

Technical Committee

Sixty-Second Session

Geneva, October 19 and 20, 2026

Administrative and Legal Committee

Eighty-Third Session

Geneva, October 21, 2026

Council

Sixtieth Ordinary Session

Geneva, October 23, 2026

SESSIONS/2026/1**Original:** English**Date:** October 16, 2026

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 sixtieth ordinary session of the Council, the eighty-third session of the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ) and the sixty-second session of the Technical Committee.
2. The video is available in English at the [Council \(C/60\)](#), [CAJ/82](#) and [TC/61](#) webpages.

[Annex follows]



International Union for the Protection
of New Varieties of Plants

Recent developments in UPOV

Yolanda Huerta,
Vice Secretary-General, UPOV

UPOV sessions: Geneva, October 19 to 23, 2026

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UPOV STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN 2026–2029

Mission: 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

Pillar 1: Bring together stakeholders to help shape the UPOV system

1.1 Governance by the UPOV Council and work of UPOV Committees and other bodies

Low

1.2 Development of legislation on plant variety protection in accordance with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention

Low

Pillar 2: Provide information and guidance on the UPOV system

2.1 Enhanced awareness of the role of the UPOV system

High

2.2 Guidance and assistance on the UPOV Convention and its implementation

Medium

2.3 Enhanced harmonization and cooperation in examination

Medium

Pillar 3: Provide high-quality services for UPOV members and users of the UPOV system

3.1 Development of UPOV e-PVP services

Medium

Foundation: Empower our people to work effectively, collaboratively and innovatively by providing them with the right resources, training and environment

4.1 Ensure financial sustainability

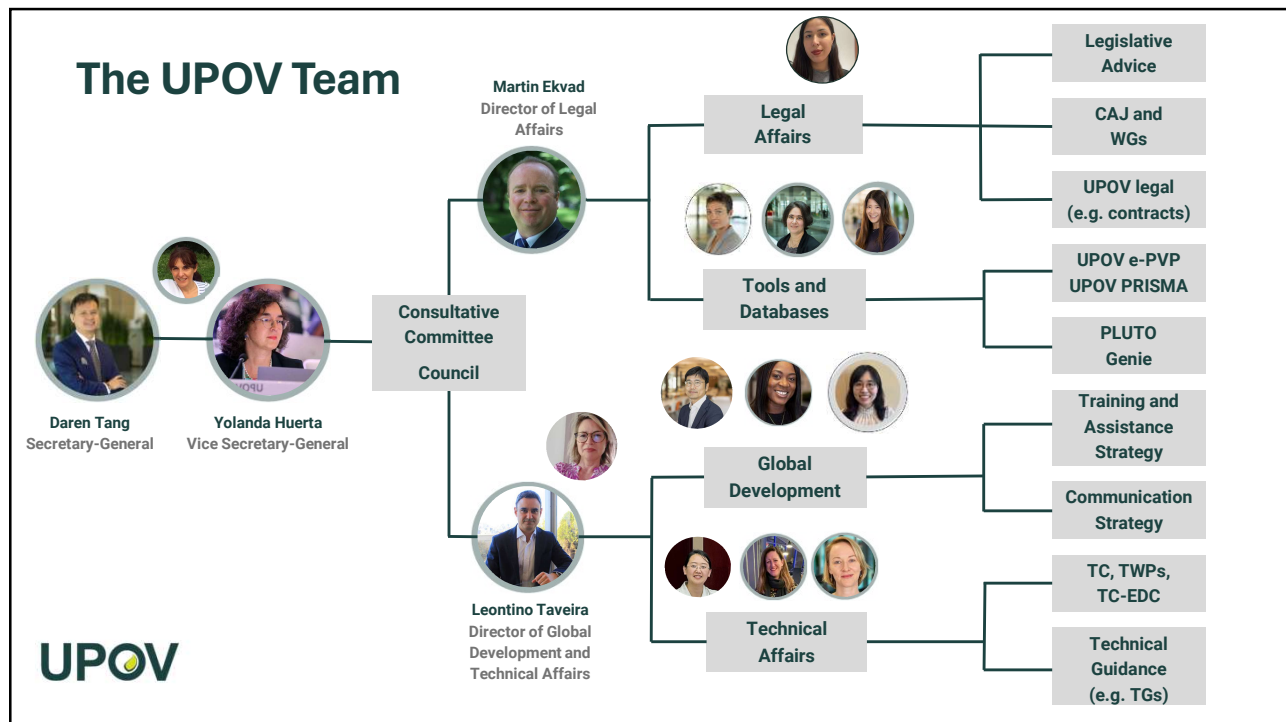
Medium

4.2A Secretariat that is empowered and is provided with the right resources and training to work effectively, collaboratively and innovatively

