Meeting on Electronic Applications	**EAM/5/2**
Fifth meeting **Geneva, March 17, 2025**	**Original:** English **Date:** March 7, 2025

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING UPOV E-PVP

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.   All the UPOV e-PVP models have been launched and are currently operational.

2.   The use of UPOV PRISMA is steadily increasing, with positive feedback from both users and PVP Offices highlighting its benefits and advantages. In 2024, the number of submissions via UPOV PRISMA reached 1,964, reflecting a 6% increase compared to 2023. The United Kingdom received the highest number of submissions, totaling 1,614 in 2024 compared to 1,562 in 2023. The paying submissions correspond to 1,496 with a 7.6% increase compared to 1,390 in 2023. It is recalled that, as agreed by the UPOV Council, when for the same variety in a UPOV member, submissions are made for plant breeders' rights and for national listing, there is only one paying submission.

3.   Scheduled for release in April 2025, Version 2.10 will include the addition of new authorities. In response to user feedback from the UPOV PRISMA Task Force, development is underway for Version 3.0, planned for 2025. Crop coverage is also expanding, with more species being accepted in China and Morocco. Additionally, there is an increased usage of UPOV PRISMA for receiving applications for national listing of new plant varieties. To promote UPOV PRISMA, bilateral meetings with users and PVP Offices are being organized, and webinars on the use of PRISMA have been launched in cooperation with PVP authorities in the United States, Türkiye, New Zealand, and Australia. These webinars are available online at https://www.upov.int/upovprisma/en/webinars.html. Challenges remain in promoting the tool and resolving technical issues, particularly in areas such as machine-to-machine use.

4.   Although the UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module is operational, its use is expected to increase following the deployment of a new version in April 2025.

5.   Before committing to the implementation of the UPOV e-PVP Administration Module, authorities require time to assess their options and determine if customization is necessary. The United Kingdom plans to launch a customized version of the UPOV e-PVP Administration Module in March/April 2025, with a presentation of the progress to be made during the EAM/5.

6.   UPOV will also explore the venue of generating extra-budgetary funds through a multi-donor fund for the sustainable development of UPOV services (e.g. UPOV e-PVP). It is crucial that potential users of the UPOV services are aware of the benefits of the services provided. UPOV will allocate resources to promote UPOV services.

7.   The Office of the Union will liaise with authorities and stakeholders to secure funding for UPOV e-PVP until the income from UPOV PRISMA generates the necessary revenue.

8.   The structure of this document is as follows:

OVERVIEW OF UPOV E-PVP

9.   The aim of UPOV e-PVP is to provide coherent and comprehensive assistance in the implementation of the UPOV system of plant variety protection, of which some or all the components can be used by UPOV members, as appropriate. UPOV e-PVP comprises the following packages of components:

- UPOV PRISMA: online application tool to facilitate PBR applications and applications for national listing.
- UPOV e-PVP Administration Module for PVP offices to:
  o administer applications/grants,
  o communicate with applicants/title holders,
  o publish PVP data in the PVP office publication and PLUTO database;
- UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module: for PVP offices to cooperate with other PVP offices in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS);
- PLUTO database – contains information and a search tool on variety denominations.

10.   In accordance with the priorities of the Council to provide assistance in the implementation of the UPOV PVP system, in October 2024, the Council decided that also future UPOV members having already received a positive advice from the Council on the conformity of their legislation with the UPOV Convention, could use UPOV e-PVP for a trial period of three years, subject to resources by the Office of the Union.

USE OF UPOV e-PVP

11.   UPOV e-PVP was launched on September 28, 2023. Viet Nam was the first UPOV member to start using all the components of UPOV e-PVP.

12.   On December 22, 2023, the Kingdom of the Netherlands became the second UPOV member using the UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module.

13.   There have been seven DUS reports exchanged between Viet Nam and the Kingdom of the Netherlands using the UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module.

