

**Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques**

**TWP/8/2**

Second Session

Virtual meeting, April 8 to 11, 2024

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**Technical Working Party for Vegetables**

Fifty-Eighth Session

Virtual meeting, April 22 to 25, 2024

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

Fifty-Sixth Session

Virtual meeting, April 29 to May 2, 2024

**Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops**

Fifty-Third Session

Virtual meeting, May 27 to 30, 2024

**Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops**

Fifty-Fifth Session

Virtual meeting, June 3 to 6, 2024

**REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN UPOV – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

*Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments in UPOV since the 2023 sessions of the Technical Working Parties.
2. The Technical Working Parties are invited to note developments reported in this document.
3. The structure of this document is as follows:

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4. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

CAJ:	Administrative and Legal Committee
TC:	Technical Committee
TWA:	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
TWF:	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
TWM:	Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques
TWO:	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties
WG-DUS:	Working Group on DUS Support

GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION MATERIALS - DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE 2023 SESSIONS OF THE TWPS

Information Documents

*Revision of document UPOV/INF/16 “Exchangeable Software” (document UPOV/INF/16/12 Draft 1)*

5. The Council<sup>1</sup> adopted the proposed revisions to document UPOV/INF/16/11 “Exchangeable Software”, on the basis of document UPOV/INF/16/12 Draft 1.

*Revision of document UPOV/INF/22 “Software and Equipment Used by Members of the Union” (document UPOV/INF/22/10 Draft 1)*

6. The Council adopted the proposed revisions to document UPOV/INF/22/9 “Software and equipment used by members of the Union”, on the basis of document UPOV/INF/22/10 Draft 1.

*UPOV/INF/23: UPOV Code System (Revision) (document UPOV/INF/23/2 Draft 1)*

7. The Council noted that the TC and the CAJ had approved the revision of document UPOV/INF/23/1 “Guide to the UPOV Code System”, on the basis of document UPOV/INF/23/2 Draft 1.

8. The Council adopted the proposed revisions to document UPOV/INF/23/1 “Guide to the UPOV Code System”, on the basis of document UPOV/INF/23/2 Draft 1, and reproduced as follows:

“The appended element to UPOV codes is identifiable through the following naming convention:

- “A digit (number from 1 to 9) prefix identifies the new appended element.
- “Different digits or letters could, if appropriate, indicate different categories of information.
- “The appended element should contain a maximum of six digits or letters in total (e.g. “1AC2TG”)

“This element may be appended to any UPOV code, regardless of plant taxa (genera, species or subspecies levels). “Examples:

“UPOV code for genus *Abies*:..... ABIES  
 “UPOV code with appended element: ..... ABIES\_4234\_1AC2TG

“UPOV code for species *Abies sibirica*: ..... ABIES\_SIB  
 “UPOV code with appended element: ..... ABIES\_SIB\_4234\_1AC2TG

“UPOV code for sub-species *Abies sibirica* subsp. *semenovii*:..... ABIES\_SIB\_SEM  
 “UPOV code with appended element: ..... ABIES\_SIB\_SEM\_4234\_1AC2TG”

Explanatory Notes on Variety Denominations under the UPOV Convention

*New variety denomination classes for Allium and Beta vulgaris*

9. The Council adopted the proposed revisions to document UPOV/EXN/DEN/2 “Explanatory Notes on Variety Denominations under the UPOV Convention”, on the basis of the proposed amendments presented in Annex I to document SESSIONS/2023/2, Proposals 1 (*Allium*) and 3 (*Beta*), as follows:

*Classes within a genus*

New: Class 5.1	<i>Allium cepa</i> L. <i>Allium fistulosum</i> L.	ALLIU_CEP ALLIU_FIS	Onion, Echalion, Shallot Welsh Onion
New: Class 5.2	<i>Allium sativum</i> L.	ALLIU_SAT	Garlic
New: Class 5.3	<i>Allium</i> other than classes 5.1 and 5.2	other than classes 5.1 and 5.2	-

<sup>1</sup> Council, fifty-seventh ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 27, 2023.

Classes within a genus

	Botanical names	UPOV codes
Class 2.1	<p><u>Beta vulgaris</u> Fodder Beet Group (Other botanical names: <u>Beta vulgaris</u> L. ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>alba</u> DC., <u>B. vulgaris</u> L. ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>crassa</u> Alef., <u>B. vulgaris</u> L. ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>crassa</u> Mansf., <u>B. vulgaris</u> L. ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>rapacea</u> K. Koch)</p> <p><u>Beta vulgaris</u> Sugar Beet Group (Other botanical names: <u>Beta vulgaris</u> L. ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>saccharifera</u> Alef. <u>Beta vulgaris</u> L. ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>altissima</u> Doell)</p>	BETAA_VUL_GVA;  BETAA_VUL_GVS
Class 2.2	<p><u>Beta vulgaris</u> Garden Beet Group (Other botanical names: <u>Beta vulgaris</u> ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>conditiva</u> Alef. (syn.: <u>B. vulgaris</u> L. var. <u>rubra</u> L.), <u>B. vulgaris</u> L. ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>esculenta</u> L., <u>B. vulgaris</u> L. ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>hortensis</u></p> <p><u>Beta vulgaris</u> Leaf Beet Group (Other botanical names: <u>Beta vulgaris</u> L. ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>flavescens</u> DC. f. <u>Crispa</u>, <u>B. vulgaris</u> L. var. <u>cicla</u> L. (L.) Ulrich, <u>B. vulgaris</u> L. ssp. <u>vulgaris</u> var. <u>vulgaris</u> )</p>	BETAA_VUL_GVC;  BETAA_VUL_GVF
Class 2.3	<u>Beta</u> other than classes 2.1 and 2.2.	other than classes 2.1 and 2.2

New variety denomination classes for *Prunus*

10. The Council noted that the TC<sup>2</sup> had not approved the proposal for *Prunus*, which would be considered by the Technical Working Parties (TWPs), at their sessions in 2024.

Separate denomination classes for Rapeseed varieties

11. The TC<sup>2</sup> considered the proposal to amend the variety denomination classes for *Brassica* to create a separate denomination class for Rapeseed varieties (UPOV code BRASS\_NAP\_NUS), as set out in document SESSIONS/2023/2, Annex III, and reproduced below (additions indicated with highlighting and underline; and deletions indicated with highlighting and ~~strike through~~):

Classes within a genus

	Botanical names	UPOV codes	Common name
Class 1.1	<p><u>Brassica oleracea</u></p> <p><u>Brassica napus</u> subsp. <u>napus</u> var. <u>pabularia</u> (DC.) Alef. (or <u>Brassica napus</u> Pabularia Group)</p>	BRASS_OLE <u>BRASS_NAP_PAB</u>	- Hanover-salad; Siberian kale; Rape kale
Class 1.2	<p><u>Brassica napus</u> L. subsp. <u>napus</u> (or <u>Brassica napus</u> Oil Rape Group)</p>	<u>BRASS_NAP_NUS</u>	Swede rape, Colza
Class 1.3	<u>Brassica</u> other than <del><u>B. oleracea</u></del> classes 1.1 and 1.2	other than <del><u>BRASS_OLE</u></del> classes 1.1 and 1.2	-

12. The TC noted that the proposal would entail the examination of variety denominations for subspecies of *Brassica napus*, *B. nigra* or *B. rapa* under separate denomination classes and that no consensus had been reached at the TWA. The TC agreed that the proposal should not be further discussed.