Medium



2



3



4

Bring stakeholders together to shape the UPOV system



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UPOV momentum

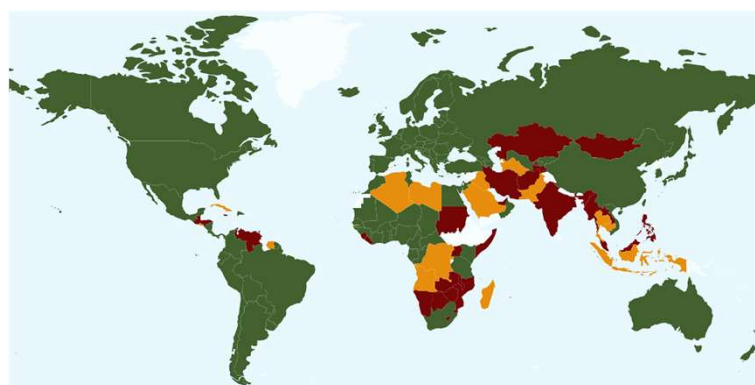
80

UPOV members

78 States and 2 intergovernmental organizations

99

States covered globally



- Members of UPOV (80), covering 99 States
- States (28) and Organization (1) in contact with the UPOV Office
- Initiating States (18) and Organization (1)

The boundaries shown on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UPOV concerning the legal status of any country or territory.



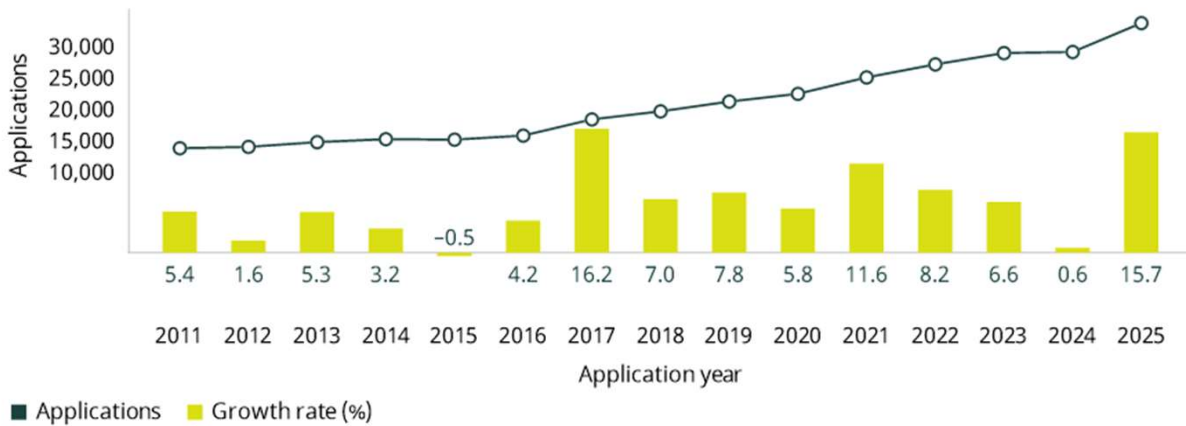
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STATISTICS



Trends in plant variety applications in UPOV members 2011–2025

33,850 plant variety applications as at the end of December 2025, a sharp increase of 15.7% from 2024.



7

7

Top destinations



Number of plant variety applications

20,967

China



2,897

European Union (EU)



