

Council**C/58/16****Fifty-Eighth Ordinary Session
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DRAFT PRESS RELEASE*Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

The Annex to this document contains a draft press release on the fifty-eighth ordinary session of the Council.

[Annex follows]

UPOV Newsletter



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

This is your go-to resource to explore the latest advancements and opportunities in the world of PVP, agricultural innovation, and the crucial policies that protect our agricultural diversity.

Testimonial Stories

Trailblazing Plant Breeding: The Inspiring Story of Dr. Mary Mgonja.

Global PVP Statistics

Explore the latest insights into global plant variety applications and see which UPOV members are leading the charge with the top 10 issuers.

UPOV Holds 2024 Sessions, Welcomes Armenia as New Member

Armenia joins the 2024 UPOV Sessions participating for the first time since becoming the 79th member of UPOV.

UPOV Holds 2024 Sessions

The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) convened the 2024 annual sessions from October 21-25, 2024, highlighting key developments in plant variety protection over the past year.

Delivering a report on recent developments in UPOV, Vice Secretary-General Yolanda Huerta highlighted how the work of these sessions contributes to advancing plant breeding and strengthening the UPOV system.

For the press release of the sessions, go to: [\(link here\)](#)

Armenia Joins the UPOV Convention to Promote Plant Breeding

Armenia, the latest member of UPOV, is eager to collaborate with UPOV members to promote food security and agricultural sustainability amid the challenges of climate change and global population growth.

Upon depositing the instrument of accession, H.E. Mr. Andranik Hovhannisyan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Armenia in Geneva, stated, "Farmers and growers will gain access to new, high-quality plant varieties, adapted to climate change and designed for higher productivity, ensuring competitive production."

[More here.](#)

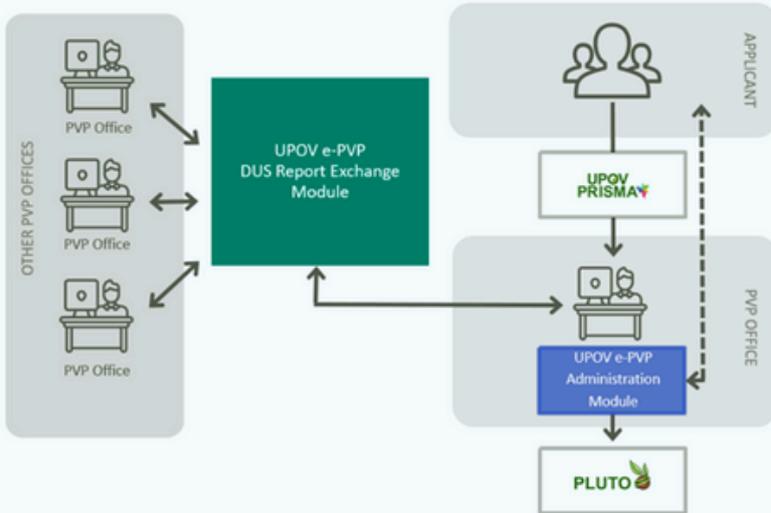
Plant Variety Protection: Latest Statistics

The latest data from UPOV members reveals important trends in plant variety protection (PVP) over the past year:

- **28,998** applications have been filed for PVP across UPOV members in 2023—showing continued global commitment to innovation in plant varieties.
- **21,088** titles granted reflecting the extensive protection awarded to breeders worldwide.
- **8,544** titles have ceased.
- **195,356** titles are in force, a record-breaking number safeguarding plant varieties across UPOV members.

For a deeper dive into the numbers, including historical totals and trends over the past five years, click here: <https://www.upov.int/>

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UPOV International Certificate on Plant Variety Protection

Acquire international recognition of your expertise in UPOV matters and benefit from continuous learning opportunities! Click here: upov.int

If you are an authority, organization or academic entity in a UPOV member providing training on plant variety protection, you are invited to contribute to the UPOV PVP Certificate program.

Please contact the UPOV Office for further information at upov.mail@upov.int.

Introducing the UPOV e-PVP system to Streamline Plant Variety Protection

UPOV e-PVP offers a comprehensive set of digital tools to support UPOV members in effectively implementing the UPOV system of plant variety protection (PVP). These tools include:

- **UPOV PRISMA:** Our online application tool for transmitting PVP application data directly to PVP offices. ([link here](#))
- **UPOV Plant Variety Database (PLUTO Database):** A valuable resource offering detailed information on plant varieties and a similarity search tool for variety denominations ([link here](#))
- **UPOV e-PVP Administration Module:** A fully digital system that allows PVP offices to manage applications, communicate with applicants, publish key information, and seamlessly transmit data to the UPOV Plant Variety Database. ([link here](#))
- **UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module:** A platform facilitating the exchange of DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability) reports between PVP offices. ([link here](#))

Together, these tools form the foundation for collaboration among UPOV members in the administration and examination of PVP applications, driving efficiency and enhancing cooperation.

Trailblazing Plant Breeding: The Inspiring Story of Dr. Mary Mgonja



From developing drought-tolerant sorghum varieties to licensing maize hybrids that benefit over 15,000 farmers, Dr. Mary Mgonja's work is transforming the landscape of plant variety protection and enhancing food security across Eastern and Southern Africa.

Dr. Mgonja's journey is a powerful reminder of how innovation and passion can make a tangible impact on farmers' lives.

Read her full story: [MaryMgonjaStory/Upov](#)

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The use of UPOV e-PVP is expanding!

Currently, 12 UPOV members are committed to using the UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange, as of November 2024.

Additionally, 3 UPOV members—Ghana, the United Kingdom, and Viet Nam—are using or set to use UPOV e-PVP Admin.

Since its recent launch, the UPOV e-PVP Admin module has successfully transferred its first 4 applications through UPOV PRISMA from 3 plant breeders, covering 4 different crops.

The UPOV e-PVP DUS exchange module has enabled exchanging 7 DUS reports between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Viet Nam.

For more information on how UPOV e-PVP is supporting plant variety protection globally, click : [LINK](#)

Upcoming Events and Meetings

- Are you developing or using new methods for variety testing, including phenotyping, data analysis and biochemical and molecular techniques? Then join our next Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM), to be held in Beijing, China, from April 28 to May 1, 2025. The event registration details will soon be available on the website here: [link](#)
- In November, two joint webinars will be held about UPOV PRISMA and how it facilitates the transfer of applications to South Africa and the United States. Stay tuned to our social media channels for more details.
- To access the full calendar of meetings, go to: [Meetings](#)

UPOV

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WHATS
NEW

Check out our video projects from Viet Nam featuring farmers and breeders.

They highlight the socio-economic impact of plant variety protection (PVP) in driving food security and agricultural innovation.

UPOV Videos

Stay connected with us on social media for the latest news, updates, and more!