

**Technical Committee**

Sixty-First Session

Geneva, October 20 and 21, 2025

**Administrative and Legal Committee**

Eighty-Second Session

Geneva, October 22, 2025

**Council**

Fifty-Ninth Ordinary Session

Geneva, October 24, 2025

**SESSIONS/2025/1****Original:** English**Date:** October 17, 2025

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**REPORT BY THE VICE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON DEVELOPMENTS IN UPOV***Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

1. The Annex to this document contains a copy of a presentation “Report on developments in UPOV” made by the Vice Secretary-General, via video, for the fifty-ninth ordinary session of the Council, the eighty-second session of the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ) and the sixty-first session of the Technical Committee.
2. The video is available in English at the [C/59](#), [CAJ/82](#) and [TC/61](#) webpages.

[Annex follows]



1

**UPOV**

“

The first time I saw Professor Marina Gambardella’s raspberry varieties, I knew things were going to change, they were sweet and perfect for our conditions. Those new varieties saved the future of my children. It took Marina ten years to develop them, that work deserves support.

”

**Yeny Marlene Aníñir Campos**  
Raspberry grower in Chile

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## Developments since the 2024 UPOV Sessions



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International Union for the Protection  
of New Varieties of Plants

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## Nigeria becomes the 80th member of UPOV

“

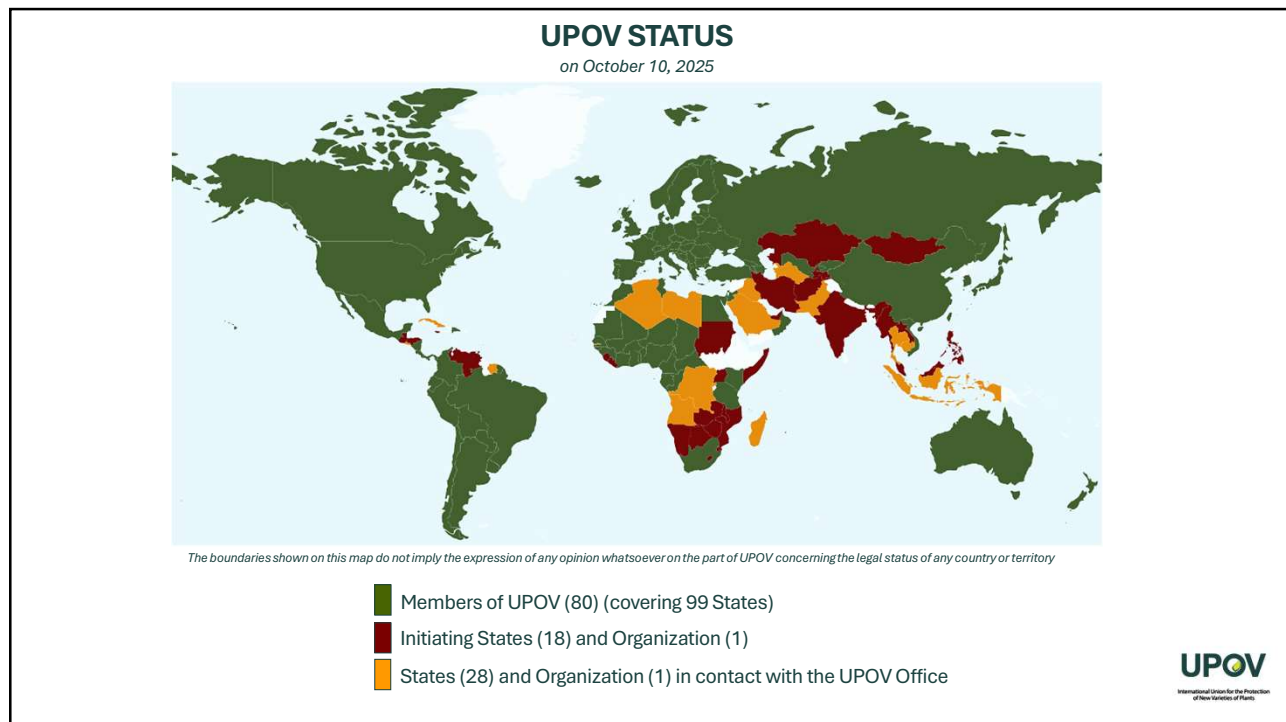
Plant Variety Protection (PVP) will drive the continuous development of improved, high-yielding, and climate-resilient crop varieties, benefiting both farmers and the broader agricultural sector.