1,298

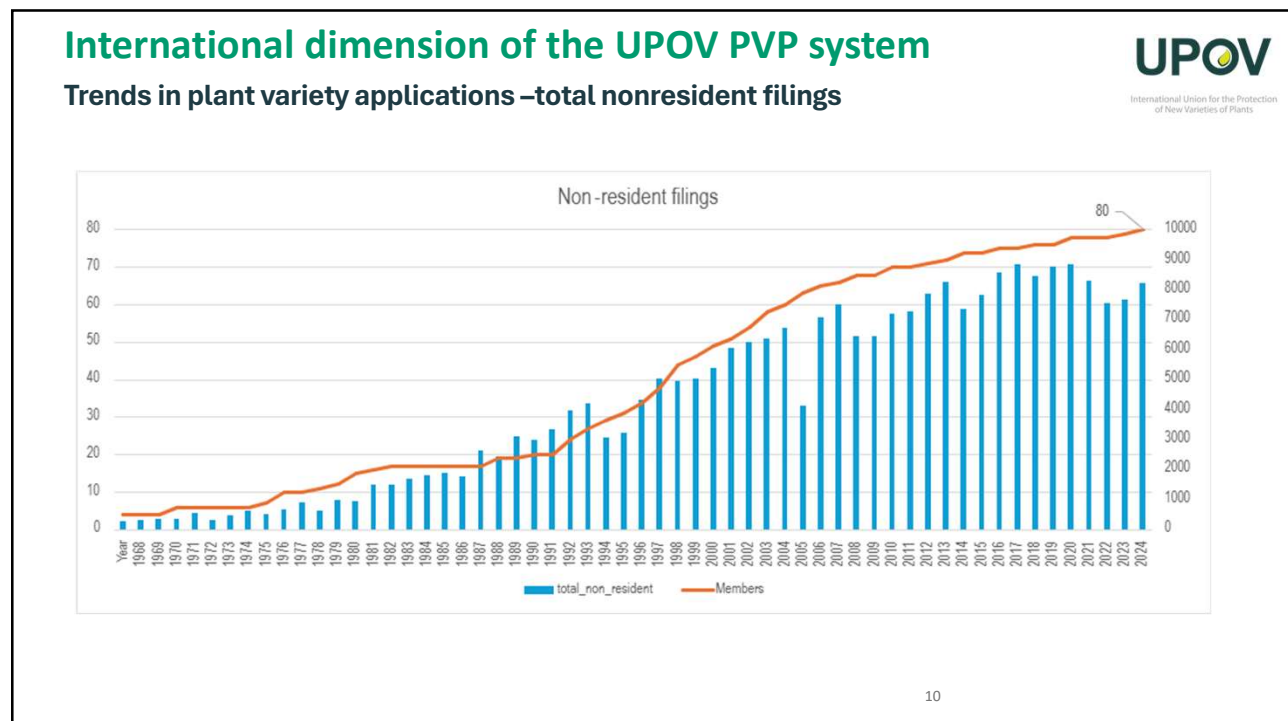
United States of America (USA)



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



Through practical examples and exchanges, the Seminar will show how plant variety protection can work alongside other policies and collaborative approaches to develop and deliver improved varieties, meet farmers' needs, and support food security, sustainability and resilience.

Wednesday October 21, 2026
Room A
14:30 pm CEST

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Regional and International Stakeholder Engagements



African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) [Symposium](#) on Plant Variety Protection in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho, on 20–21 May 2026.



ISF and CIOPORA [Engagements](#) on Strengthening Cooperation across the seed sector and capacity building for plant breeders and seed growers, April 29, 2026



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Regional and International Stakeholder Engagements



High-level technical [conference](#) with INASE of Argentina and ASA (Argentine Seed Association)
April 30, 2026



World Seed Partnership [Meeting](#) at UPOV offices, March 31, 2026



AFSTA Seed [Congress](#), March 23-25 2026



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**Provide information and guidance
on the UPOV system**



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CAJ discussions on Essentially Derived Varieties

- **How to raise awareness on the 2023 UPOV guidance on essentially derived varieties with the UPOV community and beyond?**
- **Uruguay** has adopted the concept of essentially derived varieties in its legislation, a move spearheaded by the country's National Seed Institute INASE Uruguay and approved by Parliament
- Updates from **CIOPORA** and **ISF**



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Working Group on Harvested Material and Unauthorized Use of Propagating Material (WG-HRV)



- On March 19, 2026, the WG-HRV discussed [an independent expert study](#) on the scope of the breeder's right and its relationship with the exhaustion of the breeder's right under the UPOV 1991 Convention.
- Proposals for the revision of the UPOV Explanatory Notes on Acts in Respect of Harvested Material under the 1991 Act will be considered by the WG-HRV on October 21, 2026.

