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| International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants |  |

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| Meeting on Electronic ApplicationsSecond meetingGeneva, October 24, 2023 | EAM/2/6Original: EnglishDate: March 12, 2024 |

REPORT

adopted by the Meeting on Electronic Applications

Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance

# Welcome and opening

 The second meeting on electronic applications (EAM/2), which was held as a hybrid meeting (physical/virtual means), was opened and chaired by Ms. Yolanda Huerta, Vice Secretary‑General of UPOV, who welcomed the participants.

 The list of participants is reproduced in Annex I to this report.

# Approval of the agenda

 The meeting adopted the draft agenda as proposed in document EAM/2/1.

# Developments concerning UPOV e-PVP

## Overview of UPOV e-PVP

 The meeting considered document EAM/2/2 “Overview of UPOV e-PVP” and received a presentation by the Office of the Union on:

* the components of UPOV e-PVP;
* the test campaign held from July 18, 2023 to August 11, 2023;
* the launch of UPOV e-PVP on September 28, 2023, with Viet Nam as the first UPOV member joining UPOV e-PVP by using the full package of components; and,
* the procedure to follow in order to join UPOV e-PVP.

 A copy of the presentation is reproduced in Annex II to this document.

## UPOV PRISMA

 The meeting considered document EAM/2/3 “UPOV PRISMA” and received a presentation by the Office of the Union on the developments concerning UPOV PRISMA since the first Meeting on Electronic Applications (EAM/1), a copy of which is reproduced in Annex II to this document.

### Use of UPOV PRISMA (as of September 30, 2023)

 The EAM/2 participants noted the information on the use of UPOV PRISMA as of September 30, 2023, as reported in Annex II of this report.

### Launch of Version 2.9 (September 2023)

 The EAM/2 participants noted that UPOV PRISMA Version 2.9 was deployed on September 25, 2023, with the following:

* The application form and technical questionnaire for Lettuce were updated for China;
* South Africa uses the United Kingdom TQ for Sugar Beet;
* Viet Nam expanded coverage to all genera and species;
* Reference to the authority concerned was added in the confirmation email to applicants (submitted and received);
* For all questions “this question could be confidential”, changed the current default from ‘No’ to ‘Yes’;
* View applications waiting for agent’s acceptance;
* Set up notifications preferences;
* Allow users to specify the crop group;
* Application Overview:
	+ drop down to select the parent made searchable,
	+ display the list of agents in alphabetic order;
* Same breeder's reference/submitter's own reference can be used for the same crop/authority/application type. The original application will not be withdrawn; and
* Detect the language used in Free text field and warn the user if it is not the expected output form language (for Chinese application data in Version 2.9).

### Other developments

#### IT Quality Software Audit

 The Office of the Union recalled that a code audit had been organized, which had produced the following recommendations:

1. Implement best practices in terms of coding in order to avoid concurrency and performance issues;
2. Move to the cloud for a better resource management at infrastructure level and keep following the highest security standards;
3. Develop a dedicated configuration interface for a controlled management of the forms.

 The EAM/2 participants noted the report on the following plans for implementing the above recommendations:

* Recommendation 1 (best practices in terms of coding) was implemented in Version 2.8. A new tool to assess security at code level has been used since Version 2.9;
* Recommendation 2 (Migration to the cloud) and Recommendation 3 (Development of a dedicated configuration interface) will be implemented in Version 2.10, subject to available resources.

 The EAM/2 participants noted that following the implementation of automated regression testing for form generation, it is planned to implement automated tests for all functionalities by the end of 2024 to expand the test coverage.

#### Improvement of user-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA

 The EAM/2 participants noted the report on the agreed actions during the Task Force meeting held on May 10, 2023:

* The Office of the Union to report on the technical issues received through UPOV PRISMA mailbox at the TF meetings, in conjunction with an analysis and planned remedial action, if appropriate;
* For matters after the application data has been submitted via UPOV PRISMA (e.g. PVP office administrative procedures), users should report these to the PVP offices concerned;
* The Office of the Union will present an overview of the following at future Task Force meetings, by authority; and
* Number of applications and proportion made via UPOV PRISMA
	+ Need for original documents,
	+ Completeness of PVP office procedure information in UPOV PRISMA.