”

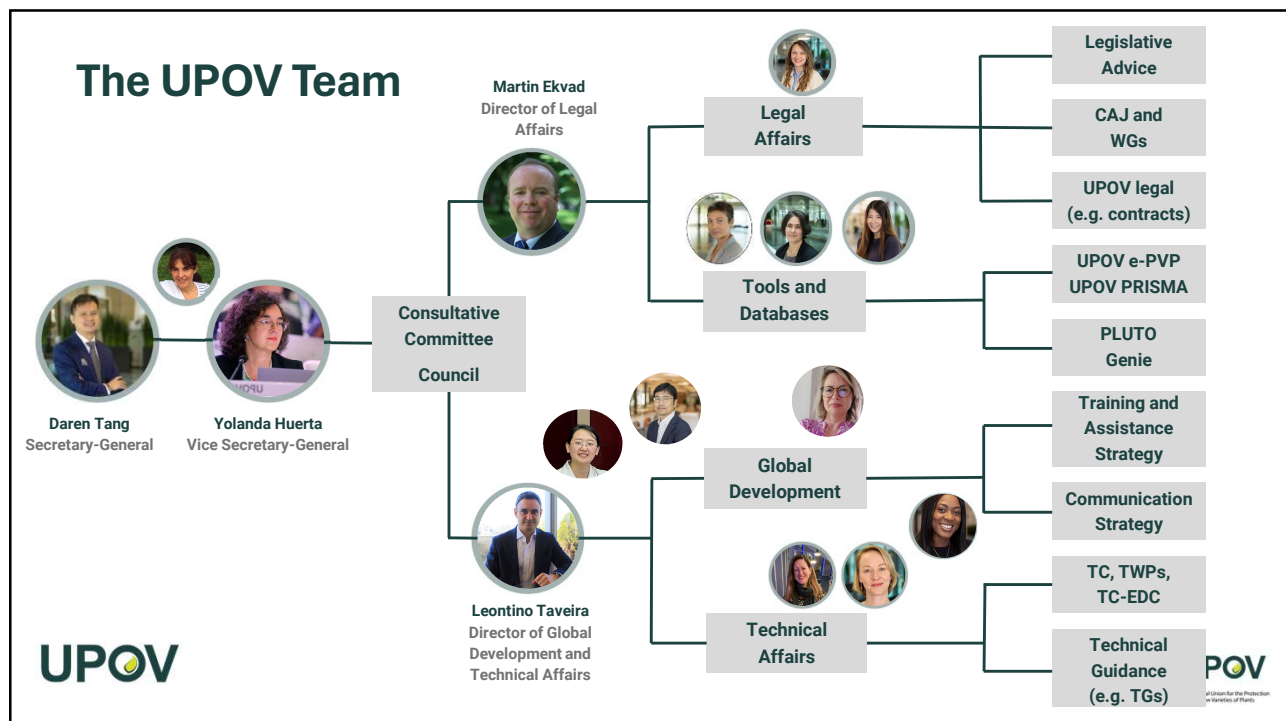
**Dr. Folarin Sunday Okelola**  
Registrar, Nigerian Plant Variety Protection Office



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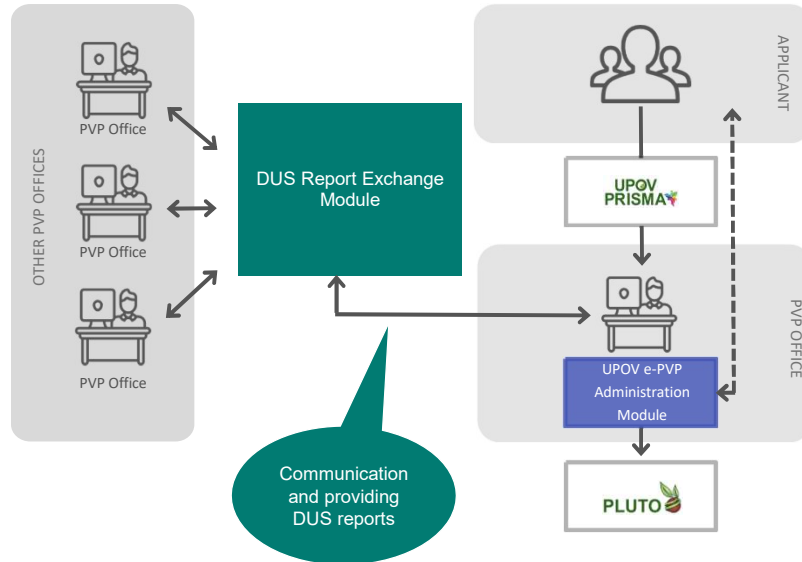
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## Key developments on UPOV e-PVP

Focus on digitalization services for UPOV members – leaving no one behind



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## Applications using UPOV Prisma

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

**UPOV**

“

Through this collaboration, applicants will benefit from a more efficient, secure, and transparent online application process under the Arusha Protocol.

**Bemanya Twebaze**

Director General

African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

”



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of New Varieties of Plants

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## Japan Joins UPOV PRISMA

“

UPOV PRISMA will make the application process more efficient and user-friendly for both Japanese and foreign applicants. We believe this milestone will further enhance transparency and encourage the development of new plant varieties that benefit agriculture and society.