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Progress on development of technical guidance by the five UPOV Technical Working Parties in 2026



[60th Technical Working Party for Vegetables](#)
[18-21 May 2026](#)



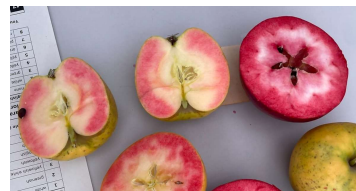
[4th Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques](#)
[2-5 June 2026](#)



[55th Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops](#)
[15-18 June 2026](#)



[58th Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees](#)
[6-9 July 2026](#)



[57th Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops](#)
[7-10 September 2026](#)

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Options to increase cooperation in variety examination

2026 Webinars and Technical Committee open discussion

- Environmental effect in expression of characteristics in DUS examination
- Completeness and relevance of variety collections in DUS examination
- Phytosanitary matters that impact access to plant material for DUS examination



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TWM: The importance of molecular techniques for variety identification

The UPOV Horizon Scanning SBP for 2026-2029 identified an increasing reliance on DNA analysis for variety identification purposes

Opportunities for UPOV to **develop standards** in this field and **explore approaches for data management and collaboration on data science activities**

- ✓ **Updating the list of molecular markers**
- ✓ **Common sets of molecular markers**

- Cooperation with OECD and ISTA to establish a common set of markers
- Consider challenges and opportunities: crops, scale of harmonization (regional, global)



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TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

UPOV International Certification on Plant Variety Protection Now Open for Private Sector Experts



Private sector professionals working in plant variety protection can now earn internationally recognized credentials through a new certification program launched by UPOV

[Learn more: www.upov.int/en/plant-variety-protection/pvp-training/upov-pvp-certificate](http://www.upov.int/en/plant-variety-protection/pvp-training/upov-pvp-certificate)

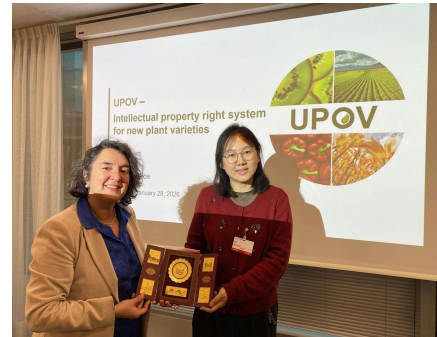
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TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING



UPOV partnered with [Seed World Europe](#) to give all finalists of the '20 Most Promising Plant Breeders in Europe Competition' free access to online courses on Plant Variety Protection (PVP).



Tongji University Student [visit](#), January 28 2026



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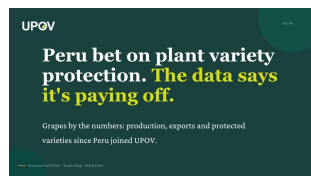
COMMUNICATIONS



2 videos in English and Spanish in Peru, Launch of [new INDECOPI report](#) on Peru's PVP impact since becoming a UPOV member



Peru's Blueberry Success Story: Plant Variety Protection Driving Agricultural Growth