<sup>2</sup> TC, fifty-ninth session, held in Geneva on October 23 and 24, 2023.

## TGP Documents

*TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines, Guidance Note (GN) 13, paragraph 3.6, (Revision): Disease resistance characteristics: addition of state of expression and placement of non-asterisked disease resistance characteristics in Section 5 of the Technical Questionnaire*

13. The TC agreed to propose amending document TGP/7, GN 13, paragraph 3.6, to clarify that disease resistance characteristics not indicated with an asterisk in the table of characteristics may be presented in Section 5 of Technical Questionnaires (TQ) with the addition of a state of expression “not tested”, when the characteristic was not used as a grouping characteristic, as set out in document SESSIONS/2023/2, Annex II, and reproduced as follows:

“3.6 GN 13(4)(b) explains that “TQ characteristics selected from the Table of Characteristics should, in general, receive an asterisk in the Table of Characteristics”. Certain characteristics, particularly disease resistance characteristics, which are potentially useful as grouping characteristics might not be indicated with an asterisk in the Table of Characteristics. In the case of disease resistance characteristics, for example, there may be obstacles to the use of the characteristic for a number of members of the Union because of technical or quarantine requirements. Those same obstacles might also make it difficult for applicants to provide information on those characteristics ~~if they were included in the Technical Questionnaire, Section 5 “Characteristics of the variety to be indicated”.~~ Therefore, disease resistance characteristics not indicated with an asterisk at the Table of Characteristics and not used as grouping characteristic may be presented in Section 5 of Technical Questionnaires (TQ) with the addition of a state of expression “not tested”. ~~information should be sought in Section 7 “Additional information which may help in the examination of the variety” of the Technical Questionnaire. The guidance on the presentation of the characteristics for Section 5 (see GN 13.3 & 13.4 above would also apply for the presentation of characteristics in Section 7.”~~”

14. The Council adopted the proposed revision to document TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines”, GN 13, paragraph 3.6, on the basis of the proposed amendments reproduced in the preceding paragraph.

*TGP/12: Guidance on Certain Physiological Characteristics (Revision): Example disease resistance characteristic*

15. The TC agreed to propose the revision of document TGP/12 “Guidance on certain physiological characteristics”, Section 2.3.2, to replace the example of disease resistance characteristic, as presented in document SESSIONS/2023/2, Annex IV, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

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<b>70. VG</b>	<b>Resistance to <i>Podosphaera xanthii</i> (Px) (ex <i>Sphaerotheca fuliginea</i>) (Powdery mildew)</b>		
<b>70.1</b>	<b>Race 1 (Px: 1)</b>		
<b>(+)</b>			
<b>QN</b>	absent or low	Védrantais	1
	medium	Escrito	2
	high	Arum	3

16. The Council adopted the proposed revisions to document TGP/12 “Guidance on certain physiological characteristics”, Section 2.3.2, as presented in the preceding paragraph.

## PROGRESS REPORT TO THE TC ON THE WORK OF THE TWPS IN 2023

17. The TC<sup>2</sup> received oral reports from the chairpersons on the work of the TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV. Following the report from the TWF chairperson, the TC agreed to invite the TWF to consider at its fifty-fifth session<sup>3</sup> the use of methods of observations for single measurements of a group of plants or parts of plants (MG) and for measurements of a number of individual plants or parts of plants (MS) for the assessment of characteristics in Test Guidelines for fruit crops.

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<sup>3</sup> TWF, fifty-fifth session to be held by virtual means from June 3 to 6, 2024.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TWPS AT THEIR SESSIONS IN 2023

Information on mutant varieties of apple useful for DUS examination

18. The TC<sup>2</sup> considered the proposal to support the exchange of information on mutant varieties of apple (see document TC/59/3 “Report”, paragraphs 6 to 10.)

19. The TC agreed that it would not be appropriate to make available confidential information on a restricted area of the UPOV website.

20. The TC noted that the Office of the Union would not be in position to assess whether or not information provided would include confidential or sensitive data and that UPOV members providing data were responsible in case of misuse of the information.

21. The TC agreed that authorities should continue to cooperate in variety examination of apple mutants, including exchange of information on bilateral basis. The TC agreed that the TWF should continue discussions to support DUS examination of mutant varieties of apple.

UPOV INFORMATION DATABASES

Updating botanical nomenclature of UPOV CODES

*UPOV codes for redundant genera in the GENIE database*

22. The TC agreed to delete the UPOV codes for 53 redundant genera in the GENIE database, as follows:

GENIE database		GRIN database	GENIE database	
Reclassified genera	Redundant UPOV code to be deleted	Accepted genera name in GRIN	UPOV code for the accepted genera in GRIN	Relevant Technical Working Party(s)
<i>Acanthopanax</i>	ACNTP	<i>Eleutherococcus</i>	ELEUT	TWO
<i>Acmena</i>	ACMEN	<i>Syzygium</i>	SYZYG	TWO, TWF
<i>Ajania</i>	AJANI	<i>Chrysanthemum</i>	CHRYS	TWO
<i>Ammophila</i>	AMMOP	<i>Calamagrostis</i>	CALMG	TWO
<i>Anagallis</i>	ANAGA	<i>Lysimachia</i>	LYSIM	TWO
<i>Belamcanda</i>	BELAM	<i>Iris</i>	IRISS	TWO
<i>Cardaria</i>	CARDA	<i>Lepidium</i>	LEPID	TWO, TWV
<i>Castalis</i>	CASTL	<i>Dimorphotheca</i>	DIMOR	TWO
<i>Chamaecytisus</i>	CHMCT	<i>Cytisus</i>	CYTIS	TWO
<i>Cheiranthus</i>	CHEIR	<i>Erysimum</i>	ERYSI	TWO
<i>Cimicifuga</i>	CIMIC	<i>Actaea</i>	ACTAE	TWO
<i>Cnicus</i>	CNICU	<i>Centaurea</i>	CENTA	TWO
<i>Cochlioda</i>	COCHD	<i>Oncidium</i>	ONCID	TWO
<i>Coluria</i>	COLUR	<i>Geum</i>	GEUMM	TWO
<i>Crypsis</i>	CRYPIS	<i>Sporobolus</i>	SPORO	TWO, TWA
<i>Daemonorops</i>	DAEMO	<i>Calamus</i>	CALAM	TWO
<i>Dichroa</i>	DICHR	<i>Hydrangea</i>	HYDRN	TWO
<i>Dodecatheon</i>	DODEC	<i>Primula</i>	PRIMU	TWO
<i>Fortunella</i>	FORTU	<i>Citrus</i>	CITRU	TWO, TWF
<i>Gaura</i>	GAURA	<i>Oenothera</i>	OENOT	TWO
<i>Hebe</i>	HEBEE	<i>Veronica</i>	VERON	TWO
<i>Hemidiodia</i>	HEMID	<i>Oenothera</i>	OENOT	TWO
<i>Hylocereus</i>	HYLOC	<i>Selenicereus</i>	SELEN	TWO, TWV, TWF
<i>Laurentia</i>	LAURE	<i>Lobelia</i>	LOBEL	TWO
<i>Lychnis</i>	LYCHN	<i>Silene</i>	SILEN	TWO, TWV
<i>Manfreda</i>	MANFR	<i>Agave</i>	AGAVE	TWO, TWV
<i>Manglietia</i>	MANGL	<i>Magnolia</i>	MAGNO	TWO