”

**Mr. Toru YOSHIMATSU**

Senior Director, Intellectual Property Division

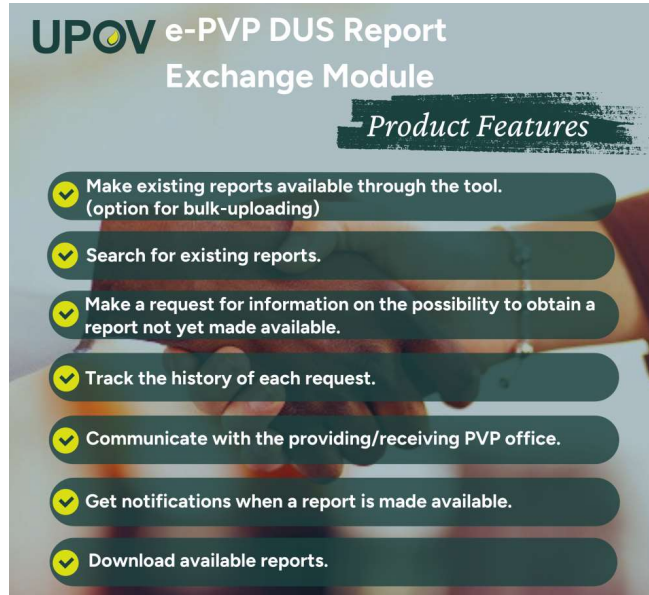
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)

Japan



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## UPOV Launched a New Report Exchange Module to Strengthen International Cooperation in the Examination of PVP Applications



**UPOV** e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module

*Product Features*

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



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## United Kingdom Joins UPOV e-PVP

**UPOV**

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The launch of the UK’s customized UPOV e-PVP module and adoption of the DUS/VCU exchange reflect a forward-looking, innovative approach to digital transformation.

**Caroline Power**  
IT Strategy & Governance Senior Analyst  
UK Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

”



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## Current situation of UPOV e-PVP

| UPOV Member              | UPOV PRISMA | UPOV e-PVP Admin Module | UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange Module |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Brazil                   |             |                         | X                              |
| Canada                   | X           |                         | X                              |
| Chile                    | X           |                         | X                              |
| European Union           | X           |                         | X                              |
| Georgia                  | X           |                         | (X)                            |
| Ghana                    | (X)         | (X)                     | (X)                            |
| Japan                    | (X)         |                         | X                              |
| Mexico                   | X           |                         | X                              |
| Morocco                  | X           |                         | X                              |
| Netherlands (Kingdom of) | X           |                         | X                              |
| New Zealand              | X           |                         | X                              |
| Nigeria                  | (X)         | (X)                     | (X)                            |
| Republic of Tanzania     | X           |                         |                                |
| Türkiye                  | X           |                         | X                              |
| United Kingdom           | X           | X                       | X                              |
| United States of America | X           |                         | X                              |
| Uruguay                  | X           |                         | X                              |
| Viet Nam                 | X           | X                       | X                              |

X: already using  
(X): committed to use

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## UPOV Technical Working Parties in 2025

**(Ornamental Plants/ Forest Trees)** March 31 - April 3

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



[https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=85858](https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=85858)

**(Testing Methods and Techniques)** April 28 - May 1

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



[https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=85856](https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=85856)

**(Agricultural Crops)** May 19 - 22

TWA Explores Innovation and  
Tradition at 54th Session in Arusha



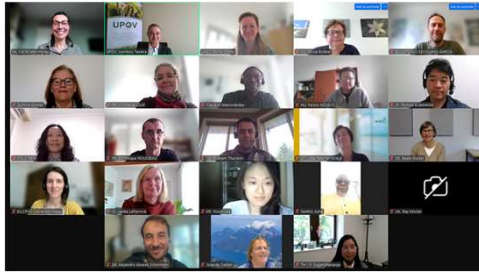
[https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=85859](https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=85859)

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## UPOV Technical Working Parties in 2025

**(Vegetables)** May 5 – 8, Online



[https://www.upov.int/edocs/mdocs/upov/en/twv\\_59/twv\\_59\\_19.pdf](https://www.upov.int/edocs/mdocs/upov/en/twv_59/twv_59_19.pdf)

**(Fruit Crops)** June 23- 26, Bursa, Türkiye



[https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=85860](https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=85860)

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## PVP Panel Discussion on Enforcement

### UPOV Panel Discussion on Practices and Challenges in Enforcement of Plant Breeders' Rights



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=0BQJ9R8K7hiMe3vI&v=HrnSif7Gfj4&feature=youtu.be>

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## Earn the UPOV International Certificate on Plant Variety Protection

The UPOV PVP Certificate is awarded to individuals that acquire at least 50 credits from UPOV-endorsed training.

Whether you are currently undergoing or planning to undergo PVP training, joining the UPOV PVP Certificate program offers valuable benefits, including continuous learning opportunities, peer connections and access to a global network of PVP experts.