8 videos produced in English and Spanish in the Dominican Republic



Dominican Republic Table Grape Family Success Story



One New Variety, One New Beginning: Fanny's Story From the Dominican Countryside

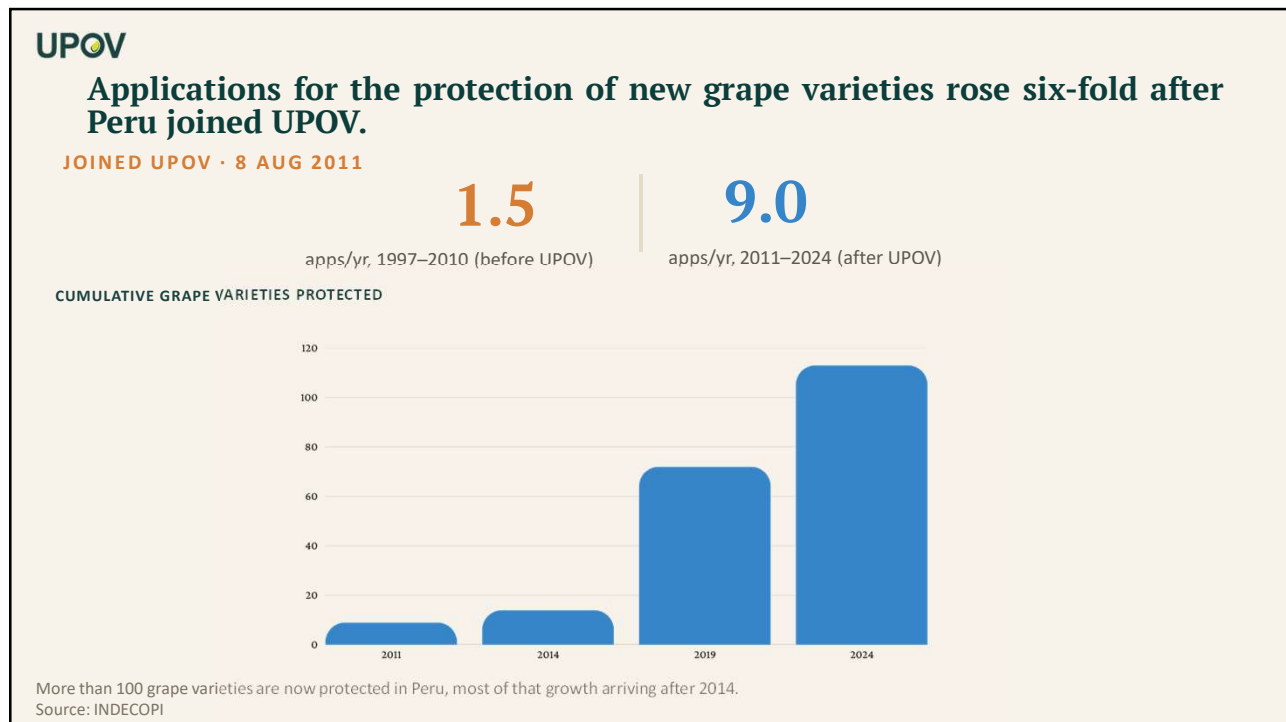


Reino's Story: Small-Scale Farming and the Transition to Table Grapes in the Dominican Republic

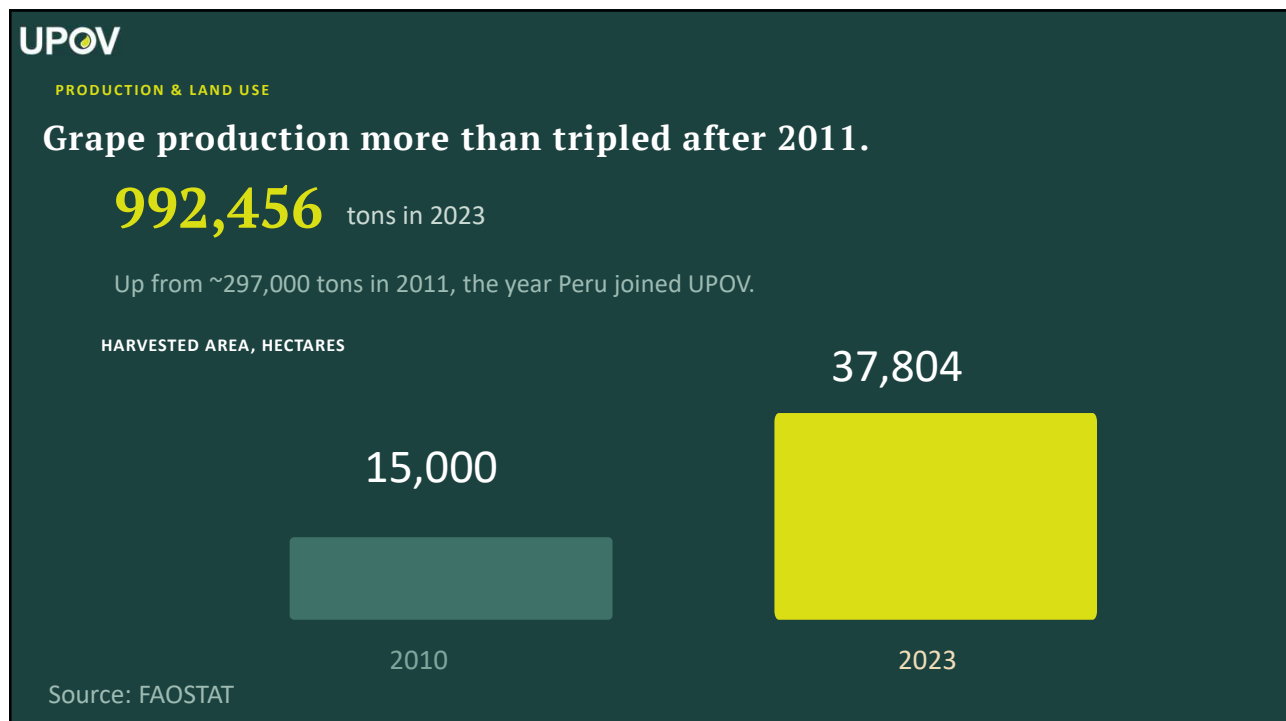


Diversifying Dominican Agriculture Through Plant Variety Protection and New Table Grape Varieties