GENIE database		GRIN database	GENIE database	
Reclassified genera	Redundant UPOV code to be deleted	Accepted genera name in GRIN	UPOV code for the accepted genera in GRIN	Relevant Technical Working Party(s)
<i>Menziesia</i>	MENZI	<i>Rhododendron</i>	RHODD	TWO
<i>Miyamayomena</i>	MIYAM	<i>Aster</i>	ASTER	TWO
<i>Odontoglossum</i>	ODONT	<i>Oncidium</i>	ONCID	TWO
<i>Parakmeria</i>	PARAK	<i>Magnolia</i>	MAGNO	TWO
<i>Pedilanthus</i>	PEDIL	<i>Euphorbia</i>	EUPHO	TWO, TWV
<i>Pennisetum</i>	PENNI	<i>Cenchrus</i>	CENCH	TWO, TWA
<i>Poncirus</i>	PONCI	<i>Citrus</i>	CITRU	TWO, TWF
<i>Porphyra</i>	PORPH	<i>Callicarpa</i>	CALLC	TWO, TWV
<i>Pratia</i>	PRATI	<i>Lobelia</i>	LOBEL	TWO
<i>Pulsatilla</i>	PULSA	<i>Anemone</i>	ANEMO	TWO
<i>Rhagodia</i>	RHAGO	<i>Chenopodium</i>	CHENO	TWO, TWA
<i>Rollinia</i>	ROLLI	<i>Annona</i>	ANNON	TWF
<i>Schizophragma</i>	SCHIO	<i>Hydrangea</i>	HYDRN	TWO
<i>Sclerostachya</i>	SCLRS	<i>Miscanthus</i>	MISCA	TWO
<i>Sedirea</i>	SEDIR	<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	PHALE	TWO
<i>Sophronitis</i>	SOPHR	<i>Cattleya</i>	CATTL	TWO
<i>Stephanandra</i>	STEPH	<i>Neillia</i>	NEILL	TWO
<i>Tacitus</i>	TACIT	<i>Graptopetalum</i>	GRATP	TWO
<i>Taxodiomeria</i>	TAXDI	<i>Taxodium</i>	TAXOD	TWO
<i>Trichloris</i>	TRICL	<i>Leptochloa</i>	LPTOC	TWO
<i>Uncinia</i>	UNCIN	<i>Carex</i>	CAREX	TWO
<i>Vaccaria</i>	VACCA	<i>Gypsophila</i>	GYPSO	TWO
<i>Vetiveria</i>	VETIV	<i>Chrysopogon</i>	CHRPG	TWO
<i>Vulpia</i>	VULPI	<i>Festuca</i>	FESTU	TWO, TWA
<i>Waldsteinia</i>	WALDS	<i>Geum</i>	GEUMM	TWO
<i>Xanthocyparis</i>	XNTHC	<i>Cupressus</i>	CUPRE	TWO

23. The amending of UPOV codes will take effect on April 30, 2024, and contributors to the Plant Variety Database (PLUTO) will be requested to use the amended UPOV codes when submitting plant variety data to the Office of the Union.

*Updating principal botanical names of species in the GENIE database following developments in GRIN*

24. The TC considered the resource implications of the proposal to develop a systematic procedure for checking and updating the principal botanical names of species in the GENIE database to follow taxonomic developments in the GRIN. The TC agreed that the updates to principal botanical names of species in the database should continue to be provided in accordance with guidance in document INF/23 “Guidance to the UPOV Code system” or if a particular need was identified by UPOV members.

Replacing complex botanical nomenclature by variety groups

*UPOV codes for Brassica oleracea*

25. The TC agreed to create variety groups for the UPOV codes for *Beta vulgaris* L. ssp. *vulgaris* to replace complex infra-specific botanical names, as follows:

UPOV code	BOTANICAL NAMES IN GENIE	BOTANICAL NAMES IN GRIN	GROUP NAME
BRASS_OLE_ALB	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>alboglabra</i> (L. H. Bailey) Musil <i>Brassica alboglabra</i> L. H. Bailey; <i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>albiflora</i> auct.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>alboglabra</i> (L. H. Bailey) Musil ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Chinese Kale or Kailaan Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Chinese Kale or Kailaan Group)
BRASS_OLE_COS	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>costata</i> DC. <i>Brassica capitata</i> subsp. <i>costata</i> (DC.) Lizg.; <i>Brassica oleracea</i> convar. <i>acephala</i> var. <i>luteola</i> Alef.; <i>Brassica oleracea</i> subsp. <i>oleracea</i> convar. <i>costata</i> (DC.) Gladis; <i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>tronchuda</i> L.H. Bailey	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>costata</i> DC. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Portuguese Kale Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Tronchuda Group)
BRASS_OLE_GA	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>acephala</i> (DC.) Alef.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>sabellica</i> L. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Kale Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Kale Group)
BRASS_OLE_GAM	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>acephala</i> (DC.) Alef. var. <i>medullosa</i> Thell. <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>medullosa</i> Thell.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>medullosa</i> Thell. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Marrowstem Kale Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Marrowstem Kale Group)
BRASS_OLE_GAR	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>ramosa</i> DC.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>ramosa</i> DC. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Thousand Head Kale Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Thousand Head Kale Group)
BRASS_OLE_GAS	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>acephala</i> (DC.) Alef. var. <i>sabellica</i> L. <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>sabellica</i> L.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>sabellica</i> L. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Acephala Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Curly kale Group)
BRASS_OLE_GBB	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>acephala</i> (DC.) Alef. var. <i>viridis</i> L. <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>viridis</i> L.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>viridis</i> L. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Collard Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Collard Group)
BRASS_OLE_GBC	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>italica</i> Plenck <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>botrytis</i> L. subvar. <i>cymosa</i> Duchesne; <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>cymosa</i> (Duchesne) DC.; <i>Brassica oleracea</i> subvar. <i>cymosa</i> Duchesne	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>italica</i> Plenck ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Broccoli Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Broccoli Group)
BRASS_OLE_GC	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. var. <i>alba</i> DC. x <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. var. <i>rubra</i> (L.) Thell.; <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. var. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef.; <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>capitata</i> L.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>capitata</i> L. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Red Cabbage and White/Green Cabbage Groups)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Cabbage Group)
BRASS_OLE_GCA	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. var. <i>alba</i> DC. <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. var. <i>capitata</i> L. f. <i>alba</i> DC.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>capitata</i> L. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> White Cabbage Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (White Cabbage Group)
BRASS_OLE_GCR	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. var. <i>rubra</i> (L.) Thell. <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. var. <i>capitata</i> L. f. <i>rubra</i> (L.) Thell.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>capitata</i> L. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Red Cabbage Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Red Cabbage Group)
BRASS_OLE_GCS	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. var. <i>sabauda</i> L. <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>capitata</i> (L.) Alef. var. <i>bullata</i> DC.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>sabauda</i> L. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Savoy Cabbage Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Savoy Cabbage Group)
BRASS_OLE_GGM	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>gemmifera</i> Zenker <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>oleracea</i> var. <i>gemmifera</i> DC.; <i>Brassica subspontanea</i> lizg	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>gemmifera</i> DC. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Brussels Sprouts Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Brussels Sprouts Group)
BRASS_OLE_GGO	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>gongylodes</i> L. <i>Brassica caulorapa</i> (DC.) Pasq.; <i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. convar. <i>acephala</i> (DC.) Alef. var. <i>gongylodes</i> L.; <i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>caulorapa</i> DC.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>gongylodes</i> L. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Kohlrabi Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Kohlrabi Group)
BRASS_OLE_PAL	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>palmifolia</i> DC.	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>palmifolia</i> DC. ( <i>Brassica oleracea</i> Jersey Kale or Palmtree Kale Group)	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. (Palm Kale Group)