Use of UPOV PRISMA (January 2017 - February 2025)

14.   Information on the use of UPOV PRISMA is provided below:

Number of submissions via UPOV PRISMA

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	1	-	7	18	107	232	206	235	173
February	-	3	9	5	107	95	107	122	86
March	2	3	6	21	67	121	54	42	
April	-	3	22	11	105	96	102	74	
May	1	1	33	11	65	67	123	77	
June	-	7	10	18	819	78	59	94	
July	-	7	3	9	58	83	57	94	
August	-	1	7	11	379	435	442	460	
September	3	8	16	29	154	91	104	112	
October	1	19	29	16	68	53	58	94	
November	3	16	26	41	407	353	341	333	
December	3	9	51	32	174	204	220	227	
Total	**14**	**77**	**219**	**222**	**2,509**	**1,907**	**1,873**	**1,964**	

Number of submissions to participating Authority in UPOV PRISMA

Authority		Number of submissions in UPOV PRISMA in:								Total number of submissions in UPOV PRISMA (as of end 2024)
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)	OA			3	1		2			6
Argentina*	AR									0
Australia	AU	2	10	17	36	27	15	17	21	145
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)*	BO			2						2
Canada	CA		6	27	17	24	46	56	46	222
Chile	CL	3		3	1	9	3			19
China	CN									0
Colombia	CO			4	2	4	1		4	15
Costa Rica	CR			4	1	2				7
Dominican Republic	DO			2	2	4	3			11
Ecuador	EC				2	4	1	1		8
European Union	QZ		8	38	13	123	89	78	69	418
France	FR			20	-	4	3	2	12	41
Georgia	GE			2	1	3	1	3	2	12
Kenya	KE		13	6	14	14	26	23	25	121
Morocco	MA					7	4			11
Mexico	MX		7	7	13	13	25	17	12	94
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	NL	1	8	12	6	1	2		3	33
New Zealand	NZ	5	3	8	5	18	7	7	8	61
Norway	NO	1		5	7	6	6	1	1	27
Paraguay*	PY									0
Peru	PE				2	3	1		1	7
Republic of Moldova	MD			2					1	3
Republic of Korea	KR			1	1					2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VC									0
Serbia	RS			2	1	3			28	34
South Africa	ZA		2	3	2	12	17	24	20	80
Sweden	SE			1						1
Switzerland	CH	2	3	4	16	13	9	6	3	56
Trinidad and Tobago	TT									0
Tunisia	TN		2	4		1				7
Türkiye	TR		6	23	54	65	63	57	52	320
United Kingdom	GB		3	18	22	2,138	1,557	1,562	1,614	6,914
United Republic of Tanzania	TZ									0
United States of America	US		6	1	3	5	26	18	39	98
Uruguay	UY					6				6
Viet Nam	VN							1	3	4
Total:	37	14	77	219	222	2,509	1,907	1,873	1,964	8,785
Total paying submissions	37	14	0	0	198	2,053	1,457	1,390	1,496	6,608

Until required information is provided, applicants will not be able to submit application data

The number of submissions include both submissions in the framework of applications for plant breeders' rights applications for national listing.

UPOV PRISMA: DEVELOPMENTS SINCE EAM/4

Launch of Version 2.10 – Phase 2 (November 2024)

15.   UPOV PRISMA Version 2.10 – Phase 2, incorporating the following developments, was deployed on November 18, 2024.

Crop coverage

16.   It is now possible to apply in China for the following crops/species (in addition to Lettuce):

Common Name	Botanical Name	UPOV TG
Soya bean	Glycine max (L.) Merrill	TG/80/7
Kiwifruit	Actinidia Lindl.	TG/98/7 Rev.2
Sunflower	Helianthus annuus L.	TG/81/7
Tomato	Solanum lycopersicum L.	TG/44/12
Hot pepper	Capsicum annuum L	TG/76/9
Anthurium	Anthurium Schott	TG/86/6
Guzmania	Guzmania Ruiz et Pav.	TG/182/4
Cucumber	Cucumis sativus L.	TG/61/7 Rev.3
Melon	Cucumis melo L.	TG/104/5 Rev.2

Functionalities

17.   To improve the user experience with the bulk upload functionality, users can now receive a consolidated invoice for all application data transferred during a bulk upload process.

Other Developments

IT Quality Software Audit

18.   A code audit was organized to improve the quality of the UPOV PRISMA software. The audit resulted in recommendations on, for instance, security standards, best practices in terms of coding and move to the cloud.

Improvement of user-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA

19.   In order to improve the user-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA, consultations were organized with users in 2021 to review certain current existing functionalities (copy functionality, assignment of roles).[1]

20.   Participants in the UPOV PRISMA Task Force Group were consulted on the proposals made to improve the interface and the navigation through the system.