- Gain In-Depth Expertise
- Access to a Global Network
- Flexible Learning
- Accredited Certification

 **For More Information**  
[upov.int/pvp\\_certificate.html](https://upov.int/pvp_certificate.html)

 **Contact the UPOV Office**  
[upov.mail@upov.int](mailto:upov.mail@upov.int)





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## New Maastricht University Course added to UPOV PVP Certificate Program



Professionals seeking to strengthen their expertise at the intersection of biotechnology and plant variety protection (PVP) can now register for the newly added Maastricht University course “Plant Variety Protection and Biotechnology” in the UPOV International Certificate on Plant Variety Protection (UPOV PVP Certificate Program).



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## Communication – Newsletters



### June 2025 Edition

In this edition: We welcome Nigeria as the newest UPOV member, share highlights from the year's first Technical Working Party meetings, introduce the new DUS Exchange Module, provide updates on UPOV PRISMA, and much more.



### October 2024 Edition

In this edition: Discover the inspiring story of a plant breeder making a difference in the United Republic of Tanzania, explore 2023 PVP statistics, celebrate Armenia's first participation as a UPOV member, and get the latest UPOV e-PVP updates.



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## Subscribe to the UPOV newsletter

Stay informed, exclusive updates industry news delivered twice a year: In June and in October



[SIGN UP HERE](#)



Image: Peter Fazekas from Pixels

### UPOV Newsletter: October 2025 Edition

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

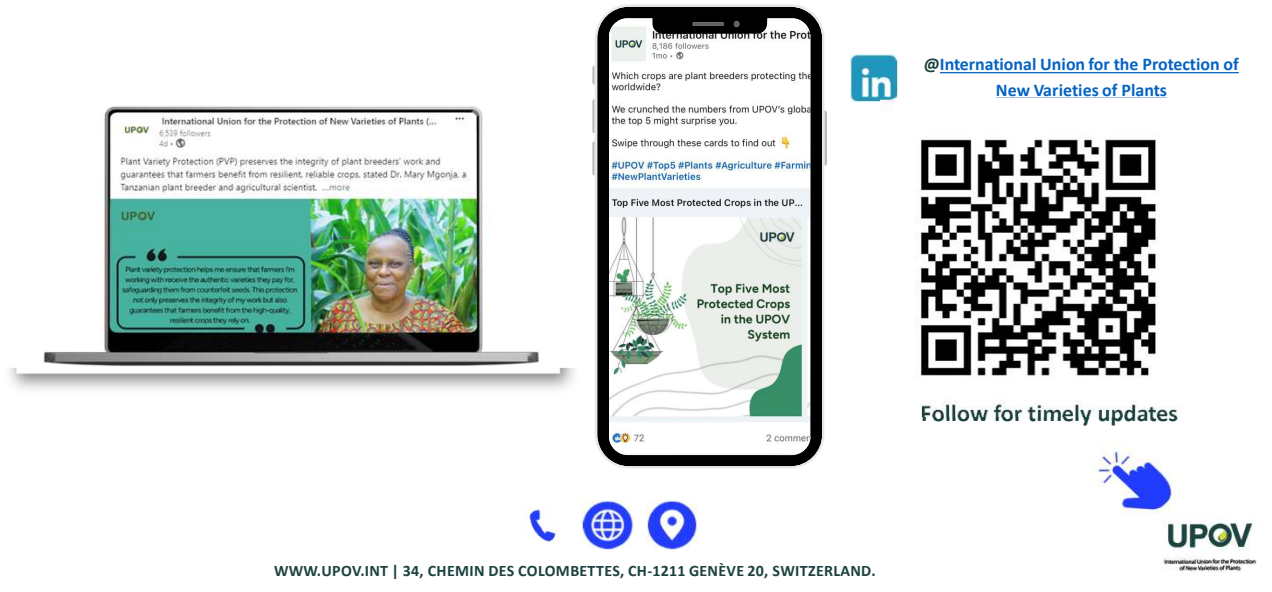
This is your go-to resource to explore the latest advancements and opportunities in the world of PVP to promote agricultural innovation.

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



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## Communication: social media



The image displays a social media promotion for the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). On the left, a laptop screen shows a UPOV post with a quote from Dr. Mary Mgonja, a Tanzanian plant breeder and agricultural scientist, stating: "Plant variety protection helps me ensure that farmers I'm working with receive the authentic varieties they pay for, safeguarding them from counterfeit seeds. This protection not only preserves the integrity of my work but also guarantees that farmers benefit from the high-quality, resilient crops they rely on." In the center, a smartphone displays a UPOV post titled "Which crops are plant breeders protecting the worldwide?" and "We crunched the numbers from UPOV's global top 5 might surprise you." It includes a call to action: "Swipe through these cards to find out" and a list of hashtags: "#UPOV #Top5 #Plants #Agriculture #Farmers #NewPlantVarieties". Below the text is a graphic titled "Top Five Most Protected Crops in the UPOV System". To the right, there is a LinkedIn logo, the text "@International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants", and a QR code. Below the QR code, it says "Follow for timely updates" with a blue hand icon pointing at a notification bell. At the bottom center, there are icons for a phone, a globe, and a location pin, followed by the text "WWW.UPOV.INT | 34, CHEMIN DES COLOMBETTES, CH-1211 GENÈVE 20, SWITZERLAND." The UPOV logo is in the bottom right corner.

