Secretary-General

The Council extended the appointment of the Vice Secretary-General, Mr. Peter Button, from December 1, 2021, until November 30, 2022.

Events

The Council agreed to the organization of a seminar in the week of the UPOV sessions in 2021 to exchange information and experiences on strategies involving plant breeding and plant variety protection that address broad policy issues.

The CAJ agreed to propose to the Council to organize a seminar in the first half of 2021, to exchange information on matters concerning harvested material and unauthorized use of propagating material.

FAQ: How does the UPOV system support sustainable development?

The Council adopted the following FAQ:

HOW DOES THE UPOV SYSTEM SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

The vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>) includes a world where “food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious”, there is “sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger” and one in “which development and the application of technology are climate-sensitive, respect biodiversity and are resilient”.

World population is growing and urbanization increasing, which places greater demands on the quantity and quality of agricultural production. At the same time, conservation of biodiversity depends on sustainable agriculture and a halt or reversal to the expansion of agricultural land, while there are parallel demands on agricultural land for food and energy production. This means that there is a need to produce more from existing agricultural land, in a sustainable way.

The tremendous progress in agricultural productivity in various parts of the world is largely based on improved varieties, combined with improved farming practices. Breeding plant varieties with improved yield, more efficient use of nutrients, resistance to plant pests and diseases, salt and drought tolerance and better adaptation to climate change can sustainably increase productivity and product quality in agriculture, horticulture and forestry, whilst minimizing the pressure on the natural environment. At the same time, new varieties that are adapted to the environment in which they are grown increase the choice of healthy, tasty and nutritious food while generating a viable income for farmers.

The UPOV system of plant variety protection supports long-term investment in breeding and provides a framework for investment in the delivery of seed and other propagating material of varieties suited to farmers’ needs. UPOV was created in 1961 for the development of agriculture and, since that time, has proven to be an effective system for supporting various types of breeders: individuals, farmers, SMEs and larger breeding institutes/enterprises, in the private and public sectors.

From the outset, the UPOV system was conceived to deliver greatest progress in plant breeding and, therefore, to sustain greatest advances in agriculture for the benefit of farmers and society as a whole. This concept is enshrined in the “breeder’s exemption”, a key feature of the UPOV system since its creation. This exemption enables protected plant varieties to be available for further breeding by all types of breeders, thus recognizing that access to genetic resources is a prerequisite for any type of breeding.

Adoption of documents

The Council adopted revised versions of the following documents:

UPOV/INF/4	Financial Regulations and Rules of UPOV
UPOV/INF/16	Exchangeable Software (Revision)
UPOV/INF/22	Software and Equipment Used by Members of the Union
TGP/5	Experience and Cooperation in DUS Testing Section 6: UPOV Report on Technical Examination and UPOV Variety Description
TGP/7	Development of Test Guidelines
TGP/14	Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents
TGP/15	Guidance on the Use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS)

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

Election of the new Chairpersons

The Council elected the following as Chairpersons of the TWPs and the BMT for a term of three years ending with the fifty-seventh ordinary session of the Council, in 2023:

- (a) Ms. Renée Cloutier (Canada) as Chairperson of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA);
- (b) Mr. Christopher Barnaby (New Zealand) as Chairperson of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF);
- (c) Ms. Ashley Balchin (Canada) as Chairperson of the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO);
- (d) Ms. Marian van Leeuwen (Netherlands) as Chairperson of the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV); and
- (e) Ms. Beate Rücker (Germany) as Chairperson of the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT).

Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM)

The Council approved the establishment and terms of reference for the TWM, to encompass the work of the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) and the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT), and elected Ms. Beate Rücker (Germany), as Chairperson of the TWM for a term of three years ending with the fifty-seventh ordinary session of the Council, in 2023.

Cooperation in the Examination of New Plant Varieties

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 increased from 2,016 (corrected) in 2019 to 2,071 in 2020 (3 percent increase).

Award of Gold Medal

The Secretary-General, on behalf of the Council, awarded a Gold Medal to Mr. Francis Gurry, former Secretary-General in recognition of his outstanding contribution to UPOV as Secretary-General from October 30, 2008 to September 30, 2020.



Plant Variety Protection Statistics

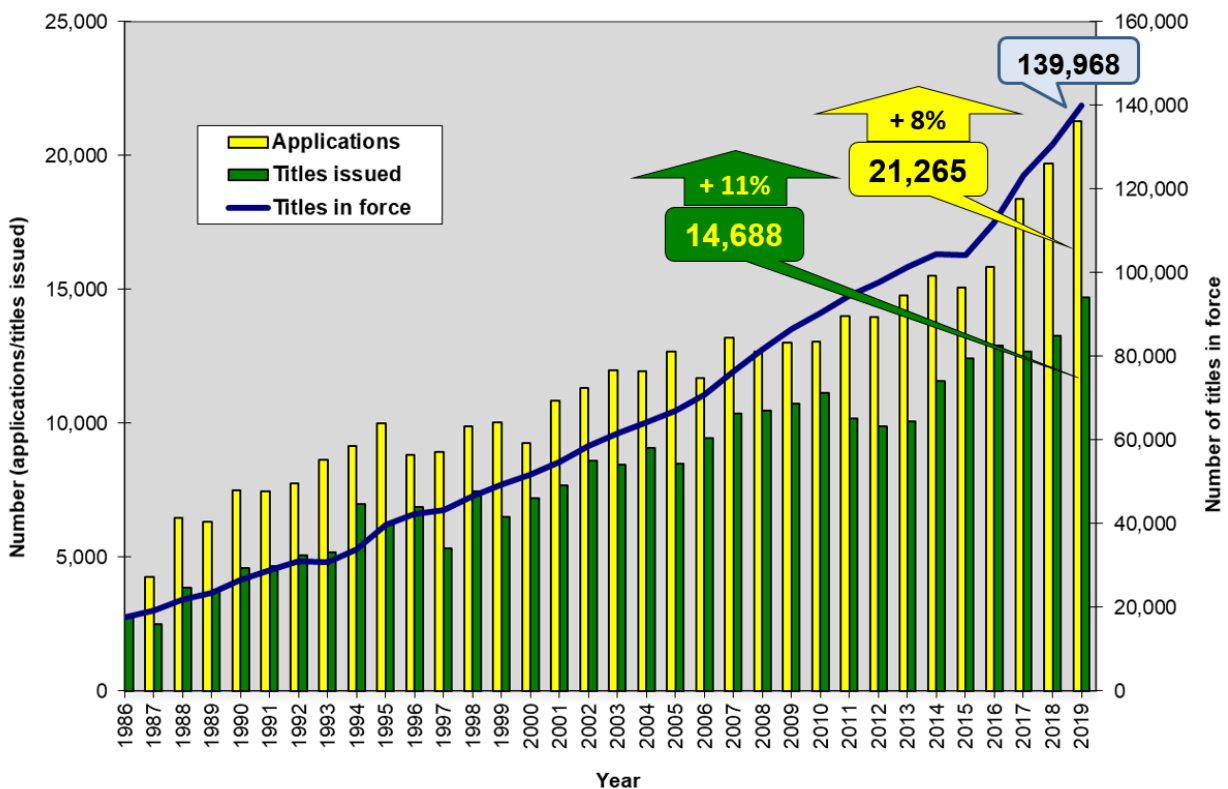
The number of applications for plant variety protection increased from 19,681 in 2018 to 21,265 in 2019 (8 percent increase).