*UPOV codes for Cichorium intybus*

26. The TC agreed to create variety groups for the UPOV codes for *Cichorium intybus*, as follows:

UPOV code	Botanical names in GENIE	GRIN	Proposed Group name	English	French	German	Spanish
CICHO_INT_1WIT	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	Witloof Chicory Group	Witloof chicory	Endive	Chicorée	Endivia
CICHO_INT_FOL	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L. var. <i>foliosum</i> Hegi	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	Leaf Chicory Group	Salad Chicory; Leaf chicory	Chicorée à feuille; Chicorée italienne	Salatzichorie	Achicoria
CICHO_INT_SAT	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L. var. <i>sativum</i> DC.	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	Industrial Chicory Group	Industrial Chicory; Large-rooted Chicory	Chicorée à café	Wurzelzichorie	Achicoria de café
CICHO_INT_2FOR	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	Forage Chicory Group	Forage Chicory	Chicorée fourrage	Futterzichorie	Achicoria forrajera

*UPOV codes for Zea mays*

27. The TC agreed to delete the UPOV code ZEAAA\_MAY\_MIC, which would be replaced by the UPOV code ZEAAA\_MAY\_EVE.

28. The TC agreed to amend the UPOV codes ZEAAA\_MAY\_EVE, ZEAAA\_MAY\_MAY and ZEAAA\_MAY\_SAC and associated information to establish the variety groups “Popcorn”, “Sweet Corn” and “Maize”, as follows:

Current			Proposal			
UPOV code	Principal botanical name	Other botanical name(s)	UPOV code	Principal botanical name	Other botanical name(s)	Note
ZEAAA_MAY_EVE	<i>Zea mays</i> L. var. <i>everta</i> (Praecox) Sturt.	n.a.	ZEAAA_MAY_GPO	<u><i>Zea mays</i> L.</u> <u>subsp. <i>mays</i></u> <u>Popcorn</u> <u>Group</u>	<i>Zea mays</i> L. var. <i>everta</i> (Praecox) Sturt.; <i>Zea mays</i> L. convar. <i>microsperma</i> Koern.	Addition of new synonym previously under ZEAAA_MAY_M IC
ZEAAA_MAY_MIC	<i>Zea mays</i> L. convar. <i>microsperma</i> Koern.	n.a.	[to delete]	n.a.	n.a.	Principal botanical name added as other botanical name under <i>Z. mays</i> L. subsp. <i>mays</i> Popcorn Group
ZEAAA_MAY_SAC	<i>Zea mays</i> L. <i>saccharata</i> Koern.	n.a.	ZEAAA_MAY_GSW	<u><i>Zea mays</i> L.</u> <u>subsp. <i>mays</i></u> <u>Sweet Corn</u> <u>Group</u>	<i>Zea mays</i> var. <i>saccharata</i> (Sturtev.) L. H. Bailey; <i>Zea mays</i> L. <i>saccharata</i> Koern.	

Current			Proposal			
ZEAAA_MAY_MAY	<i>Zea mays</i> L. subsp. <i>mays</i>	<i>Zea mays</i> var. <i>ceratina</i> L.; <i>Zea mays</i> var. <i>indentata</i> (Sturtev.) L. H. Bailey; <i>Zea mays</i> var. <i>indurata</i> (Sturtev.) L. H. Bailey; <i>Zea mays</i> var. <i>saccharata</i> (Sturtev.) L. H. Bailey	ZEAAA_MAY_GMA	<u><i>Zea mays</i> L.</u> <u>subsp. <i>mays</i></u> <u>Maize Group</u>	<i>Zea mays</i> var. <i>ceratina</i> L.; <i>Zea mays</i> var. <i>indentata</i> (Sturtev.) L. H. Bailey; <i>Zea mays</i> var. <i>indurata</i> (Sturtev.) L. H. Bailey; <del><i>Zea mays</i> var.</del> <del><i>saccharata</i></del> (Sturtev.) L. H. Bailey; <del><i>Zea mays</i> L.</del> <del><i>saccharata</i></del> Koern.; <del><i>Zea mays</i> L. var.</del> <del><i>everta</i> (Praecox)</del> Sturt.; <del><i>Zea mays</i> L.</del> convar. <del><i>microsperma</i></del> Koern.	Reduction of scope to delete Sweet Corn and Popcorn

29. The TC agreed to invite the Office of the Union to consult contributors to the PLUTO database using UPOV code ZEAAA\_MAY\_MAY whether to allocate existing entries to *Zea mays* ssp. *mays* Group Maize.

*Proposed amendments to UPOV codes considered by the TWO in 2023*

30. The TC agreed to delete and amend the UPOV Codes CLEOM\_HAS, CLEOM\_SPI, EPIPH\_ANG, CALAT\_CRO, CALAT\_LOE, CALAT\_ROS, CALAT\_WAR, CALAT\_LRO, OSTEO\_ECK, OSTEO\_FRU, OSTEO\_ECC, CASTL\_TRA, BERBE\_AQU, BERBE\_EUR, BERBE\_NIT, BERBE\_PUM, BERBE\_REP, DESCH\_FLE, UNCIN, UNCIN\_DIV, UNCIN\_EGM, UNCIN\_RUB and UNCIN\_UNC.

MEASURES TO ENHANCE COOPERATION IN EXAMINATION

31. The TC<sup>2</sup> noted the developments concerning measures to enhance cooperation in examination, including the survey of members of the Union for information on policies or legal barriers that could prevent international cooperation in DUS examination. The TC noted that the CAJ would be invited to consider the document and possible measures to increase opportunities for international cooperation in DUS examination at its eightieth session<sup>4</sup>.

32. The TC agreed to support the exchange of information from UPOV members on practices in DUS examination, including events to discuss the environmental effect in the expression of characteristics and variety collections.

33. The TC agreed there was an opportunity to increase the exchange of information, including the possibility to organize events to discuss arrangements for testing at breeders' premises, criteria for independence and avoiding conflict of interests.

34. The CAJ<sup>4</sup> noted the replies to the survey of members of the Union on policies or legal barriers that could prevent international cooperation in DUS examination.

35. The CAJ agreed to invite the Office of the Union to prepare a document for its eighty-first session<sup>5</sup> to continue discussions on possible measures to increase opportunities for international cooperation in DUS examination.

36. The CAJ agreed that the above document would also contain the agreement to organize a seminar on cooperation with breeders in DUS examination. It was further agreed that proposals on the contents and arrangements for the seminar would be included in the document. The CAJ further agreed that the Office of

<sup>4</sup> CAJ, eightieth session, held in Geneva on October 25, 2023.

<sup>5</sup> CAJ, eighty-first session, to be held in Geneva, on October 23, 2024.

the Union would prepare the proposals for the Seminar in consultation with Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Japan and New Zealand and the United States of America, for consideration at its eighty-first session<sup>5</sup>.

## INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE UNION IN WORK OF THE TC AND RESTRUCTURING THE WORK OF THE TWPS

### Recommendations on the proposals in document TC/58/18 “Survey on the needs of members and observers in relation to TWPs”

37. The recommendations on the proposals in relation to the “Survey on the needs of members and observers in relation to TWPs”, as approved by the TC at its fifty-ninth session<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup>, are presented in Annex I to this document.

38. The Working Group on DUS Support (WG-DUS) held meetings on November 15, 2022 (WG-DUS/1), February 8 (WG-DUS/2), March 20, 2023 (WG-DUS/3) and September 5, 2023 (WG-DUS/4), to develop recommendations to the Technical Committee on the proposals presented in document TC/58/18 “Survey on the needs of members and observers in relation to TWPs”. The reports of the WG-DUS meetings are available at: [https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/topic.jsp?group\\_id=361](https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/topic.jsp?group_id=361)

39. The draft recommendations agreed by the WG-DUS, at its third meeting, were presented to the TWV, TWA, TWO and TWF, at their sessions in 2023. The comments provided by the TWPs were considered by the WG-DUS, at its fourth meeting (see document WG-DUS/4/2 “Recommendations on the proposals presented in document TC/58/18 ‘Survey on the needs of members and observers in relation to TWPs’”).

40. The WG-DUS, at its fourth meeting, agreed to present to the TC, at its fifty-ninth session<sup>2</sup>, the draft recommendations on the proposals in document TC/58/18 (see documents WG-DUS/4/3 “Report” and TC/59/5, paragraphs 11 to 54).

41. The TC agreed with the recommendations in document TC/59/5, subject to the following amendments:

[12] to read: It is **recommended** [12] that matters for information be made available online on the UPOV website as documents or pre-recorded videos and presented during the session as agreed by the chairperson.

[17] to read: It is **recommended** [17] that seminars on testing methods and techniques and other developments in DUS examination might be organized along with meetings of the Technical Committee as a means to increase awareness of developments.

[18] to read: It is **recommended** [18] that exhibitions of research with poster sessions might be considered along with the seminars held in conjunction with the Technical Committee meetings as a means of increasing awareness of developments. Information from the poster sessions should also be made available to experts not physically present at the TC sessions.

Performance indicator to read: “Percentage of PVP applications in UPOV members covered by UPOV Test Guidelines”

42. The TC considered recommendations [22] and [23] on Test Guidelines subgroups and agreed to add a new recommendation on developing guidance on the role of leading experts.

43. The TC agreed that the efficiency of the performance indicators should be reviewed periodically along with the implementation of the recommendations in document TC/59/5.

### *Possible implementing measures*

44. The TC agreed that recommendations in document TC/59/5 could be grouped by affinity and implemented through similar measures. The TC agreed the following implementing measures:

- (a) Already implemented: [40]
- (b) No action required: [2]; [3]; [8]; [9] ; [19]; [20]; [42]
- (c) UPOV Office will implement: [4]; [12]; [33]; [34]

- (d) UPOV Office will implement with TWP host and document “guidance for hosts of TWPs”: [5]; [6]; [7]; [10]; [11]; [13]; [14]; [15];
- (e) UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons: [16]; [17]; [18]; [35]; [36]; [37]
- (f) UPOV Office to provide reports to TC on annual basis starting in 2024: [43]
- (g) UPOV Office to invite TC to consider on annual basis starting in 2024: [44]; [45]
- (h) UPOV Office to develop proposals for TC in 2024: [27]; [29]; [30]; [31]; [32]; [38]; [39]; [41]
- (i) Test Guidelines: [21]; [22]; [23]; [24]; [25]; [26]; [28]

45. The TC agreed that recommendations on Test Guidelines ([21]; [22]; [23]; [24]; [25]; [26] and [28]) encompassed a range of aspects, including the nature and structure of the online tool for drafting Test Guidelines (web-based TG template) and the structure of the Test Guidelines themselves. The TC agreed to establish a subgroup, as presented in Annex II to this document.

#### *TWV and TWF 2023 hybrid meetings participants’ satisfaction survey*

46. The TC noted the satisfaction survey conducted with participants at the hybrid meetings of the TWV and TWF in 2023, as presented in document TC/59/5, Annex III.

### PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS

47. The TC agreed to organize preparatory workshops in 2024 as a series of webinars, at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions, in conjunction with workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in document TC/59/6, paragraphs 17 to 20.

48. The TC noted that the detailed arrangements concerning the webinars would be finalized by the Office of the Union in coordination with the chairpersons of the TC and TWPs.

49. The TC agreed to rename the agenda item to read “TWP workshops and webinars”.

### MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES

#### Confidentiality & ownership of molecular information

50. The TC noted the policies reported and discussions on confidentiality of molecular information at the TWP sessions in 2023.

51. The TC agreed to repeat the invitation for members and observers to report existing policies on confidentiality of molecular information at the TWPs, at their sessions in 2024.

#### Discussion on molecular techniques in DUS examination

52. The TC received the following presentations on molecular techniques in DUS examination:

Molecular Techniques in DUS examination - Argentine position	Argentina (Ms. Ana Laura Vicario)
Enhancement of Characterization and Variety Identification Technology in the Plant Variety Protection System - Assessment of type of bearing for Strawberry Varieties by using DNA marker	Japan (Mr. Yoshiyuki Ohno)
Delivering PBR for the future	United Kingdom (Mr. Sigurd Ramans-Harborough)

## TEST GUIDELINES

### *Additional characteristics / states of expression*

53. The TC noted that no additional states of expression or characteristics had been notified to the Office of the Union since the fifty-eighth session<sup>6</sup> of the TC.

54. The TC agreed to post on the TG Drafters' webpage of the UPOV website the additional characteristic notified by the European Union for the Test Guidelines for Lettuce ("Resistance to *Bremia lactucae* (BI) Isolate PT2036"), as set out in document TC/59/2, Annex I.

[Annex I follows]

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<sup>6</sup> TC, fifty-eighth session, held in Geneva on October 25 and 26, 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROPOSALS IN RELATION TO THE  
 “SURVEY ON THE NEEDS OF MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS IN RELATION TO TWPS”,  
 APPROVED BY THE TC AT ITS FIFTY-NINTH SESSION IN OCTOBER 2023

ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
1. Technical Working Parties	<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b>            The UPOV Technical Working Parties should aim to deliver the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Harmonized procedures;</li> <li>(b) Information on developments;</li> <li>(c) Interaction between experts and integration of new experts in UPOV’s work;</li> <li>(d) Practical guidance on DUS examination procedures, including use of Test Guidelines.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Recommendation 2:</b>            It is recommended not to proceed with the proposal for replacing Technical Working Party meetings by a single Annual Technical Conference.</p>	No action required
	<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b>            It is recommended to take the following measures to address the issues raised in document TC/58/18 and the current arrangement of the technical work supporting DUS examination in UPOV (<b>see recommendations 4 to 10</b>).</p>	No action required
	<p>(a) Periodicity and duration of TWP meetings</p> <p><b>Recommendation 4:</b>            It is recommended to organize hybrid TWP meetings each year. The duration of the meetings should be four days. If no UPOV member offers to organize a hybrid meeting for a TWP in a given year, that meeting would be held electronically.</p>	UPOV Office will implement
	<p>(b) Discussions on DUS Procedures</p> <p><b>Recommendation 5</b>            It is recommended that more time during TWP meetings should be dedicated to discussions on DUS procedures, including technical visits, calibration exercises and related discussions.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TWP host and document “guidance for hosts of TWPs”
	<p><b>Recommendation 6</b>            It is recommended that the guidance provided to hosts should be for one full day of technical visits to demonstrate the model and arrangements for DUS examination used by the UPOV member hosting the TWP meeting.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TWP host and document “guidance for hosts of TWPs”
	<p><b>Recommendation 7</b>            It is recommended that the following elements be considered for inclusion in discussions on DUS procedures, according to the crops, facilities and procedures in the member of the Union hosting the TWP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit to trials to see trial layout</li> <li>• Plots created to demonstrate particular characteristics or issues</li> <li>• Calibration exercises</li> <li>• Ring-tests</li> <li>• Management of variety collections (physical material, databases, selection of varieties or other)</li> <li>• Method for analyzing distinctness and uniformity</li> <li>• Using molecular marker techniques in variety examination</li> <li>• Demonstration of trial design and data analysis methodologies</li> <li>• Data recording methods and technology</li> </ul>	UPOV Office will implement with TWP host and document “guidance for hosts of TWPs”
	<p><b>Recommendation 8</b>            It is recommended that any member of the Union should be eligible to host a TWP meeting. In particular, [see recommendation 9]</p>	No action required

ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
	<p><b>Recommendation 9</b> [It] is recommended that there should be sufficient flexibility for hosts to organize technical visits according to local conditions.</p>	No action required
	<p><b>Recommendation 10</b> It is recommended that hosts enable virtual participation at technical visits whenever possible.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TWP host and document “guidance for hosts of TWPs”
	<p><b>Recommendation 11</b> It is recommended that, where virtual participation is not possible, the host record particular aspects of the visits and presentations about the DUS examination procedures discussed during the technical visits, to be made available on the UPOV website.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TWP host and document “guidance for hosts of TWPs”
(c) Matters for information	<p><b>Recommendation 12</b> It is recommended that matters for information be made available online on the UPOV website as documents or pre recorded videos and presented during the session as agreed by the chairperson.</p>	UPOV Office will implement
(d) Presence of the Office of the Union	<p><b>Recommendation 13</b> It is recommended that the Office of the Union be physically present at hybrid TWP meetings.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TWP host and document “guidance for hosts of TWPs”
	<p><b>Recommendation 14</b> It is recommended to acknowledge that the staff of the Office of the Union would not be involved in organizing the technical visits and their presence on-site for the visits would be agreed with the chair and the host of the TWP.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TWP host and document “guidance for hosts of TWPs”
(e) Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques	<p><b>Recommendation 15</b> It is recommended to retain the TWM with its current terms of reference while providing the same meeting arrangement possibilities as the other TWPs.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TWP host and document “guidance for hosts of TWPs”
	<p><b>Recommendation 16</b> While acknowledging that the increased time for technical visits will increase the awareness of developments in testing methods and techniques, it is recommended to explore additional means of increasing awareness of developments in testing methods and techniques, such as through seminars and exhibitions (see “1. (f) Technical Committee”).</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons
(f) Technical Committee	<p><b>Recommendation 17</b> It is recommended that seminars on testing methods and techniques and other developments in DUS examination might be organized along with meetings of the Technical Committee as a means to increase awareness of developments.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons
	<p><b>Recommendation 18</b> It is recommended that exhibitions of research with poster sessions might be considered along with the seminars held in conjunction with the Technical Committee meetings as a means of increasing awareness of developments. Information from the poster sessions should also be made available to experts not physically present at the TC sessions.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons
<b>2. UPOV Test Guidelines</b>	<p><b>Recommendation 19</b> It is recommended that discussions on Test Guidelines should continue as an important element of TWP meetings as a means of harmonizing DUS procedures and as a means of providing opportunities for interaction and sharing experiences between experts.</p>	No action required

ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
(a) Commissioning the drafting and revision of Test Guidelines	<b>Recommendation 20</b> It is recalled that the procedures to prioritize work and nominate leading experts in charge of revising and drafting new TGs is set out in document TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines” and continues to be appropriate. It is recommended that these procedures continue to be applied to ensure that the work of the TWPs on TGs is most effective (see document TGP/7, Section 2.2 “Procedure for the introduction of Test Guidelines”)	No action required
(b) Procedure for the development of Test Guidelines – Web-based TG template	<b>Recommendation 21</b> It is recommended to provide more flexibility for the leading expert to decide on the use of the web-based TG Template in the process of drafting TGs, while requiring that the draft for adoption by the TC would need to be prepared in the web-based TG template format, and to amend document TGP/7 as appropriate.	Test Guidelines
	<b>Recommendation 22</b> While TG Subgroup meetings can continue to be arranged during TWP meetings, it is recommended that subgroup discussions should also be encouraged outside TWP meetings (e.g. online meetings, email) to increase the involvement of crop experts, broader participation of UPOV members and reducing the time required to complete Test Guidelines.	Test Guidelines
	<b>Recommendation 23</b> It is recommended that leading experts have flexibility to agree the frequency and duration of TG subgroup meetings, while reporting discussions back at the respective TWP.	Test Guidelines
	<b>New Recommendation [23 bis]</b> It is recommended to develop guidance on the role of leading experts.	UPOV Office will implement
(c) Role of the Office of the Union	<b>Recommendation 24</b> It is recommended that the Office of the Union provide administrative support of TG subgroup meetings as follows: • For meetings arranged during TWP meetings, the involvement of the Office of the Union would be agreed between the leading expert and the Office of the Union (e.g. facilitating discussions and/or reporting decisions). • For meetings arranged outside TWP meetings, administrative support would not be provided (leading experts to facilitate discussions and record decisions). Participation by the Office of the Union would be agreed between the leading expert and the Office of the Union.	Test Guidelines
<b>3. UPOV members test guidelines</b>	<b>Recommendation 25</b> It is recommended to consider expanding the web-based TG template or another UPOV tool to enable drafting of individual authorities’ test guidelines.	Test Guidelines
	<b>Recommendation 26</b> It is recommended to direct members seeking assistance to develop their national test guidelines to the list of contact persons for international cooperation in DUS examination.	Test Guidelines
	<b>Recommendation 27</b> It is recommended to expand the list to include information on members willing to provide mentoring to others on drafting national test guidelines (see: <a href="https://www.upov.int/databases/en/contact_cooperation.html">https://www.upov.int/databases/en/contact_cooperation.html</a> ).	Test Guidelines



ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
4. TGP documents	<p><b>Recommendation 28</b> It is recommended that options for enabling UPOV members to make their national test guidelines available to other UPOV members would be investigated, including through the web-based TG Template or other options. The number of accesses to individual authorities' test guidelines information could be monitored as an indicator for possible development of new UPOV Test Guidelines.</p>	Test Guidelines
	<p><b>Recommendation 29</b> It is recommended that the Office of the Union review the requesting of information on practical knowledge and cooperation in DUS examination. Information on practical experience can be derived by searching the PLUTO database for members receiving recent applications.</p>	UPOV Office to develop proposals for TC in 2024
	<p><b>Recommendation 30</b> It is recommended that guidance be developed to instruct users to use the PLUTO database to obtain that information.</p>	UPOV Office to develop proposals for TC in 2024
	<p><b>Recommendation 31</b> It is recommended that matters that would require amending or developing guidance in TGP documents would be dealt with by subgroups established by the Technical Committee (TC). These subgroups would meet online and/or as hybrid meetings along with other UPOV meetings and would report to the TC any proposals.</p>	UPOV Office to develop proposals for TC in 2024
	<p><b>Recommendation 32</b> It is recommended that the TGP subgroups established by the TC would have a leading expert that would chair the discussions. The leading expert would be in charge of presenting the findings of the subgroup and any proposals to the TC and TWPs.</p>	UPOV Office to develop proposals for TC in 2024
	<p><b>Recommendation 33</b> It is recommended that the TWPs are kept informed about subgroups established by the TC for amending or developing guidance in TGP documents and are provided opportunities to participate in discussions.</p>	UPOV Office will implement
5. Training	<p><b>Recommendation 34</b> It is recommended that the Office of the Union provides administrative support for TGP subgroup meetings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For meetings arranged during the TWPs, the involvement of the Office of the Union would be agreed between the leading expert and the Office of the Union.</li> <li>• For meetings arranged outside the TWPs, administrative support would not be provided. The leading expert would facilitate the meetings and record any decisions. Participation by the Office of the Union would be agreed between the leading expert and the Office of the Union.</li> </ul>	UPOV Office will implement
	<p><b>Recommendation 35</b> It is recommended to conduct training webinars to address topics of particular relevance, as defined by the TC in response to requests from members and/or observers, using a similar structure as the preparatory webinars held prior to TWP meetings.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons
	<p><b>Recommendation 36</b> It is recommended that the Office of the Union organize the training webinars in conjunction with the members providing information.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons
	<p><b>Recommendation 37</b> It is recommended to update the distance learning courses. Consideration could also be given to increasing awareness of distance learning courses by plant breeders and PVP applicants.</p>	UPOV Office will implement with TC and TWP chairpersons

ELEMENTS / ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTING MEASURES
6. DUS report exchange platform (UPOV e-PVP)	<p><b>Recommendation 38</b> It is recommended to further investigate the development of a new course on using UPOV guidance for DUS examination (e.g. developing national test guidelines), including in which format could the content be offered (e.g. workshop; videos).</p>	UPOV Office to develop proposals for TC in 2024
	<p><b>Recommendation 39</b> It is recommended to provide further information on the UPOV website on possibilities for training provided by members and to use that training website to promote requests and offers for training and related cooperation, as proposed by members and relevant organizations. [It is recalled that the UPOV International Certificate on Plant Variety Protection will provide a basis to demonstrate the level of expertise on plant variety protection according to the UPOV principles.]</p>	UPOV Office to develop proposals for TC in 2024
	<p><b>Recommendation 40</b> It is recommended that the development of a DUS report exchange platform (UPOV e-PVP) is supported to enable exchange of existing DUS reports for: (1) UPOV members to make existing DUS reports available for download (2) UPOV members to request DUS reports</p>	Already implemented
	<p><b>Recommendation 41</b> It is recommended that the DUS Report Exchange Platform also enable UPOV members to make their documented DUS procedures and information on their quality systems available.</p>	UPOV Office to develop proposals for TC in 2024
	<p><b>Recommendation 42</b> It is recommended to propose not to pursue the development of a UPOV quality accreditation system at this time.</p>	No action required
7. Performance Indicators	<p><b>Recommendation 43</b> In relation to assessing the impact of the recommended proposals, the following performance indicators are recommended: (a) Harmonized procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of UPOV members using UPOV Technical Questionnaires</li> <li>• Percentage of PVP applications in UPOV members covered by UPOV Test Guidelines</li> <li>• Use of UPOV member test guidelines by other UPOV members to develop national test guidelines where there are no UPOV Test Guidelines</li> <li>• Number of DUS reports produced by UPOV members that are used by other members</li> <li>• Time required for TWPs to approve new TGs or revisions of TGs</li> </ul> <p>(b) Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of DUS examiners and administrators that have the UPOV International Certificate on Plant Variety Protection</li> </ul> <p>The development of further performance indicators could be considered along with the implementation of the recommendations.</p>	UPOV Office to provide reports to TC on annual basis starting in 2024
	<p><b>Recommendation 44</b> It is recommended that the work of the TWPs is periodically reviewed on the basis of the performance indicators above.</p>	UPOV Office to invite TC to consider on annual basis starting in 2024
	<p><b>Recommendation 45</b> It is recommended that UPOV members and observer organizations are regularly surveyed on their satisfaction with the support for DUS examination provided by UPOV through the TC and TWPs.</p>	UPOV Office to invite TC to consider on annual basis starting in 2024

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SUBGROUP ON TEST GUIDELINES

The TC, at its fifty-ninth session<sup>1</sup>, agreed to establish a subgroup, as follows (see document TC/59/28 “Report”, paragraph 61):

1. The purpose of the subgroup is to develop options for consideration by the Technical Committee, at its sixtieth session<sup>2</sup>, to address recommendations on Test Guidelines presented in document TC/59/5, including options on the online tool for drafting Test Guidelines (web-based TG template) (recommendations [21]; [22]; [23]; [24]; [25]; [26] and [28]).
2. The subgroup should identify needs and develop options on the following main areas and should clarify their interrelation:
  - improvement of the UPOV Test Guidelines structure
  - specific requirements of Technical Questionnaires for use in UPOV PRISMA.
  - creation of national test guidelines, including the use of machine translation;
3. The options developed should facilitate the work of drafters and the Office of the Union. Any modification of the TG structure should facilitate understanding and clarity of the final document for technical experts and plant breeders.
4. The following aspects should be considered:
  - Issues related to UPOV Test Guidelines and the TG-Template, such as:
    - Develop TG format that would enable easier drafting and downloading in a range of formats used by UPOV members, including electronic equipment
    - Review possibilities to improve explanations on methods and assessments with references (links) to guidance in TGP documents
    - Improve links to ensure coherence of information applicable to different sections of the TG (e.g. materials, methods, assessment of characteristics and technical questionnaire)
    - Improve possibilities to include images, tables and elements other than text
    - Minimize the need of UPOV Office staff intervention to format and correct documents generated from the tool
    - Facilitate translating Test Guidelines into the four official UPOV languages, e.g. in relation to format barriers including quadrilingual tables
    - Facilitate machine translation of UPOV TGs into languages of UPOV members
  - Developing national test guidelines
    - Facilitate converting UPOV Test Guidelines into national test guidelines, including any changes and adjustments required
    - Enable drafting national test guidelines using the UPOV TG template for crops with no UPOV Test Guidelines
5. Other aspects could be proposed by the subgroup for consideration.
6. The subgroup should meet by physical and/or virtual means at a time and frequency to address its mandate as required. The subgroup should present draft options for consideration by the Technical Working Parties, at their sessions in 2024. The outcome of discussions should be presented for consideration by the TC, at its sixtieth session.
7. The subgroup should be coordinated by a leading expert from the United Kingdom, Ms. Margaret Wallace, and will be composed by experts from AR, AU, BR, BY, CA, CL, CN, DE, EU, FR, GH, JP, KE, NL, NZ, TZ, US, ZA and ISF and will be open to members and observers.