21.   Two design thinking workshops on user management were organized on December 4 and 7, 2023, as a follow-up. After an online consultation, a final version of the user management functionality was presented on January 30, 2024. The result of the workshops is being implemented and will be evaluated during a specific test campaign planned in June 2025.

22.   During the UPOV PRISMA Task Force meeting on November 19, 2024, the Office of the Union gave an update on the developments concerning UPOV PRISMA.

Promotion and training

23. Feedback on UPOV PRISMA from PVP Offices and users showed that the understanding of the tool and how to use it could be improved. For this reason, the Office of the Union organized the following webinars on how to make applications using UPOV PRISMA. The webinars were cohosted by UPOV, and members and participation were open to the public.

Webinars	Participants	Date
How to make applications to the United States of America	56	November 25, 2024
How to make applications to Türkiye	102	November 27, 2024
How to make applications to Australia and New Zealand	52	February 17, 2025

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[1] see documents UPOV/EAF/17/3 "Report", paragraph 22, and UPOV/EAF/18/3 "Report", paragraphs 15 and 16

24. In February 2025, the Office of the Union requested all the participating authorities to review the current PVP Office Procedure. 14 authorities have proposed to update their PVP Office Procedure.

Form Synchronization

25. It is essential that the most recent version of forms is provided to the UPOV PRISMA Team for implementation in UPOV PRISMA. Updated forms ensure that the data submitted by users is complete and mitigates the need for revisions due to any missing information.

26. Maintaining up-to-date synchronization between the PVP Offices and their most recent forms is essential. Therefore, it is advised to promptly inform the UPOV PRISMA Team of any alterations in application forms or technical questionnaires once implemented. The UPOV Office will undertake an annual verification with the UPOV PRISMA focal points to ensure the application forms in UPOV PRISMA are up to date.

27. In order to achieve and maintain synchronization of TQs between UPOV PRISMA and CPVO (Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union), the following projects have been agreed with the 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); and
- 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).

28. In April 2025, the CPVO and UPOV will discuss the timelines in relation to the above projects, taking into account the available resources. The agreed timelines will be presented in EAM/6.

29. As the update of the forms can occur between two releases, the following forms have been updated and the UPOV PRISMA users have been notified:

- United Kingdom - Application Form in December 2025
- CPVO - Application Form in January 2025

Harmonization

30. Based on feedback from UPOV PRISMA users, certain questions in forms have been reviewed in cooperation with the relevant authorities, to align the forms with UPOV standard forms and forms of other participating authorities for harmonization purposes. Such updates make the UPOV PRISMA tool more user friendly. Fruitful discussions on the alignment of questions in forms were conducted with representatives from Morocco and China.

Release of Version 3.0

31. It is planned to release Version 3.0 of UPOV PRISMA in December 2025.

Crop Coverage

China:

Morchella	Morchella Dill. ex Pers.	National TG

Morocco:

Tomato Rootstocks	Solanum habrochaites S. Knapp & D.M. Spooner; Solanum lycopersicum L. x Solanum habrochaites S. Knapp & D.M. Spooner; Solanum lycopersicum L. x Solanum peruvianum (L.) Mill.; Solanum lycopersicum L. x Solanum cheesmaniae (L. Ridley) Fosberg; Solanum pimpinellifolium L. x Solanum habrochaites S. Knapp & D.M. Spooner	TG/294/1 Rev.3

32.   The coverage for Serbia will be increased to include sunflower (Helianthus annuus L.).

Functionalities

33.   The following functionalities are planned to being introduced in Version 3.0:

(a)   Migration of UPOV PRISMA to the cloud;

(b)   Bulk invoice upon request;

(c)   Notification/alert to users when a change is made to the application form or the technical questionnaire of the United Kingdom;

(d)   Restrictions on the list of crops that can be filed through UPOV PRISMA for National listing in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands (Kingdom of the));

(e)   PDF accessibility: all elements should be tagged and follow a proper reading order;

(f)   Implement the new screen design for Start New Application and Copy Application;

(g)   Improve user management functionality;

(h)   Add a "floating" menu for chapters in the generated form page; and

(i)   Bulk upload improvements:

1.   fix pending issues: stage, language, dropdown validation,
2.   simplify the template: reuse of applicant/breeder/agent correspondence address,
3.   add the possibility to use Purdy's notation for hybrids,
4.   implement validation after upload to minimize errors.