The number of titles issued increased from 13,274 in 2018 to 14,688 in 2019 (11 percent increase).

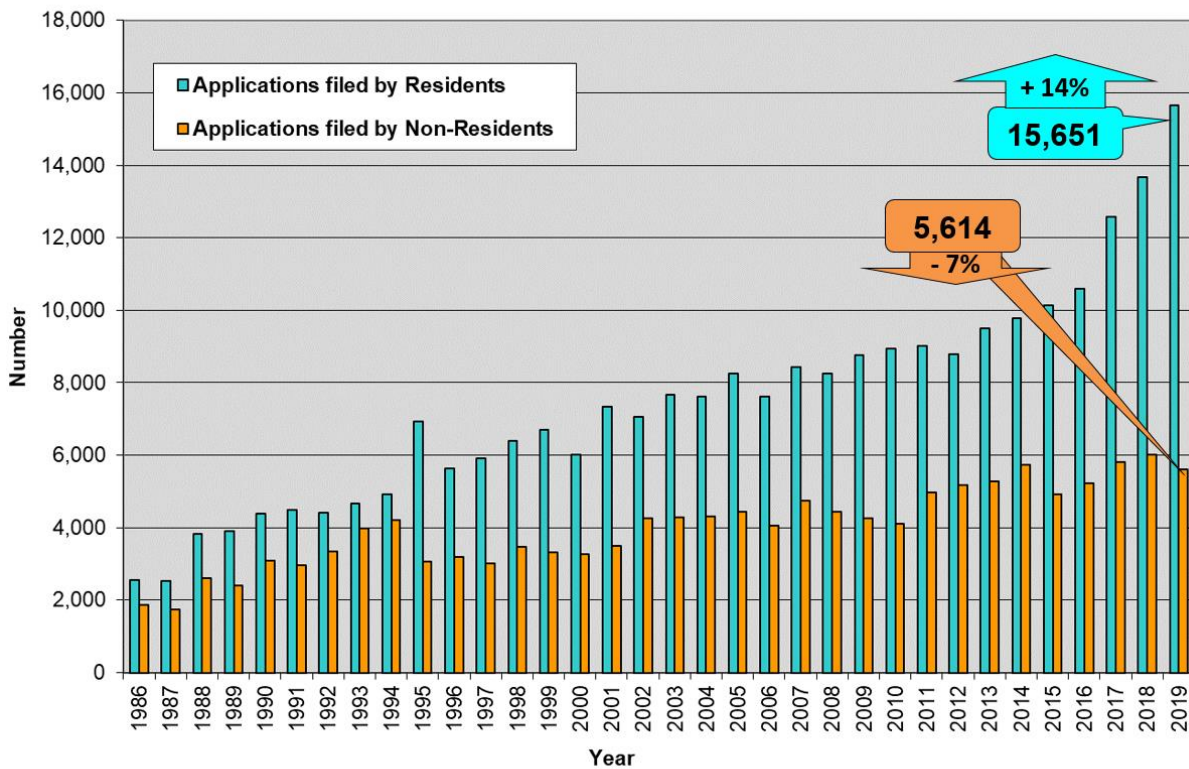
The total of 139,968 titles in force in 2019 represented a 7 percent increase on figures for 2018 (130,849).

The following graphs indicate trends in applications filed and titles issued since 1986. Information is also provided on the 10 members of the Union receiving the largest number of applications in 2009, 2018 and 2019 and an analysis of applications by residence of breeders for the same years.

