

**Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops**

Forty-Sixth Session

Hanover, Germany, June 19 to 23, 2017

**TWP/1/19****Original:** English**Date:** June 9, 2017**Technical Working Party for Vegetables**

Fifty-First Session

Roelofarendsveen, Netherlands, July 3 to 7, 2017

**Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees**

Fiftieth Session

Victoria, Canada, September 11 to 15, 2017

**Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops**

Forty-Eighth Session

Kelowna, Canada, September 18 to 22, 2017

**Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs**

Thirty-Fifth Session

Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 14 to 17, 2017

**INCREASING THE PARTICIPATION OF NEW MEMBERS IN THE TECHNICAL WORK OF UPOV***Document prepared by an expert from the Netherlands**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance***BACKGROUND****1. Growing UPOV brings new challenges**

In the early sixties of the last century, UPOV was started by countries that already had an existing PVP system. Nowadays these countries are experienced in DUS testing and their PVP system is very well suited to the local circumstances.

Since last decade there are many new UPOV members who started almost on zero. There is much more effort needed to build up a system in these new members: legally, technically and financially. How can we help them?

**2. Why do we need to increase participation of new members**

Every member builds to "the family". New members may have evolving views and needs.

UPOV should not be static and should respond to its members' needs; new members might help UPOV to develop important areas.

**3. What are problems new members face**

New members are confronted with many challenges:

Priorities: not only PVP law, but also execution of it

- establish institutions (PVP-office? DUS-station?)
- usually many costs in the beginning, but no income
- cost of participation in meetings
- usually only interest in a limited number of species
- perceived high threshold (these TWPs are for experts)

- where to get technical expertise? Where to learn?
- Language issues
- and more.

Overcoming these challenges is not easy.

4. Questions to reflect on

- (a) How can the attendance of (new) countries in meetings of the TWPs and Preparatory Workshops be increased?
- (b) How can new UPOV members (or less experienced members) more effectively be involved in discussions in the UPOV technical bodies?

In this regard the outcome of the survey held in 2013 can give some lead:

OUTCOME OF THE SURVEY OF 2013

For the complete outcome of the survey please consult document TC/50/35 "Improving the effectiveness of the Technical Committee, Technical Working Parties and Preparatory Workshops".

5. Outcome Technical Working Parties and Preparatory Workshops

Some suggestions that were made in the survey of TWP participants were:

- To designate a formal mentor to new participants (to assist in drafting Test Guidelines)
- A quick briefing for new participants (among others: how to debate, to work in TWP)
- Possible benefits of regional distribution of venues within a year, in order to maximize opportunities for participation
- Participants should master the English language in a sufficient way to participate in discussions of TWPs

6. Purpose of this document, help wanted: assignment for TWPs

Question to all TWPs: How can we increase participation of new members?

Please discuss this topic; is it a problem or a non-problem?

On TWP-level: organize a brainstorm, bring ideas together, give your analysis and propose possible ways forward.

What can be done?

Who could/should do what?

REFLECTION ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Are there any other recommendations that help new members to participate in TWPs?


PRESENTATION MADE AT THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

7. The TC, at its fifty-third session, held in Geneva from April 3 to 5, 2017, received a presentation by the Netherlands on "How to increase participation of new members", which is presented as an Annex to this document (see document TC/53/31 "Report", paragraph 216).


[Annex follows]

UPOV – HOW TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION OF NEW MEMBERS

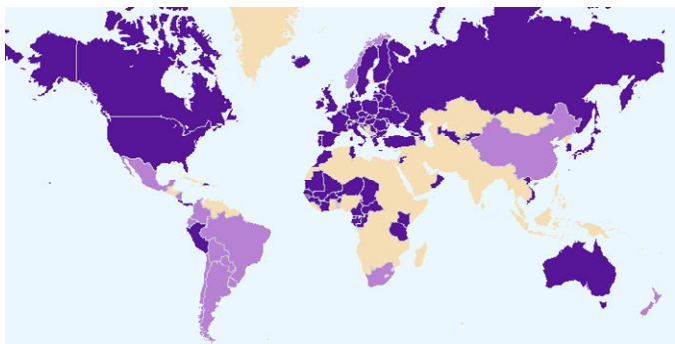
Presentation by the Netherlands at the fifty-third session of the Technical Committee  
(Geneva, April 3 to 5, 2017)