#### CPVO synchronization

 The EAM/2 participants noted that in order to achieve and maintain synchronization of TQs between UPOV PRISMA and CPVO (see documents UPOV/EAF/16/3 “Report” paragraph 18, UPOV/EAF/17/3 “Report” paragraph 32 and UPOV/EAF/18/3 “Report” paragraph 12) the following projects had been agreed with CPVO:

* Project 1: “Audit” (current issues/ states of affairs) for exchange of data between UPOV PRISMA and CPVO in both directions (Status: completed);
* Project 2: Part A: Resolving current issues; Part B: Synchronizing changes by UPOV/CPVO (Status:  ongoing on the basis of information provided in Project 1);
* Project 3: Implementation of Project 2 outcome: Bi-directional exchange of application data (lettuce, tomato, rose) (Status: ongoing on the basis of information provided in Project 1);
* Project 4: Bulk upload of Maize applications from UPOV to CPVO (Status: ongoing on the basis of information provided in Project 1);
* Project 5: “Transitional arrangements”, to communicate to applicants about the situations in which they can use UPOV PRISMA for applications at the CPVO and the measures that need to be taken until all issues have been resolved (Status: ongoing).

 The EAM/2 participants noted the report on each project (as of October 24, 2023), as reported in Annex II of this report.

 The EAM/2 participants noted that a workshop was organized on June 11, 2023 to discuss future improvements related to the bulk upload functionality (Project 4). The outcome of the workshop was presented to CPVO on the same day.

 The EAM/2 participants noted the transitional arrangements agreed by UPOV and CPVO in relation to Project 5, as reported in Annex II of this report.

### Plans for Version 2.10

 The EAM/2 participants noted that Version 2.9 would be deployed in December 2023 with the following updates:

* The following new UPOV Technical Questionnaires will be added in UPOV PRISMA and applied to those UPOV members using UPOV TQ[[1]](#footnote-2) or UPOV TG characteristics[[2]](#footnote-3):

| Common Name | UPOV TG |
| --- | --- |
| Hardy Geranium, Crane's Bill | TG/330/1 |
| Calendula  | TG/331/1 |
| Black Walnut | TG/332/1 Corr. |
| Gazania | TG/333/1 |
| Ranunculus | TG/334/1 |
| Brown Mustard | TG/335/1 |
| Coreopsis | TG/336/1 |
| Pistachio | TG/337/1 |
| Physic Nut | TG/338/1 |
| Zinnia | TG/339/1 |

* The following UPOV Technical Questionnaires will be revised in UPOV PRISMA and applied to those UPOV members using UPOV TQ1 or UPOV TG characteristics2:

| Common Name | UPOV TG |
| --- | --- |
| Wheat | TG/3/12 |
| Field Bean  | TG/8/7 |
| Lettuce | TG/13/11 Rev. |
| Barley  | TG/19/11 |
| Oats | TG/20/11 |
| Freesia  | TG/27/7 |
| Alstroemeria | TG/29/8 |
| Radish; Black Radish | TG/63/7-TG/64 /7; TG/63/7-TG/64/7 Rev. Corr. |
| Pepper | TG/76/8 Rev. 2 |
| Japanese plum | TG/84/4 Corr. 2 Rev. 2 |
| Cotton  | TG/88/7 |
| Macadamia | TG/111/4 |
| Mango | TG/112/4; TG/112/4 Corr. |
| Chestnut | TG/124/4 |
| Broccoli, Calabrese, Sprouting Broccoli, Winter broccoli | TG/151/5 |
| Leaf Chicory | TG/154/4 |
| Witloof, Chicory | TG/173/4  |
| Guzmania  | TG/182/4 |
| Fennel | TG/183/4 |
| Artichoke, Cardoon  | TG/184/4 Rev. |
| Lavendula, Lavendar | TG/194/1 Rev. |
| Petunia | TG/212/2 |
| Agaricus | TG/259/2 |
| Papaya, Pawpaw | TG/264/2 |
| Urochloa | TG/322/1 Corr. |
| Blueberry | TG/137/5 |
| Portulaca | TG/242/2 |
| Triticale | TG/121/4 |
| Red Clover | TG/5/8 |
| Thimoty | TG/34/7 |
| Lagerstroemia | TG/95/4 |
| Hydrangea | TG/133/5 |
| Chickpea | TG/143/5 |
| Tea | TG/238/2 |
| Turnip | TG/37/11 |
| Berberis | TG/68/4 |
| Apricot | TG/70/5 |
| Eustoma | TG/197/2 |
| Echinacea | TG/281/2 |
| Banana | TG/123/4 |