Total Applications filed and Titles issued

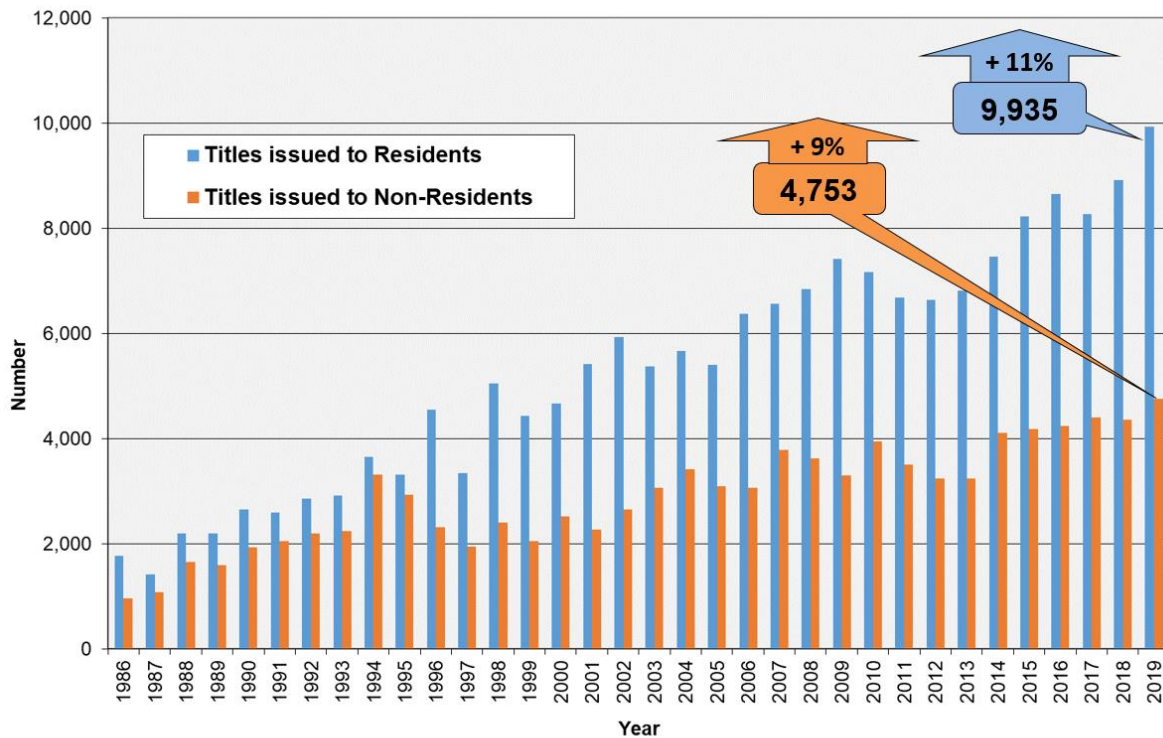


Applications filed by Residents/Non-Residents



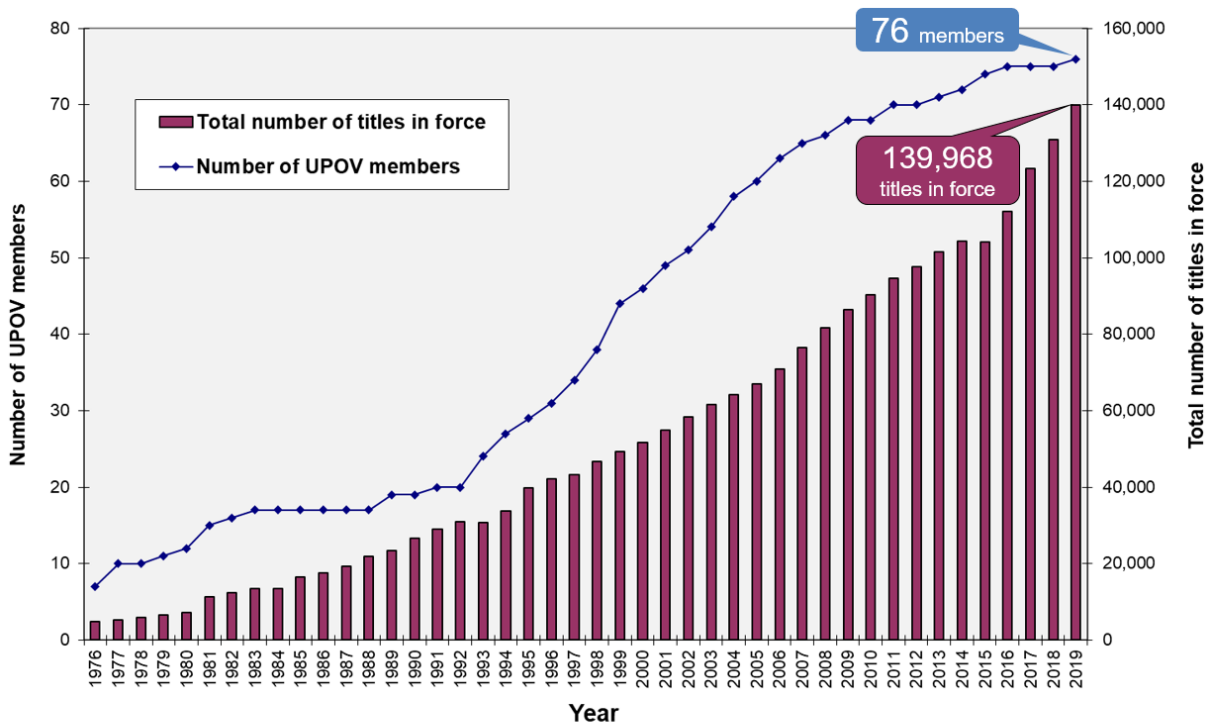
UPOV

Titles issued to Residents/Non-Residents



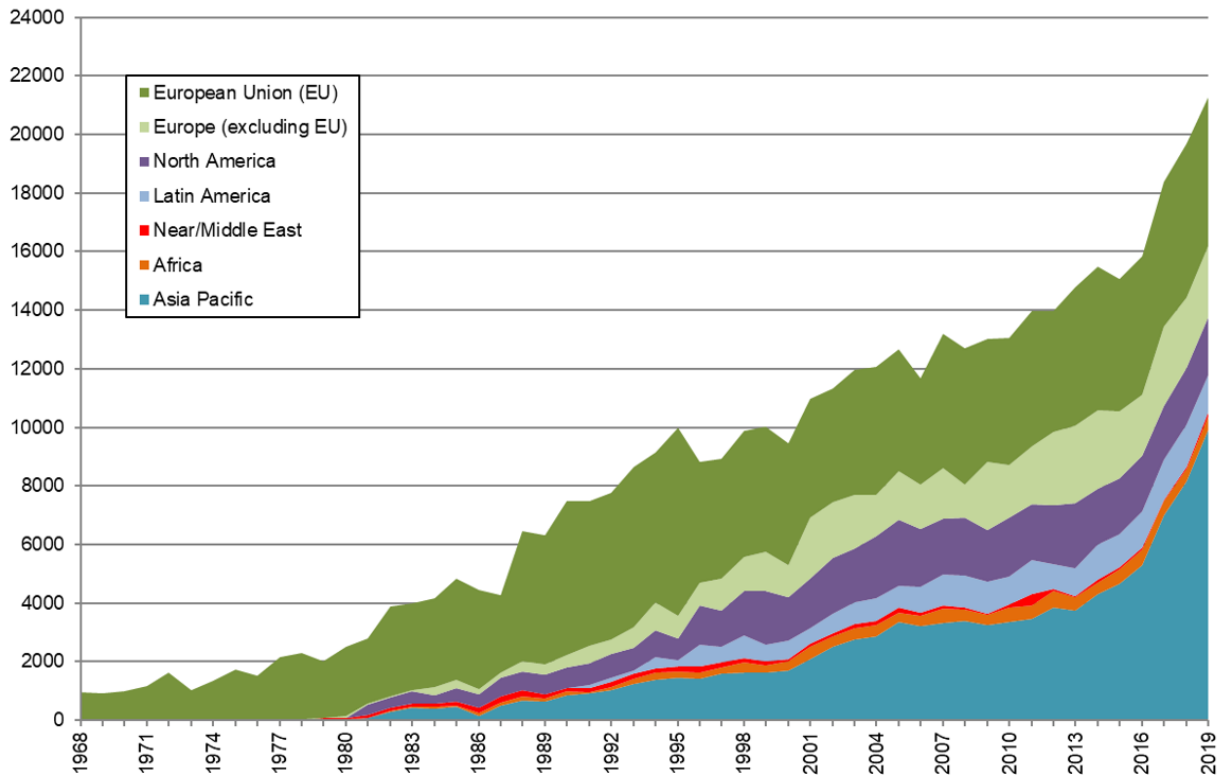
UPOV

Titles in force / Number of UPOV members



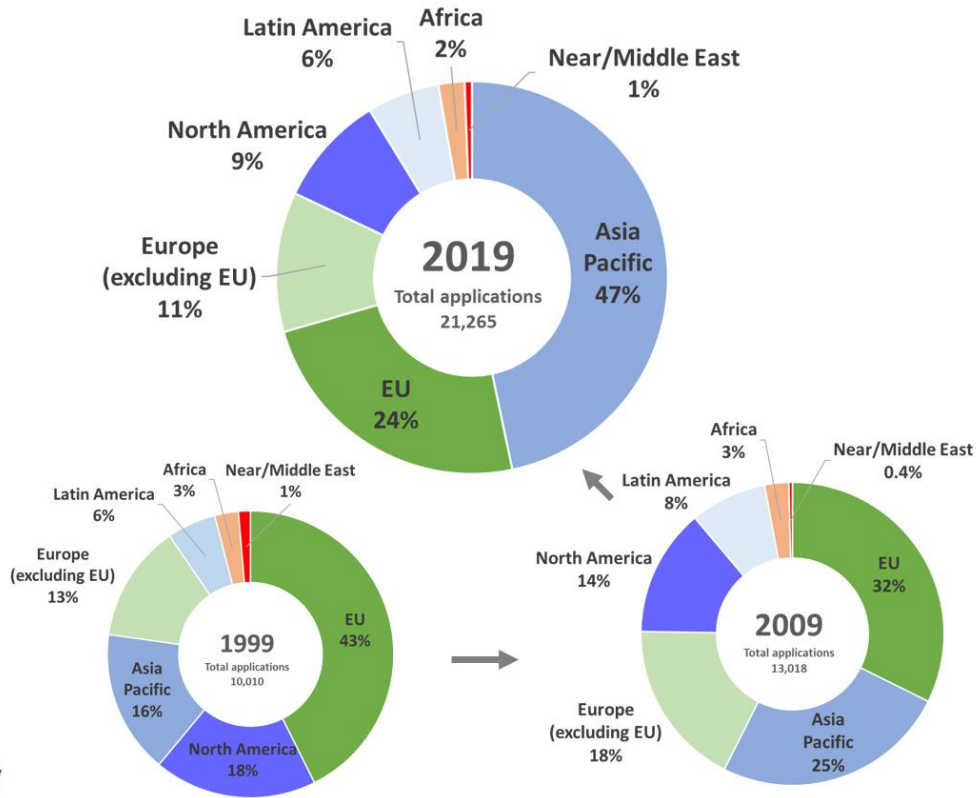
UPOV