WWW.UPOV.INT | 34, CHEMIN DES COLOMBETTES, CH-1211 GENÈVE 20, SWITZERLAND.

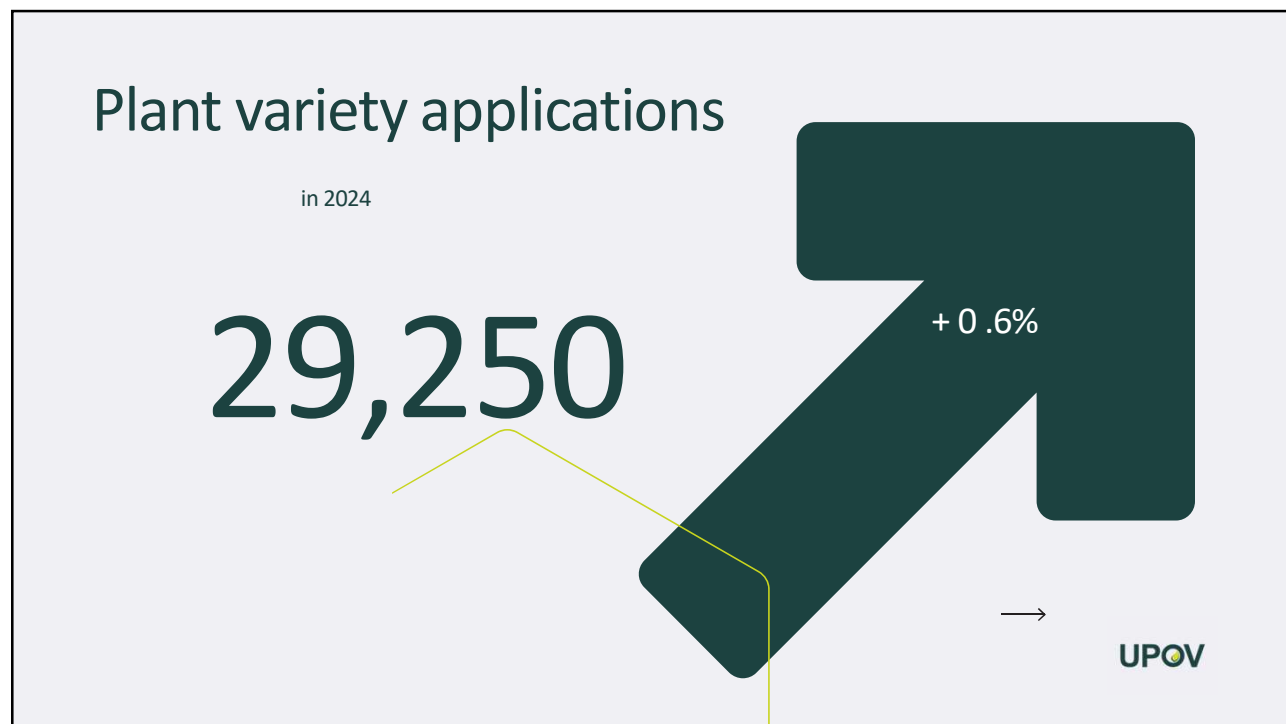
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## Highlights of this year's sessions