* The coverage for China will be increased as follows:

| Common Name | Botanical Name | UPOV TG |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Soya bean | Glycine max (L.) Merrill | TG/80/6 |
| Kiwifruit | Actinidia Lindl. | TG/98/7 |
| Sunflower | Helianthus annuus L. | TG/81/6 |
| Tomato | Solanum lycopersicum L. | TG/44/11 |
| Hot pepper | Capsicum annuum L | TG/76/8 |
| Anthurium | Anthurium Schott | TG/86/5 |
| Guzmania | Guzmania Ruiz et Pav. | TG/182/4 |
| Cucumber | Cucumis sativus L. | TG/61/7 |
| Melon | Cucumis melo L. | TG/104/5 |
| Morchella | Morchella Dill. ex Pers. | National TG |

* The coverage for Morocco will be increased as follows:

| Common Name | Botanical Name | UPOV TG |
| --- | --- | --- |
| French Bean | Phaseolus vulgaris L. | TG/12/9 Rev.2 |
| Hot pepper | Capsicum annuum L | TG/76/8 |
| Lettuce | Lactuca sativa L. | TG/13/x |
| Squash | Cucurbita pepo L. | TG/119/4 Corr.2 |
| Tomato | Solanum lycopersicum L. | TG/44/11 |
| Tomato Rootstocks | Solanum habrochaites S. Knapp & D.M. Spooner;Solanum lycopersicum L. x Solanum habrochaites S. Knapp & D.M. Spooner;Solanum lycopersicum L. xSolanum peruvianum (L.) Mill.;Solanum lycopersicum L. xSolanum cheesmaniae (L. Ridley) Fosberg;Solanum pimpinellifolium L. x Solanum habrochaites S. Knapp & D.M. Spooner | TG/294/1 Rev.3 |

* The coverage for Serbia will be increased to include lettuce (Lactuca sativa L.) and potato (Solanum tuberosum L.);
* Restriction on the selection of crops for National listing according to the list provided by the authority: (United Kingdom and the Kingdom of the Netherlands);
* Bulk invoice upon request;
* Receive notification / alert when a change is made to the application form and the technical questionnaire for the United Kingdom; and
* PDF accessibility:
	+ Add document’s title and language as properties
		- Title : Application data for “crop common name” in “authority name”
		- Language
	+ All elements should be tagged and with a proper reading order.

### Plans for Version 3.0

 The EAM/2 participants noted that Version 3.0 was planned to be deployed in September 2024.

 The EAM/2 participants noted the plans for Version 3.0 as follows:

* Migrate UPOV PRISMA to the cloud;
* Implement the new screen design for Start New Application and Copy Application;
* Improve user management functionality;
* Add a “floating” menu for chapters in the generated form page; and
* Bulk Upload improvements:
	1. Fix pending issues: Stage, language, dropdown validation
	2. Simplify the template: Reuse of Applicant/Breeder/Representative/Correspondence Address
	3. Add the possibility to use of Purdy’s notation for hybrids
	4. Implement validation after upload to minimize errors.

## Possible future developments

### User-friendliness of the tool

 The EAM/2 participants noted that the following elements would be considered after 2024 to increase the user-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA:

* Addition of non UPOV TQ characteristics in TQ Section 7 instead of TQ Section 5 (see document UPOV/EAF/17/3 “Report” paragraph 19);
* Crop-specific TQs beyond Test Guidelines (see document UPOV/EAF/16/3 “Report” paragraph 18).

### New functionalities

 The EAM/2 participants noted that the following new functionalities would be considered for development:

* Bulk Upload (for maize, United Kingdom);
* Machine translation (see document UPOV/EAF/16/3 “Report” paragraph 18).

## UPOV e-PVP Administration Module

### Features

 The meeting considered document EAM/2/4 “UPOV e-PVP administration module” and received a presentation by the Office of the Union, a copy of which is reproduced in Annex II.

 The EAM/2 participants noted that the UPOV e-PVP Administration Module would provide the following features for PVP offices:

* Administer applications/grants
* Communicate with applicants/title holders
* Publish PVP data in the PVP office publication and PLUTO database.

### Developments since EAM/1

 The EAM/2 participants noted that on September 28, 2023, Viet Nam became the first UPOV member to use UPOV e-PVP with the Administration Module component.

 The EAM/2 participants noted that the UPOV e-PVP Administration Module was extended to support national listing and that as part of the work done with Viet Nam, the following functionalities would be included in the standard UPOV e-PVP Administration Module:

* Check payment status
* National publications according to the format proposed in UPOV/INF/5
* PVP statistics report to be sent to UPOV.