Applications received by Region



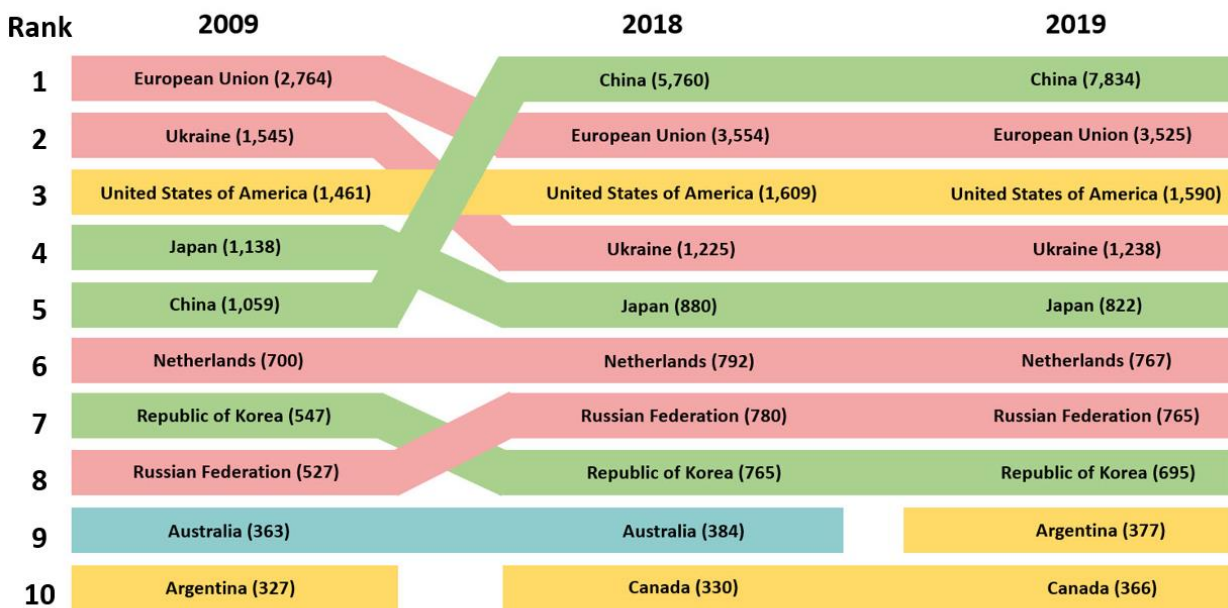
UPOV

Applications received by Region – 1999 to 2019



UPOV

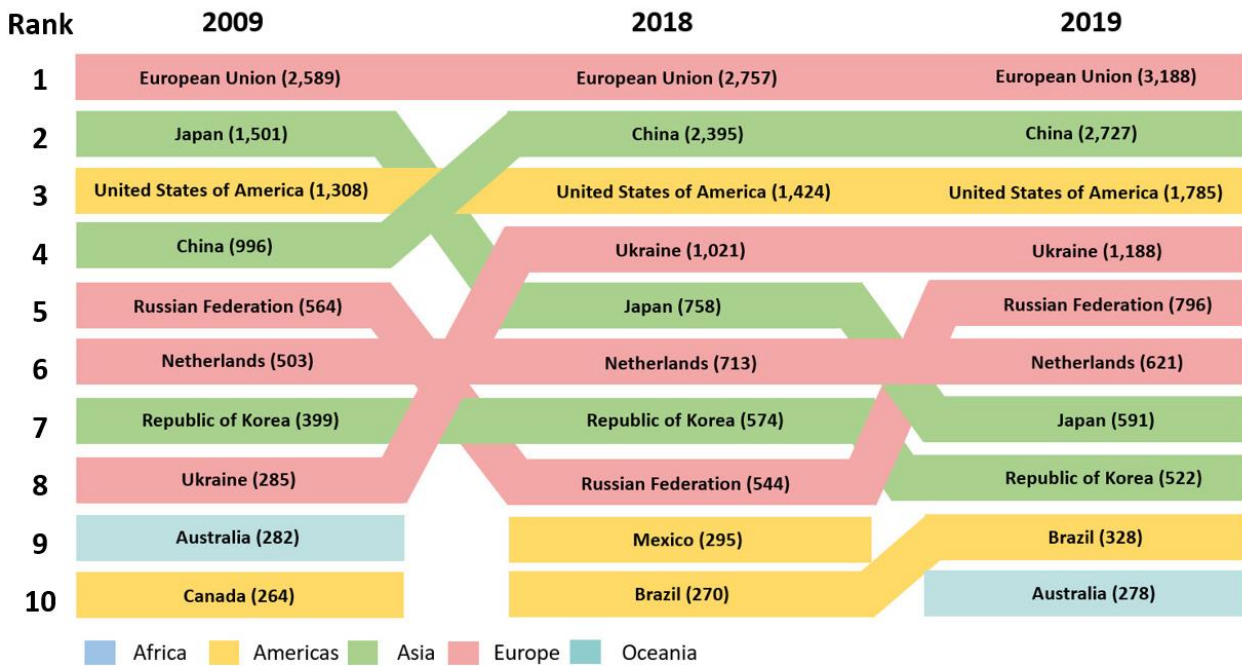
Top 10: UPOV members by number of plant variety protection applications received



■ Africa
 ■ Americas
 ■ Asia
 ■ Europe
 ■ Oceania

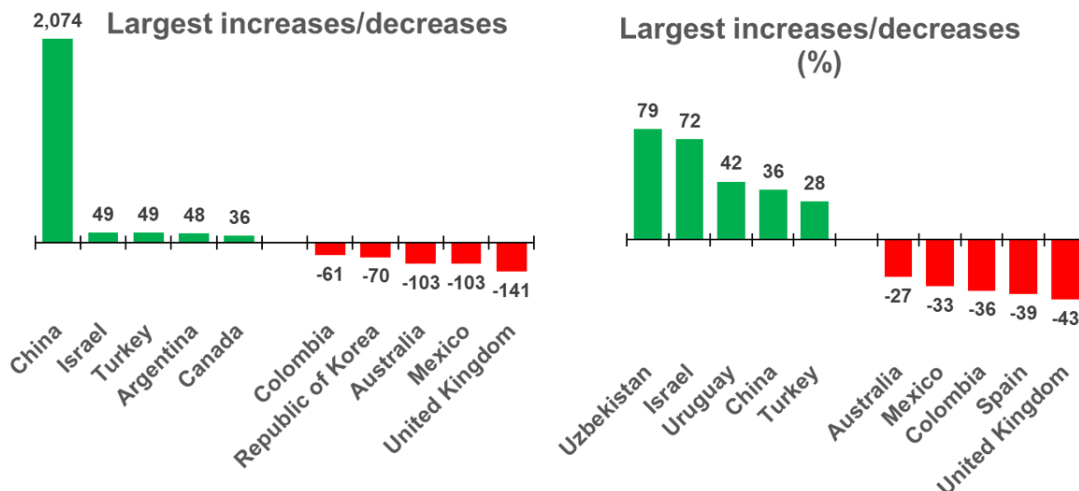
UPOV