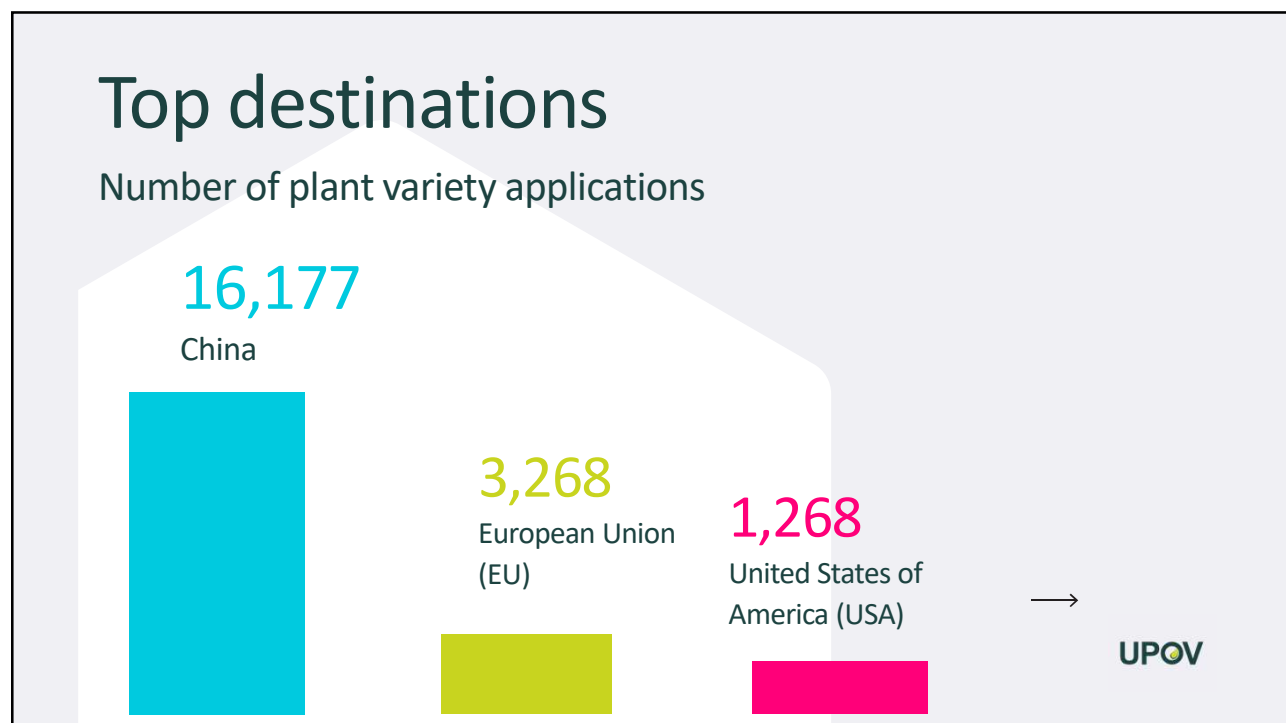


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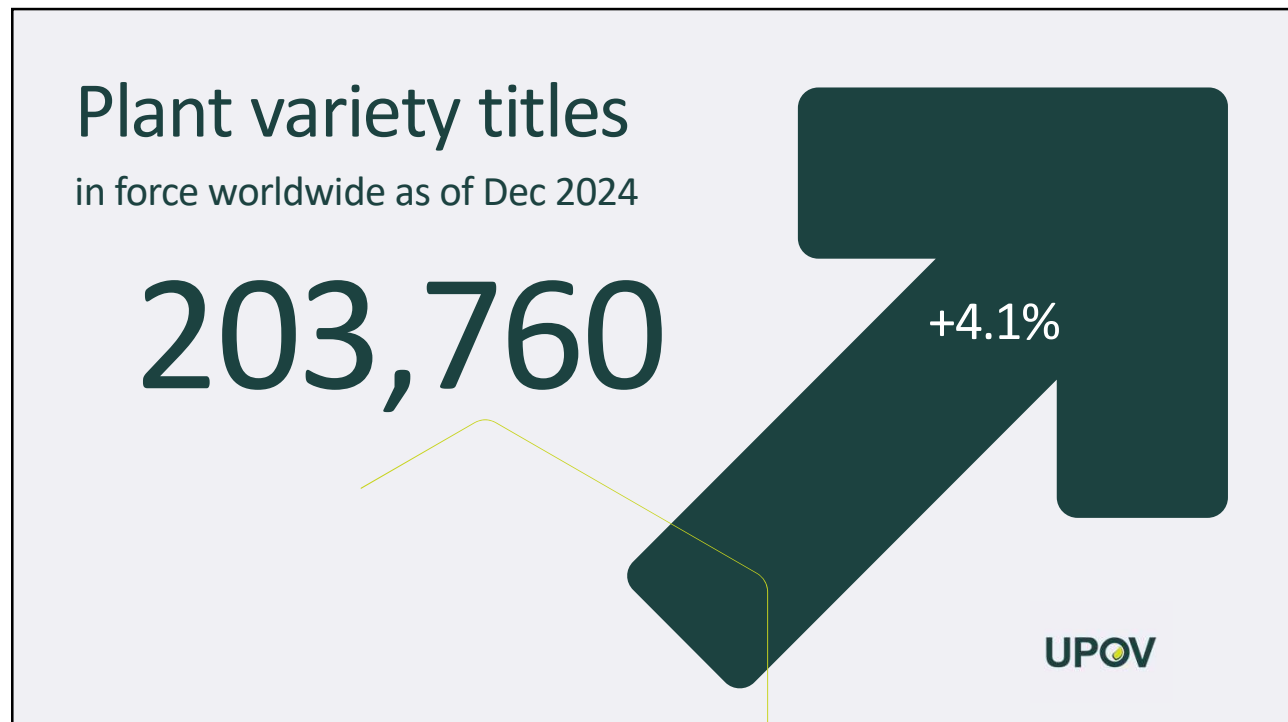
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## Launch of New UPOV Website