### Cost

 The EAM/2 participants noted that the standard UPOV e-PVP Administration Module will be made available to members of the Union without charge and will be maintained by UPOV. The cost of UPOV hosting the service on the cloud would need to be borne by the UPOV member. The UPOV cloud hosting service is provided in accordance with the conditions specified in an exchange of letters with the relevant UPOV member. As an alternative, the software can be hosted on infrastructure owned and/or controlled by the UPOV member.

 The Office of the Union recalled (see above) that customized versions of the UPOV e-PVP Administration Module according to the specific needs of members of the Union could be developed with UPOV where the necessary extra-budgetary resources were provided and subject to the resource implications for the Office of the Union.

### Future developments

 The EAM/2 participants noted that Ghana and the United Kingdom would tentatively start using UPOV e‑PVP Administration Module as from March 2024.

 The EAM/2 participants noted that the following functionalities were anticipated in future releases:

* Variety description data
* Comparison of variety descriptions
* Auto generation of application number
* Rule-based automatic validation and status update in line with applicable legislation
* Generation of certificate of breeder’s right grant
* Consolidate data to generate reports.

## UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module

### Features

 The meeting considered document EAM/2/5 “UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module” and received a presentation by the Office of the Union, a copy of which is reproduced in Annex II.

 The EAM/2 participants noted that the UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module would provide the following features for PVP offices:

* Make existing DUS reports available to other UPOV members (option for bulk-uploading);
* Obtain DUS reports
	+ Search for existing DUS reports,
	+ Make a request for information on the possibility to use a DUS report,
	+ Communicate with the PVP Office providing the report,
	+ Be informed that a request has been accepted,
	+ Be informed when a DUS report is made available;
* Track the history of each request.

### Developments since EAM/1

 The EAM/2 participants noted that on September 28, 2023, Viet Nam became the first UPOV member to use UPOV e-PVP with the DUS Report Exchange Module component.

 The EAM/2 participants noted that Utility feature to upload information on the status of reports (whether the DUS examination is in progress or completed) in bulk would be available. A new status “Ready” has been introduced to allow the PVP office to indicate that the report is ready (and the DUS examination is completed) without uploading the report into the system.

### How to join

 The EAM/2 participants noted that to join UPOV e-PVP, the representative to the UPOV Council of the UPOV member concerned will need to sign a letter of acknowledgement of the terms of use (see <https://www.upov.int/upovepvp/en/termsuse.html>).

### Future developments

 The EAM/2 participants noted that Ghana and the United Kingdom would tentatively start using the UPOV e‑PVP DUS Report Exchange Module as from March 2024.

 The EAM/2 participants noted that the following functionalities were anticipated in future releases:

* Provide support for exchanging VCU (Value for Cultivation and Use) reports;
* Add a new role for test centers:
	+ Request to test centers,
	+ Exchange of Test results (Report) will be shared in UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange module to the PVP office by the test centers.

# Date of next meeting

 The next meeting of the EAM was agreed to be held by electronic means on March 18, 2024, at 12 pm.

 *This report was adopted by correspondence.*

[Annex I follows]

EAM/2/6

ANNEXE I / ANNEX I / ANEXO I

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

*(dans l’ordre alphabétique des noms français des membres / in the alphabetical order of the French names of the members / por orden alfabético de los nombres en francés de los miembros)*

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Martin EKVAD (Mr.), Director of Legal Affairs

Leontino TAVEIRA (Mr.), Director of Global Development and Technical Affairs

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

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Kees VAN ETTEKOVEN (Mr.), Technical Expert

[L’annexe II suit/

Annex II follows/

Sigue el Anexo II]

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ANNEX II

See pdf version attached.

1. African Intellectual Property Organization, Argentina (Wheat, Barely, Black Radish, Pepper, Cotton, Witloof Chicory, Papaya), Chile, China (Lettuce), Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Georgia (Wheat, Field Bean, Barley, Oats, Blueberry), Kenya, Morocco (Blueberry), Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Republic of Korea (Lettuce), Republic of Moldova (Wheat, Lettuce, Oats, Pepper), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia (Blueberry), South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom, Viet Nam. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Australia, European Union, Mexico, Norway, Peru, United States of America (excluding Zinnia, Field Bean, Barley, Cotton, Triticale), Uruguay. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)