Top 10: UPOV members by number of plant variety protection titles issued



UPOV

Total applications in 2019 (compared with 2018)

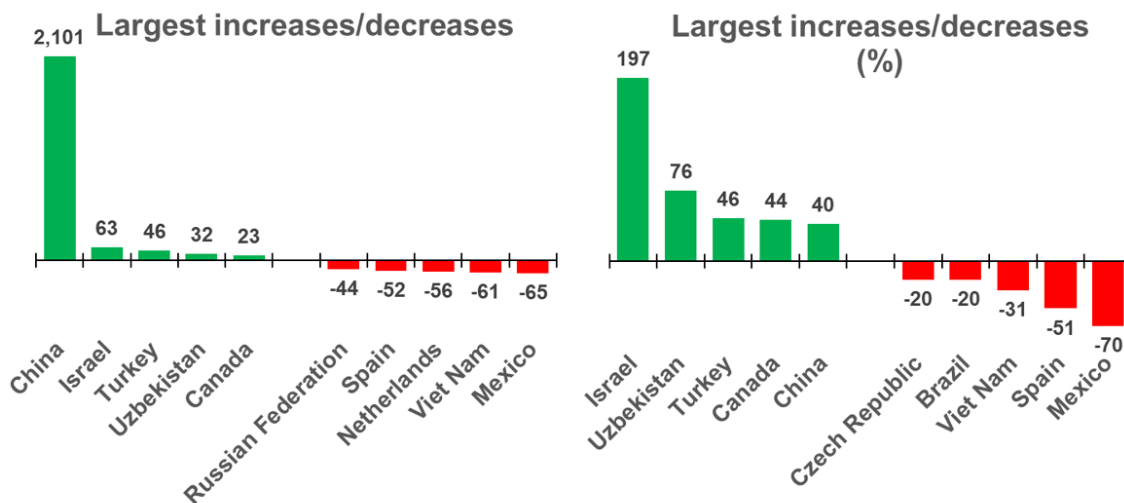


Green bars represent **increases**; **Red bars** represent **decreases**

Members with number of total applications > 40 applications in 2018

UPOV

Applications filed by residents in 2019 (compared with 2018)