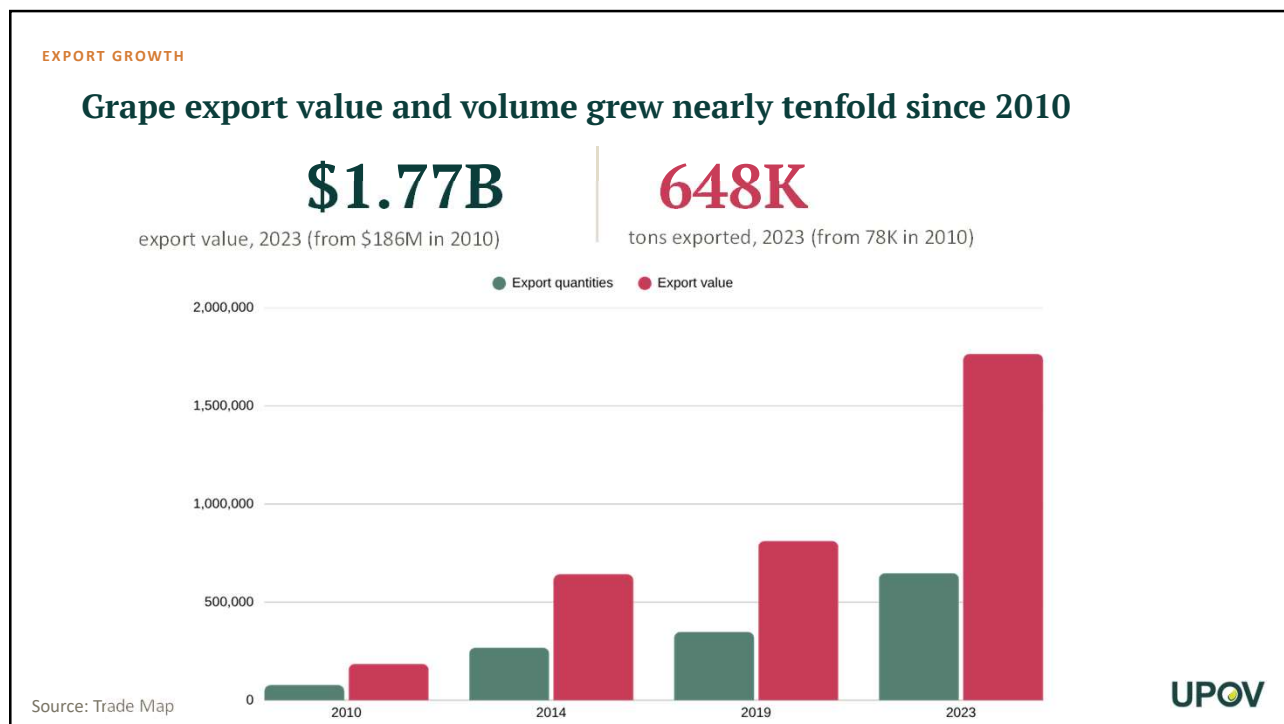
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Reach out with stories and case studies that highlight the impact of PVP

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['Ó:iasé': How a New Apple Variety is Helping Revive an Indigenous Language](#)



[ST25: The Rice Variety That Turned Saline Fields Into Opportunity in Viet Nam's Mekong Delta](#)



[Braving the Odds: Dr. Mary Mgonja's Journey to Empower Smallholder Farmers in Tanzania Through Plant Breeding](#)



["Produce More with the Same Land": How a Fifth-Generation Small Farm in Southern Brazil Bets on Better Varieties](#)



[Robert Okayo: Championing Plant Breeding for Community Impact](#)



[Growing Change: How New Raspberry Varieties Transformed a Chilean Small Farmer's Future](#)

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Invitation to use New Comms Resources Available on the UPOV Website

UPOV / Plant Variety Protection / Learn / Policy-makers / Communication resources

UPOV Communication Toolkit

UPOV has developed resources showcasing accurate and verifiable information on the impact of plant variety protection.