**UPOV** International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

HOME FIND & EXPLORE PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION FILE & MANAGE ABOUT UPOV

### Upcoming: the 2025 UPOV Sessions

Discover what's on the agenda at UPOV's flagship event below

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

**New Maastricht University Course added to UPOV PVP Certificate Program**

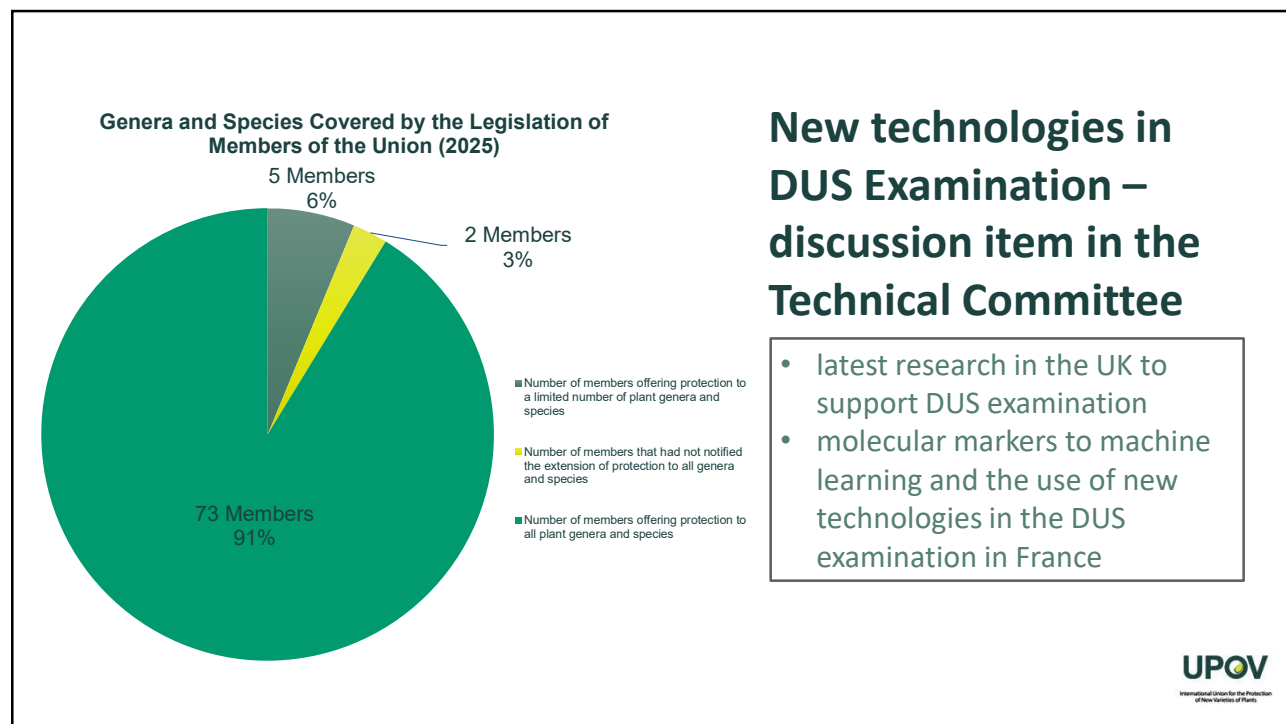
**UPOV**  
“In 2025, the global spotlight is predicted to reach 80 nations with African countries like Nigeria – representing one of the fastest growing states. This momentum, coupled with growing demand for high quality seeds to ensure the growing food security, is driving us to offer Plant Variety Protection (PVP) as one of the core components of our growth, high quality, and efficient service to our members, already benefitting from our services and the broader agricultural sector.”  
Dr. Peter Olatunji, Nigeria  
Nigeria's Plant Variety Protection Officer

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

**Growing Change: How New Raspberry Varieties Transformed a Chilean Small Farmer's Future**

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## Seminar on cooperation with plant breeders in DUS Examination

Discover how UPOV members collaborate with plant breeders in various aspects of the plant variety examination process.

This hybrid event concludes the 3-part webinar series held earlier this year

[https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=85855](https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=85855)

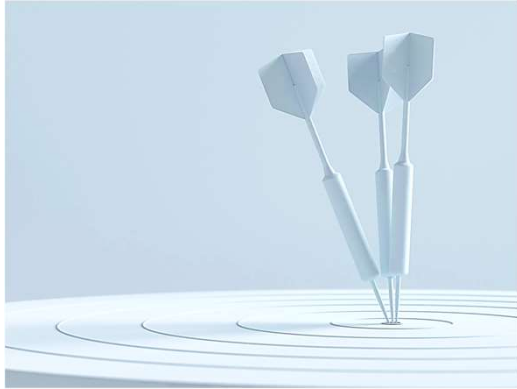
 **Wednesday October 22, 2025 - WCH**  
**14:30 pm CEST**



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## Strategic Business Plan 2026-2029



This year, the Council is invited to consider and adopt UPOV's Strategic Business Plan (SBP) for 2026-2029, which replaces the SBP for 2023-2027.