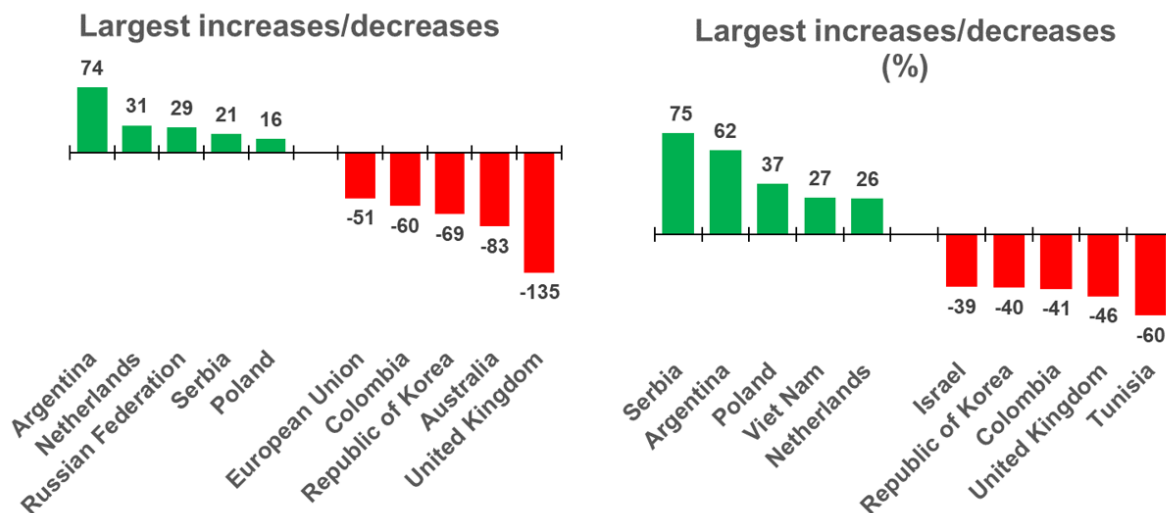


Green bars represent **increases**; **Red bars** represent **decreases**

Members with number of applications filed by residents > 40 applications in 2018



Applications filed by non-residents in 2019 (compared with 2018)



Green bars represent **increases**; **Red bars** represent **decreases**

Members with number of applications filed by non-residents > 20 applications in 2018



Top 20: Country of residence of applicants (2019)

Rank	Country of residence of breeder	Applications filed as:				
		Resident			Non-resident	Total
		Resident	CPVO (EU member States)	Total		
1	China	7,323	-	7,323	40	7,363
2	Netherlands	618	1,215	1,833	1,374	3,207
3	United States of America	901	-	901	1,413	2,314
4	France	101	476	577	458	1,035
5	Germany	49	507	556	430	986
6	Japan	559	-	559	182	741
7	Republic of Korea	590	-	590	22	612
8	Russian Federation	578	-	578	4	582
9	Ukraine	471	-	471	3	474
10	Switzerland	7	-	7	396	403
11	Spain	50	129	179	163	342
12	Australia	146	-	146	179	325
13	Argentina	184	-	184	51	235
14	United Kingdom	28	86	114	118	232
15	Italy	7	110	117	114	231
16	Israel	95	-	95	123	218
17	Brazil	151	-	151	51	202
18	Denmark	5	120	125	51	176
19	Turkey	145	-	145	11	156
20	Belgium	2	111	113	28	141
Sum of top 20		12,010	2,754	14,764	5,211	19,975
Others		788	99	887	403	1,290
Total		12,798	2,853	15,651	5,614	21,265
% of Top 20		94%	97%	94%	93%	94%

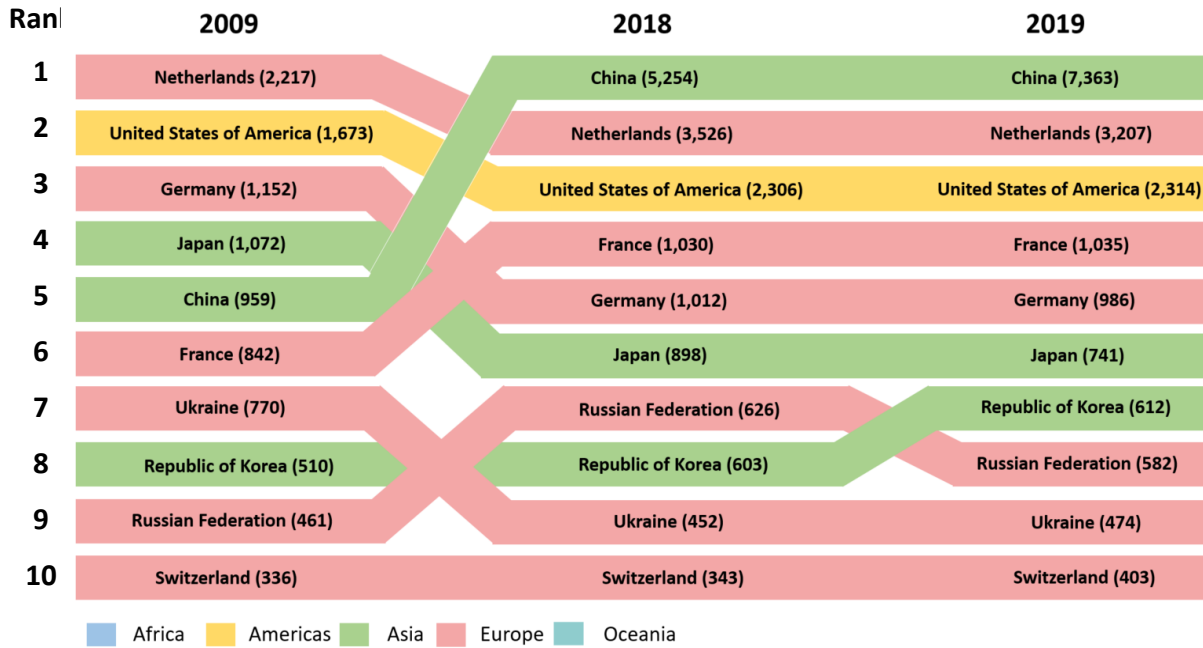
UPOV

Top 20: Country of residence of applicants (2019)