 Ministry of Economic Affairs,  
Agriculture and Innovation

UPOV – How to increase  
participation of new  
Members



**UPOV Membership, territories covered**  
**1991 Act: 56 members – Other Acts: 18 members**

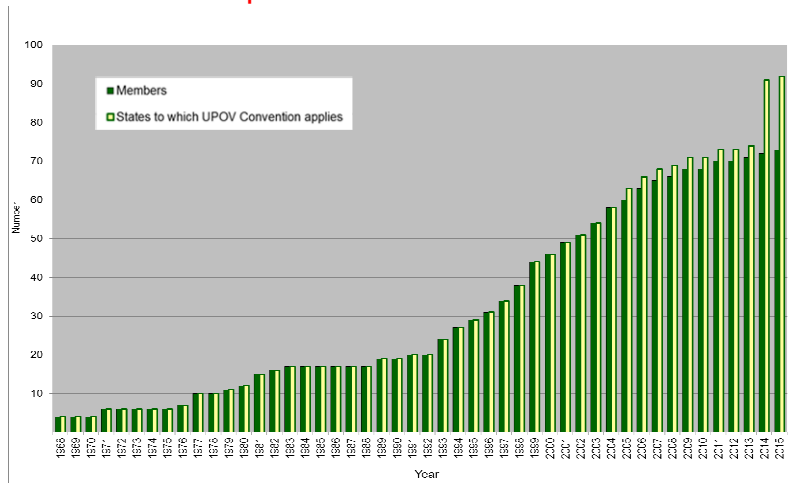


UPOV: Global approach; one 'family' sharing the same principles, working together

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## Development of UPOV



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## Growing UPOV brings new challenges


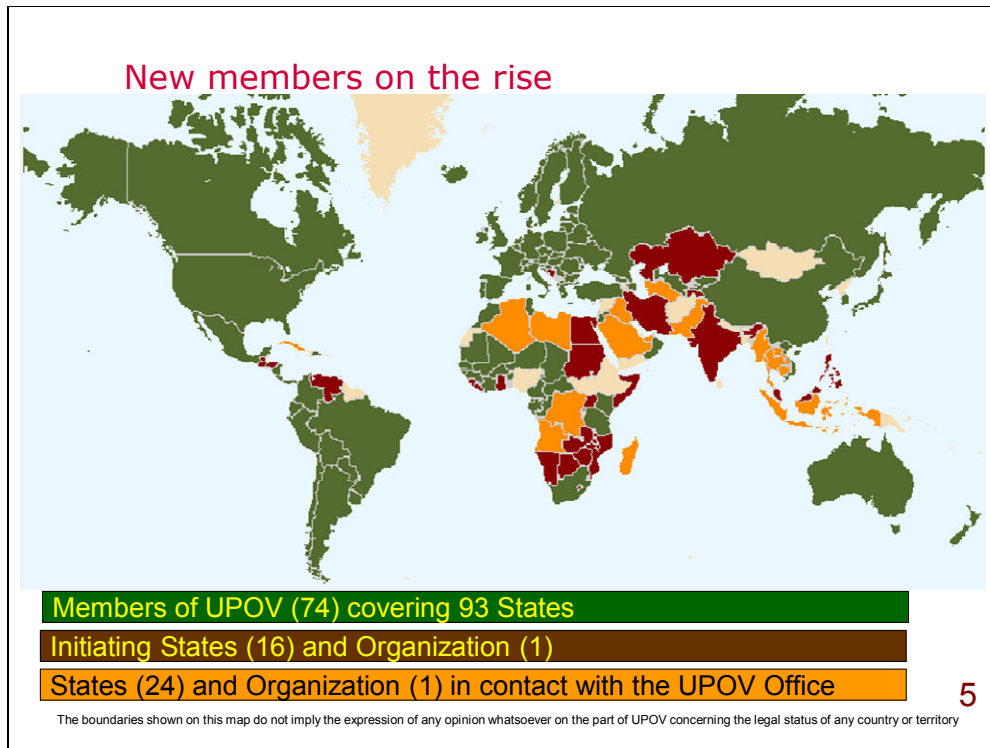
Historically: UPOV was started by countries that already had existing PVP – infrastructure

- adjustments of their law usually enough to qualify
- already existing applications, testing

Since last decade many new members that started almost on zero

- Much more effort needed to build up a system
  - Politically
  - Technically
  - Financially

How can we help them?



## Why do we need to increase participation of new members

Every member builds to "the family"

New members may have evolving views and needs  
UPOV should not be static and respond to its members needs  
New members might help UPOV to develop important areas as:

- importance of PVP for agricultural productivity
- PVP and climate change
- links to biodiversity?
- links to farmer's rights?

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## What are problems new members face

New members are confronted with many challenges:

- priorities: not only PVP law, but also execution of it
- establish institutions (PVP-office? DUS-station?)
- usually many costs in the beginning, but no income
- cost of participation in meetings;
- usually only interest in a limited #species;
- perceived high threshold (these TWP''s are for experts)
- where to get technical expertise? Where to learn?
- and more

Overcoming these challenges is not easy



## Tools that the UPOV-family offers

UPOV:

- Distant Learning Courses
- Train the trainer Courses
- Special project with special funds

Different members:

- Courses, special projects

Is it enough?



## Help wanted: assignment for TWPs / TC

Question to all TWPs and the TC: How can we increase participation of new Members ?

Please discuss this topic; is it a problem or a non-problem?

On TWP-level: organize a brainstorm, bring ideas together, give your analysis and propose possible ways forward

- what can be done
- who could/should do what

On TC level: discuss the outcome, give your recommendations to the Council



## Final remarks

- Thank you for your attention
- Questions?