Key highlights:

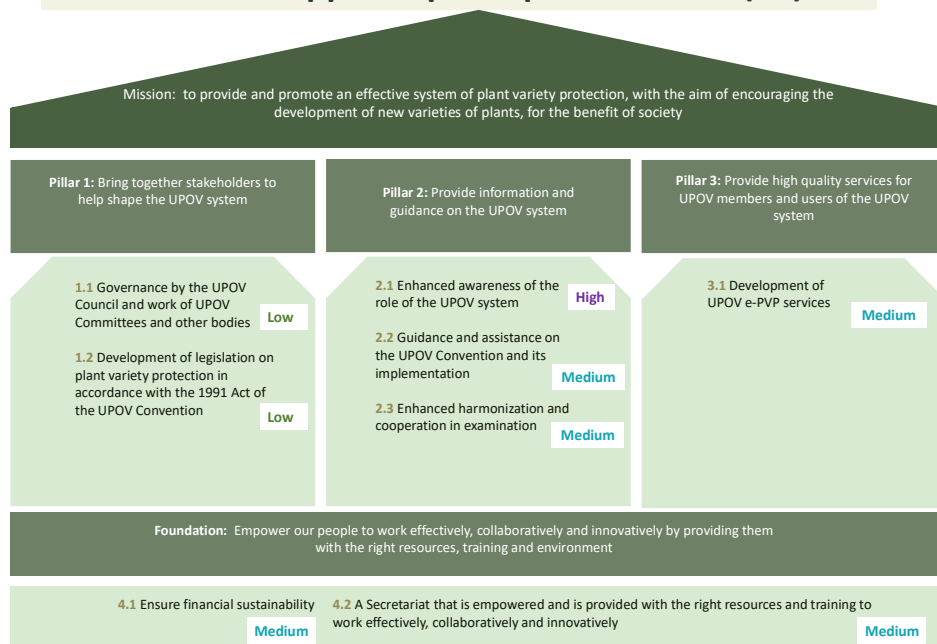
- a new Horizon Scanning Exercise
- proposals for a UPOV Risk Appetite Statement (document C/59/15)
- a UPOV Resources Strategy (document C/59/16)

These elements are crucial for UPOV's growth and resilience in the coming years.



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### UPOV Risk Appetite per Expected Result (ER)



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## UPOV Horizon Scanning Exercise



- Over 20 UPOV members and stakeholders spanning all seven continents participated in this exercise.
- The interviews were conducted with experts from across the plant breeding and intellectual property ecosystem, including from businesses, governments, academia, NGOs, and IGOs. These interviews fostered rich and insightful conversations that contributed to our collective understanding of the future of the PVP ecosystem.
- Interviewees shared their thoughts about how the PVP system will enable breeding and commercialization of new varieties in the next five years, discuss emerging drivers and signals of change, trends, potential challenges, and the opportunities that lie ahead.



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## Horizon scanning – Major Trends and Calls for Action



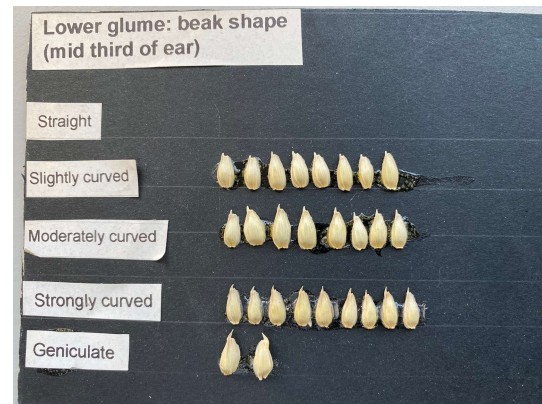
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## Horizon scanning – Major Trends

### 1. Technological Innovation in Plant Breeding

- faster breeding / shorter life cycles
- enforcing rights (EDVs)
- adapt DUS guidance
- standards for data management and collaborations

The TC and the CAJ are invited to endorse the collaboration with OECD and ISTA to establish common sets of molecular markers for variety identification



## Horizon scanning – Major Trends

### 2. Increasing Sustainability Demands

- Climate-Resilient Varieties, new emerging areas and environmental services.
- PVP needs to be positioned as part of broader sustainability agendas
- reassert leadership shaping the future of PVP



## Horizon scanning – Major Trends

### 3. Harmonization Needs

- Increased level of international operation by breeders requires more streamlined systems.
- Calls for UPOV to consider models used for other IP rights —one application and one DUS test accepted across multiple jurisdictions.
- Such a model could significantly enhance the PVP system by leveraging UPOV's digitalization tools and services and further initiatives that simplify and shorten, in a cost-effective way, the filing, examination and protection of new varieties in UPOV members.



## UPOV Resources Strategy (URS)

- Secure sustainable finances and a skilled and engaged work force to generate continuous value for UPOV's mission in promoting plant breeding worldwide by providing a global IP system that protects new plant varieties





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## The UPOV System in a Changing World



The UPOV system of plant variety protection operates within a landscape shaped by rapid technological change, shifting global trade patterns, increasing sustainability demands, and evolving stakeholder expectations.



To stay relevant and impactful, the system must anticipate and respond proactively to emerging trends identified through the horizon scanning exercise. Strategic communication, policy agility, technological integration, and stronger international cooperation will be essential in this process.



For UPOV to continue driving agricultural innovation through the protection of new plant varieties, adequate resource allocation and a focus on ensuring that the system's benefits reach people on the ground - as highlighted in the first example on Yeny - will be crucial.

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