Rank	2009		2018		2019	
	Residence	Number of applications	Residence	Number of applications	Residence	Number of applications
1	Netherlands	2,217	China	5,254	China	7,363
2	United States of America	1,673	Netherlands	3,526	Netherlands	3,207
3	Germany	1,152	United States of America	2,306	United States of America	2,314
4	Japan	1,072	France	1,030	France	1,035
5	China	959	Germany	1,012	Germany	986
6	France	842	Japan	898	Japan	741
7	Ukraine	770	Russian Federation	626	Republic of Korea	612
8	Republic of Korea	510	Republic of Korea	603	Russian Federation	582
9	Russian Federation	461	Ukraine	452	Ukraine	474
10	Switzerland	336	Switzerland	343	Switzerland	403
11	Argentina	301	Australia	336	Spain	342
12	Australia	300	Spain	335	Australia	325
13	Denmark	198	Argentina	268	Argentina	235
14	United Kingdom	192	United Kingdom	236	United Kingdom	232
15	Italy	169	Italy	229	Italy	231
16	Spain	167	Brazil	213	Israel	218
17	Brazil	157	Viet Nam	195	Brazil	202
18	New Zealand	138	Denmark	171	Denmark	176
19	Belgium	132	Israel	149	Turkey	156
20	Israel	127	Canada	128	Belgium	141

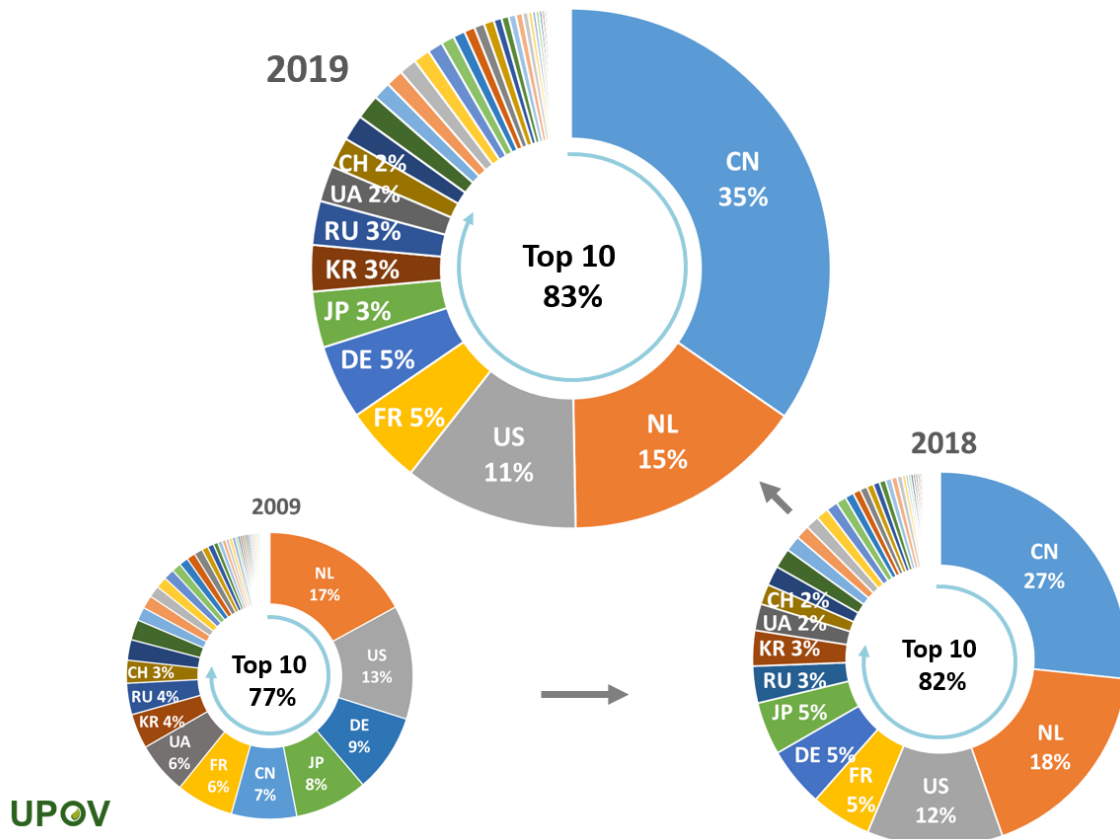
UPOV

Top 10: Country of residence of applicants (2019)



UPOV

Country of residence of applicants: proportion by top 10 countries



NOTES TO EDITORS

UPOV is an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva.

The purpose of UPOV is to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society.

UPOV has 76 members covering 95 States. The members of UPOV are:

African Intellectual Property Organization, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

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

Tel: (+41-22) 338 9111 E-mail: upov.mail@upov.int

Website: <https://www.upov.int>

Social media



Twitter account: @UPOVint



LinkedIn account: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/upov-official>

[Appendix follows]

APPENDIX

INTERVENTION TO THE UPOV COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Fifty-Fourth Ordinary Session
October 30, 2020

Mr. Marien Valstar, President of the UPOV Council,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the UPOV Council for the honor that you have bestowed on me by appointing me as your Secretary-General.

The UPOV community – our community - has an exciting journey ahead. This is because plant breeding has a critical role to play in responding to the challenges we face today in making the world more sustainable. Our future needs to be greener – and plants are what make the world green.

The pandemic has also brought back the importance of our basic needs, particularly health and access to food. In going back to basics, countries have placed high priority on ensuring the continuing supply of seed. Simply put, without seed today, there will be no food tomorrow.

To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world will need to rely on two key actors, farmers and plant breeders. For many plant breeders, the UPOV system of plant variety protection will be essential in delivering the varieties that farmers will need to meet the challenge.

New varieties of plants with features such as improved yield, resistance to pests and diseases, salt and drought tolerance, or better adaptation to climatic stress are key to increasing productivity and product quality. At the same time, new varieties can help reduce the pressure on the natural environment. Due to the continuous evolution of new pests and diseases as well as changes in climatic conditions and users' needs, there is a constant demand by farmers and growers for new plant varieties.

Track record of UPOV

The UPOV system has risen to the challenge repeatedly, and we have a proven track record of delivering what farmers and society need as these evolve.