Possible Future Developments

User-friendliness of the Tool

34.   It was agreed at the EAF/19 meeting that the following elements would be considered to increase the user-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA:

- Addition of non-UPOV TQ characteristics in TQ Section 7 instead of TQ Section 5[2]; and

- Crop-specific TQs beyond Test Guidelines.[3]

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[2] document EAF/17/3 "Report", paragraph 19

[3] see document EAF/16/3 "Report", paragraph 18

New Functionalities

35.   The following new functionalities will be considered for possible development:

*   Bulk Upload for Maize (United Kingdom); and

*   Machine translation of the answers provided by the users.[4]

UPOV E-PVP ADMINISTRATION MODULE: DEVELOPMENTS SINCE EAM/4

36.   On November 28, 2023, the first application was filed via UPOV PRISMA to the Admin Module administered by the PVP Office of Viet Nam. As of February 28, 2025, three more applications were filed via UPOV PRISMA and transferred to the Admin Module using UPOV PRISMA.

37.   United Kingdom and Ghana will be using the Admin Module in April 2025.

38.   On August 23, 2024, the United Kingdom signed the terms of use, and the customization project started. It covers the following functionalities:

Data migration

*   Migration of data from the old system to UPOV e-PVP

PVP officer role

*   Auto generation of the application number following specific rules
*   View access to Parental line information from the dashboard
*   Download the sowing list based on submission date and UPOV code/botanical name
*   Support of additional statuses with automated change from the proposed to the final status after a specified period:
    o   Proposed Granted/Granted
    o   Proposed Surrender/Surrendered
    o   Proposed Terminate/Terminated
    o   Proposed Award/Awarded
    o   Proposed Deleted/Deleted
    o   Proposed Deleted PVRO/Deleted PVRO
    o   VL 10YR Deletion Applied
    o   10 yr requested deleted
    o   Expired
*   Auto generation of the grant number and auto calculation of the title end date
*   Generation of grant certificate upon request or automatically when the status is granted
*   Possibility to take decision on VCU
*   Generation of reports for internal use, invoicing and OECD
*   Generation of an accessible Gazette with search criteria
*   Linking National Listing and PBR applications
*   Data migration

Applicant role

*   Possibility to raise a request for 10-year renewal
*   Possibility to raise a request to change the approved name
*   Possibility to raise/modify "Test and Trial Marketing" request

39.   A report on the project will be provided in EAM/5 by the United Kingdom delegation.

40.   Following the approval of the trial period for eligible authorities that are not yet UPOV members, the Office of the Union received a request from ARIPO to begin using the administrative module, as well as UPOV PRISMA, as mandatory.

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[4] document EAF/16/3 "Report", paragraph 18

UPOV E-PVP DUS EXCHANGE MODULE: DEVELOPMENTS SINCE EAM/4

41.   Since EAM/4, nine more UPOV members signed up to use the DUS Report Exchange Module increasing the number of members to 13:

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

42. The actual use of the DUS Report Exchange Module is expected to increase when a new version is deployed in April 2025.

43.   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 the PVP office of the same country/region,
(ii) share test results (DUS Report) with the PVP office of the same country/region when the PVP office has commissioned/delegated to DUS test center to carry out the test.

FINANCING UPOV e-PVP

44.   Digital tools such as UPOV e-PVP have been developed in cooperation with UPOV members and breeders. UPOV e-PVP presents an opportunity to provide services to UPOV members and stakeholders in a way which will improve the efficiency of the global UPOV system and achieve a "leveling-up" in capacity within UPOV.

45.   Document CC/104/4 gives an overview on the possible ways forward to finance UPOV e-PVP. Presently, UPOV e-PVP is financed by fees from the users of UPOV PRISMA and PLUTO, special funds from Japan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the UPOV regular budget.

46.   In order to continue providing support to develop and maintain the standard modules, the Office will liaise with PVP Offices and users to promote the use of UPOV e-PVP which will generate increased revenues.

47.   UPOV will also explore the venue of generating extra-budgetary funds through a multi-donor fund for the sustainable development of UPOV services (e.g. UPOV e-PVP). It is crucial that potential users of the UPOV services are aware of the benefits of the services provided.

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