Peru's Grape Decade: How Production, Exports and Protected Varieties Grew in the Years After Peru Joined UPOV

PVP and Sports: The Grass, Merchandise, and the Food in Your Hand

Go to: www.upov.int/en/communication-resources

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Communication – Newsletters

Subscribe to the UPOV newsletter

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



[SIGN UP HERE](#)

UPOV Newsletter
4,872 subscribers
Subscribed

Image: Hong Son/Pexels

UPOV Newsletter: June 2026 Edition

International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
10,709 followers

June 30, 2026

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

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

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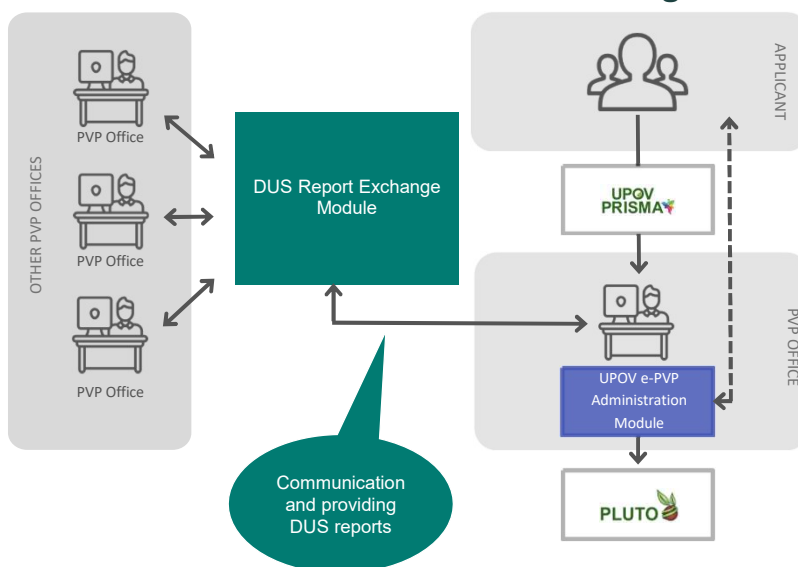
Provide high-quality services for UPOV members and users of the UPOV System



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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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The horizon scanning exercise gave birth to the PRISMA Plus Pilot Project

A shared core could reuse 85% of application data

85%

potential data reuse

Common information can flow across participating jurisdictions—sharply reducing repeated entry for breeders, agents and plant variety protection offices.

Each authority retains regulatory sovereignty.

The pilot needs policy commitments, not just a better form

Expected outcome A common application model that reduces repeated entry while preserving local requirements.



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Current Use of UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange Module

Number of authorities accessing
UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange

17

1. Brazil
2. Canada
3. Chile
4. European Union
5. Japan
6. Mexico
7. Morocco
8. Netherlands (Kingdom of)
9. New Zealand
10. Republic of Moldova
11. Türkiye
12. Viet Nam
13. United Kingdom
14. United States of America
15. Uruguay
16. ARIPO
17. Lao PDR

Number of DUS reports exchanged
using UPOV e-PVP DUS exchange

429

Number of Requests

1,275



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From national processes to a connected global system

The UPOV Horizon Scanning exercise points to cooperation, digitalization and capacity building as mutually reinforcing priorities.



A more interoperable PVP system

Shared examination, trusted digital tools and global technical cooperation.

Streamline across jurisdictions

01

International breeders need simpler systems. Building on UPOV e-PVP, stakeholders are calling for models closer to other IP rights: one application and one DUS test accepted across multiple jurisdictions.

Use digitalization to shorten the pathway

02

UPOV's digital tools and services can help simplify and shorten filing, examination and protection in a cost-effective way, while enabling greater reuse of examination work.

Expand global capacity

03

Africa, Asia and Latin America offer the greatest growth potential for PVP. UPOV can support this through capacity building and technical cooperation.

BOTTOM LINE Adaptability + international cooperation = food security and innovation

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UPOV

“

The extreme droughts in recent years have got us looking for new varieties that in addition to productivity, have better climatic adaptation; this is to ensure sufficient yielding in the face of adverse conditions.

”

Ede Balbinotti

Fifth Generation Brazilian Farmer



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