In Europe, a 2016 study¹ has shown that:

- Without plant breeding, the European Union would have become a net importer in all major arable crops, including those it currently exports, such as wheat, potatoes, and other cereals. In fact, since 2000, plant breeding alone has enabled the EU to feed the equivalent of the populations of France and Germany for the past 15 years.
- Without plant breeding, the European Union would need an extra 19 million hectares of farm land to produce the same amount of food. This would have the same impact as deforesting an area of the Amazon the same size as Latvia.

Let me also share examples from other parts of the world.

In 1997, Kenya introduced PVP protection, and joined UPOV in 1999. Prior to 1997, there were only 38 new plant varieties as compared to 136 from 1997-2003. In the case of maize, the number of maize varieties increased from 7 to 60. Most of the new maize varieties are superior to the existing ones, particularly in yield, pest and disease tolerance, nutritional qualities, early maturity and tolerance to abiotic stresses. Since maize is a staple food for 80% of Kenyans, this has had a positive contribution to food security in the country.

¹ The economic, social and environmental value of plant breeding in the European Union: An ex post evaluation and ex ante assessment HFFA Research GmbH (corresponding author: Steffen Noleppa) (2016)

Looking at Asia, a study in Viet Nam² has linked productivity and environmental benefits to UPOV membership by comparing agriculture in Viet Nam before and after UPOV membership.

- In the period 1995-2005, before UPOV membership, increased yields in rice, corn (maize) and sweet potatoes were mainly through increased level of inputs – with no detectable increase due to plant breeding. In the 10-year period after UPOV membership, yields in rice, maize and sweet potato increased annually by 1.7%, 2.1% and 3.1%, respectively, thanks to plant breeding. Vietnamese farmers in 2016 were producing approximately 20% more on their arable land than before UPOV membership.

Importance for economic development

One other important aspect of our work is that we help provide farmers with a secure income, in turn guaranteeing their own food security.

Again, turning to Kenya³, UPOV membership has provided access to elite varieties of roses that have enabled Kenya to develop a \$500 million cut-flower industry employing 500,000 Kenyans.

In Colombia⁴, the UPOV system of plant variety protection greatly boosted various industries, including floriculture. This was due to the entry of new businesses, which introduced new ornamental plant varieties and invested in Colombia. According to Asocolflores, the flower sector generates work in Colombia for over 200,000 people. This sector represented close to 5% of total Colombian exports during the last 10 years, making it the fourth most important line of foreign exchange for the country after oil, coffee and coal.

In Vietnam, since UPOV membership in 2006, the yearly income of farmers has increased by over 24%. The overall impact from plant breeding activities investments on the GDP has been calculated at around USD 5 billion, which is more than 2.5% of their GDP.

These amply demonstrate the value of our work in bringing investments, creating jobs and supporting the development aspirations of members, especially in developing country members, in different parts of the world.

Future effectiveness of the UPOV system

For the future, plant breeding has even greater challenges – to produce more from existing land while inputs are reduced. To achieve this formidable goal, plant variety protection will need to ensure that plant breeders can achieve a satisfactory return on the long-term investment that is required to produce new plant varieties. Therefore, it is essential that the UPOV system evolves to be fit for purpose as technology and needs evolve. The current discussions in UPOV on matters such as essentially derived varieties and harvested material are a good sign that UPOV is attuned and responsive to such developments.

Partnerships

The scale of the challenges are global and cross-cutting, while UPOV is a very small organization. This presents particular challenges for UPOV's message to be heard. I see encouraging signs that UPOV is succeeding in delivering its message, particularly in the increasing number of countries that are working with the UPOV Office on the development of plant variety protection laws. At the same time, it is clear that partnerships will be increasingly important. We will need to continue working with UPOV members, with stakeholders and other organizations. I was particularly encouraged at the Consultative Committee yesterday to learn about the initiative that Oxfam, Plantum and Euroseeds brought to UPOV for discussion. I am delighted that UPOV is working closely with the World Farmers' Organisation, particularly in the framework of the World Seed Partnership, because plant breeders and farmers are key players in the transformation of food systems.

² The socio-economic benefits of UPOV membership in Viet Nam: An ex-post assessment on plant breeding and agricultural productivity after 10 years by HFFA Research GmbH (corresponding author: Steffen Noleppa) (2017) (https://www.upov.int/about/en/benefits_upov_system.html)

³ <https://youtu.be/lwuXwN96O-Y>

⁴ <https://youtu.be/qnJLH4JVyP0>

I would like to take this opportunity to express my commitment, in my role as Secretary-General, to assist in improving UPOV's outreach and enhancing partnerships. In talking about partnerships, I would like to emphasize my commitment as both Director General of WIPO and Secretary-General of UPOV to explore greater policy synergies across both organizations.

Harnessing technology

For the UPOV system to continue to be relevant, it is also essential for UPOV as an organization to adapt and evolve. I am excited to see the plans for UPOV to harness technology so that the plant variety protection system is efficient for UPOV members and for plant breeders, while contributing to the financial security of the organization.

The recent introduction of the UPOV PRISMA online application tool is an important step. The plans for supporting UPOV members in the form of electronic office management systems will be an equally major step for an efficient and effective system, which will also will facilitate cooperation. Neural machine translation technologies are another opportunity to improve the outreach and understanding of the UPOV system. The COVID-19 pandemic has had tragic consequences around the world and has highlighted the importance of innovation to respond to difficult circumstances. For example, we have seen how electronic communication technologies have the potential to increase the outreach we can achieve, particularly for a small organization such as UPOV.

Cooperation within UPOV

I believe that new technologies have the potential to transform the performance of UPOV as an organization and the system that it offers in order that we can play a full part in meeting global challenges. However, I would like to conclude by recalling and emphasizing a particular strength of UPOV, which is the commitment to cooperation between its members and the support of UPOV members for the work of the UPOV Office. The technologies that we introduce will only have value as long as they are built on that cooperation and serve to enhance that cooperation. This is something that must remain at the heart of our endeavors.

Conclusion

When I was about to embark on my UPOV journey, I was told that this was a family even more than a community. I am happy to confirm that this has very much been my experience. I look forward to being part of this UPOV family, and to work with all of you to help UPOV play an even more important role in addressing the global challenges of sustainability and sustenance, bringing colour to our homes and choice to our tables, improving the livelihood of farmers, and ultimately using our expertise to make a difference to the world.

Thank you.

[End of Annex II and of document]