

**Meeting on Electronic Applications**

**EAM/4/5**

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**UPOV e-PVP DUS REPORT EXCHANGE MODULE**

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. In September 2023, the UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange Module was launched, with Viet Nam as the only participant at first. Later, the Kingdom of the Netherlands joined the system in December 2023. On May 24, 2024, Viet Nam made its first request to use a DUS report from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The request was accepted on July 3, 2024.

2. As of March 4, 2024, interest in joining the UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange Module has increased, with ten additional authorities expressing their intent to join in 2024: Brazil, Canada, European Union, Georgia, Ghana, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America. Notably, the European Union aims to make over 30,000 reports available. To accomplish this, preliminary work on the bulk upload utility and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) is essential.

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**UPOV e-PVP DUS REPORT EXCHANGE MODULE FEATURES**

4. The UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module (the “Exchange Module”) is a web-based platform that allows the exchange of DUS reports and other information related to plant variety protection among members of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). The Exchange Module aims to facilitate the cooperation and harmonization among PVP offices and to reduce the administrative burden and costs for breeders.

5. The Exchange Module for PVP offices to cooperate with other PVP offices in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (“DUS”) provides the following features to 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 obtain a DUS report not yet made available,
  - make a request for information on the possibility to commission a DUS report,
  - communications between the providing and receiving PVP offices,
  - notification when a DUS report is made available;
- Track the history of each request.

6. The Exchange Module is available to all UPOV members and can be used independently of the other UPOV e-PVP modules. Both the UPOV member of the requesting PVP office and the UPOV member of the providing PVP office need to join the Exchange Module to enable the transfer of DUS reports.

7. If a customization is needed by a UPOV member (e.g. integration needs, invoicing), a request to make the developments can be made to UPOV. The cost for the customization will be borne by the UPOV member.

#### DEVELOPMENTS SINCE EAM/3

8. On September 28, 2023, Viet Nam became the first UPOV member to use the Exchange Module component.

9. On December 22, 2023, the Kingdom of the Netherlands became the second UPOV member using the Exchange Module.

10. Viet Nam requested an existing DUS report from the Kingdom of the Netherlands on May 24, 2024, using the Exchange Module.

11. The Kingdom of the Netherlands accepted the request and uploaded the report on July 3, 2024, using the Exchange Module.

12. The Exchange Module also welcomed the following UPOV members, increasing the number of UPOV members that will use the Exchange Module in October 2024 to 11:

1. Brazil
2. Canada
3. European Union
4. Georgia
5. Ghana
6. Japan
7. Morocco
8. Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
9. New Zealand
10. United States of America
11. Viet Nam

13. The United Kingdom will start using the Exchange Module in 2025.

14. From May 15 to June 7, 2024, a test campaign was conducted and was available to all the UPOV members who had already indicated their interest in participating in the UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange module as of May 15, 2024. China, Japan and the United Kingdom were also invited to join upon their request.

15. Feedback was received from Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, New Zealand and the European Union.

16. The following changes have been implemented in the module since the last update:

- Extend the support of browser's languages to new languages including Dutch, Chinese and Portuguese. Users can now keep their default browser language and view correctly the interface and the content in English if their language is different from: English, French, Spanish, German, Japanese and Vietnamese.
- Allow to update the breeder's name when editing a request. Users can now correct or modify the name of the breeder when they edit an existing request for a DUS report.
- Allow the display of the full botanical name along with the UPOV code. Users can now see the full scientific name of the plant species or genus in addition to the UPOV code when they search.
- When raising a request, remove the link to the application when the requesting PVP office is not using UPOV e-PVP admin module. Users can now avoid confusion and unnecessary clicks when they raise a request for a DUS report from an office that does not use the admin module to manage applications.
- Remove the possibility to download a report when it is decommissioned. Decommissioned reports will be marked as such and will not have a download option.

- Support of regional authorities (European Union) in addition to countries. Users can now select the European Union as the requesting or source authority for a DUS report, as well as individual countries. This will facilitate the exchange of reports with the EU and with other authorities.

## JOINING REQUIREMENTS

17. The Exchange Module is available for all UPOV members.

## COST

### Standard UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module

18. In order to continue providing support to develop and maintain the standard modules, it is proposed to:

- get regular feedback from the authorities using the Exchange Module through surveys, test campaigns and bilateral talks.
- enhance activities for awareness raising and promotion of the Exchange Module, including outreach activities, such as webinars, workshops, online tutorials, and bilateral meetings to demonstrate the benefits and features of the Exchange Module and how it can support authorities in their work.
- welcome contributions from UPOV members and stakeholders.

19. UPOV members may contribute with direct financing in cases of customization for specific needs. Some of those needs might be part of the standard module, hence contributing to the continuous improvement of the Exchange Module.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

### Functionalities

20. The following functionalities are anticipated in future releases:

- (a) Provide support for exchanging VCU (Value for Cultivation and Use) reports if needed;
- (b) Add a new role for DUS test centers:
  - (i) accept requests from PVP offices,
  - (ii) share test results (Report) with the PVP office when the PVPO commissions/delegates to DUS test centers.

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