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UPOV

CAJ/VIII/8

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## INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL COMMITTEE

Eighth Session

Geneva, October 12 to 14, 1981

VARIETY DENOMINATIONS - "CONVERSION" OF MAIZE INBRED LINES

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The Secretary-General of the International Federation of the Seed Trade (FIS) has addressed to the Vice Secretary-General of UPOV the letter reproduced in the annex to this document concerning the question of variety denominations. The Cereal Seed Section of FIS proposes in essence that all UPOV member States grant to breeders the possibility of using, for commercial maize hybrids, combinations of letters and figures associated with trade names. This proposal concerns item 7(a) of the draft agenda of the Committee's eighth session.

2. The said letter also contains observations on "conversion" of maize inbred lines. They might be examined under item 8 (any other business) of the draft agenda.

[Annex follows]

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ANNEX

# Fédération Internationale du Commerce des Semences

Ch. du Reposoir 5-7  
1260 Nyon (Suisse - Switzerland)  
Tél. 022 - 61 99 77  
Télex 22776 seed ch

Nyon, 28th September 1981

Dr. Heribert Mast  
Organisation UPOV  
Chemin des Colombettes 34  
1201 GENEVE

## Ref. Varietal Denominations - Conversion of lines

Dear Dr. Mast,

Our organisation held its Congress from 26th - 28th May at Acapulco (Mexico).

At the meeting of our Cereal Seed Section, which was held during the Congress, the above subjects were discussed and the following position with regard to the above subjects was agreed

### Varietal Denominations

The use of fantasy names to designate maize varieties causes, due to linguistic differences, costs of re-naming as the names chosen are not acceptable in all languages.

As a result, it happens often, that one and the same variety has two, three, sometimes four different names in the international seed trade.

The Cereal Section therefore is of the opinion, that the same rights that have been granted to the USA when it signed the revised Convention, should be granted to all UPOV member-States. In other words, the Section is of the opinion, that it is necessary to return to letters and figures combined with a trade name to be in line with international commercial practice

The members of our industry hold the view, that the Guideline on Variety Denominations UPOV issued in 1973 has had the effect that a great number of exceptions have proved to be necessary on what should rather be the rule, i.e. one variety name for one variety, which we consider in the interest of the free movement of seeds, which as you know is one of the main objectives of our organisation.

Conversion of lines

A study group has examined the problem of the pirating - via the conversion of lines - of the material developed by breeders.

This Committee has after a careful study of the problem expressed the following unanimous views, which were adopted at our General Meeting :

- 1) the problem of the conversion of lines used as counterfeits existed,
- 2) this problem was important in Europe where obligatory seed certification and listing of varieties on variety lists necessitated the breeders to deposit the hybrids and their components,
- 3) the Committee wanted UPOV to take all necessary measures, particularly in Europe, to apply the UPOV Convention in a uniform way,
- 4) the Committee would ask UPOV to make the necessary provisions to do everything to avoid, that by means of conversion of lines, counterfeits and pirating of genetic material of the breeders were made possible.

The Committee has decided to hold a further meeting in the course of this fall and would like you to participate in the discussions aiming at a solution of this problem.

We would be pleased, if you would put this letter before the competent UPOV body (bodies) and would be pleased to hear from you whether you are prepared to join the Study Group at their next meeting.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Hans H. Leenders  
Secretary General

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