[Annex III follows]

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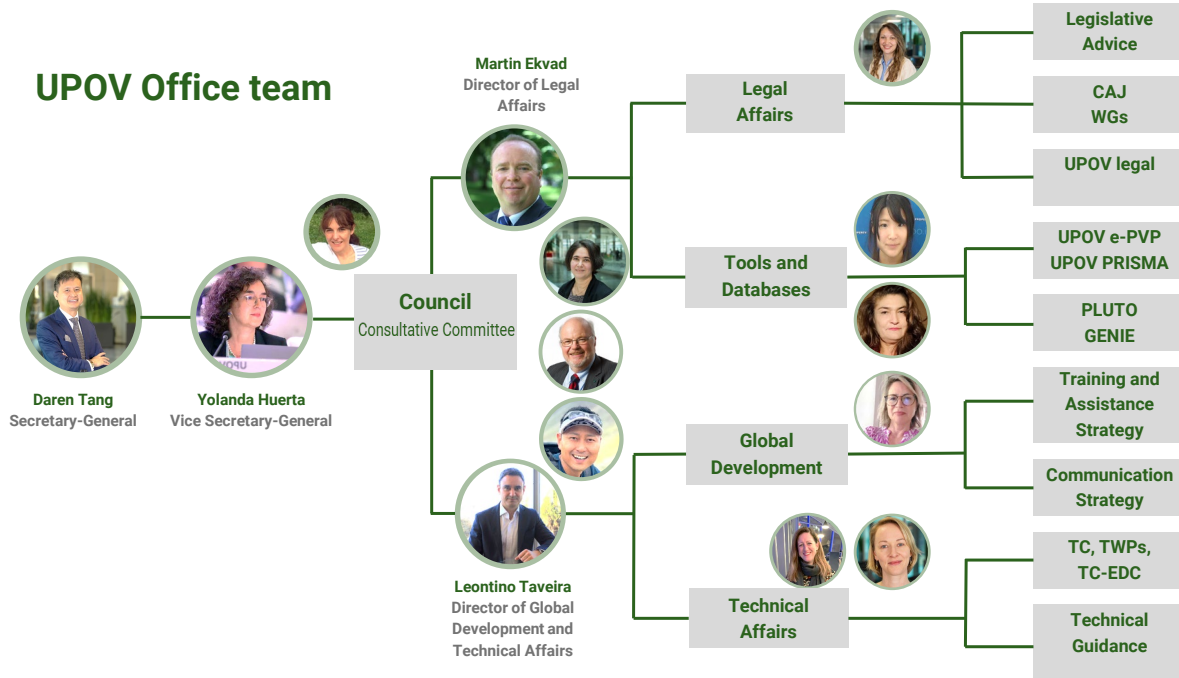
<sup>1</sup> TC, fifty-ninth session, held in Geneva on October 23 and 24, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> TC, sixtieth session, to be held in Geneva on October 21 and 22, 2024.

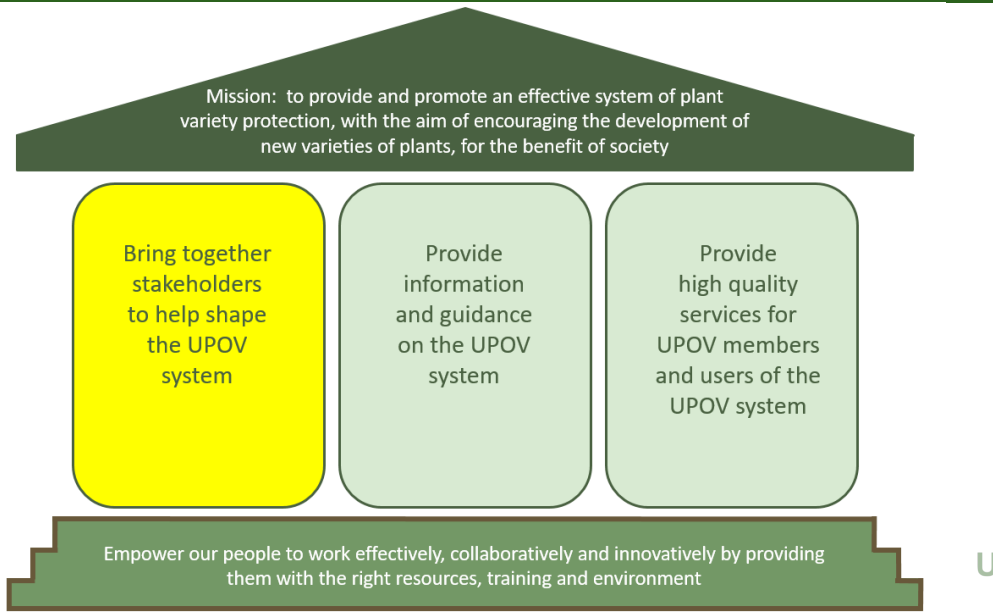
# REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN UPOV

UPOV

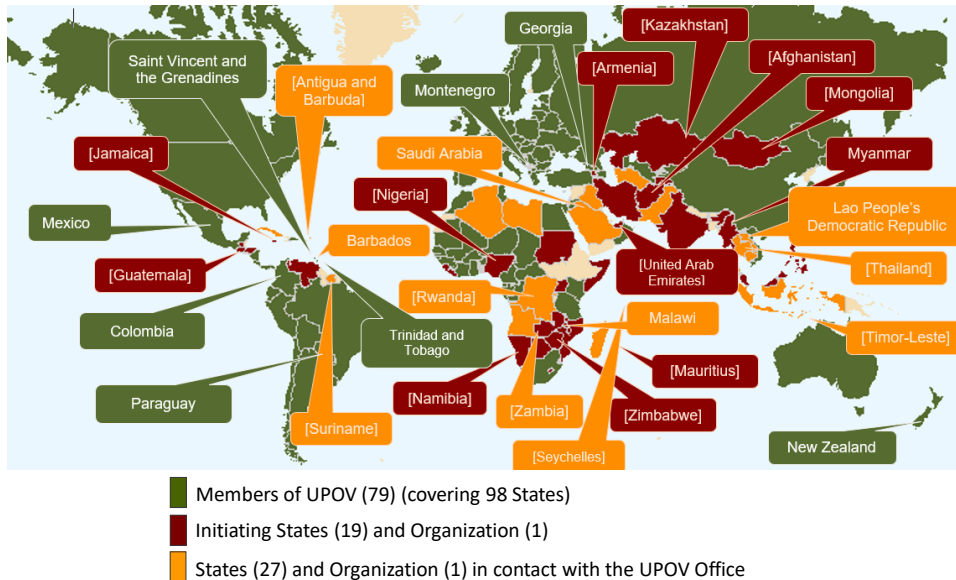
## UPOV Office team



## UPOV Strategy House



### UPOV STATUS – 79<sup>th</sup> member: Armenia March 2, 2024 States that requested comments on [Draft] Laws (2020-2024)



The UPOV Community welcomes

**ARMENIA**

as 79th Member of the Union

**UPOV**

Further information at:

[https://www.upov.int/edocs/pressdocs/en/upov\\_pr\\_141.pdf](https://www.upov.int/edocs/pressdocs/en/upov_pr_141.pdf)

UPOV

## UPOV Strategy House

Mission: to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society

Bring together stakeholders to help shape the UPOV system

Provide information and guidance on the UPOV system

Provide high quality services for UPOV members and users of the UPOV system

Empower our people to work effectively, collaboratively and innovatively by providing them with the right resources, training and environment

UPOV

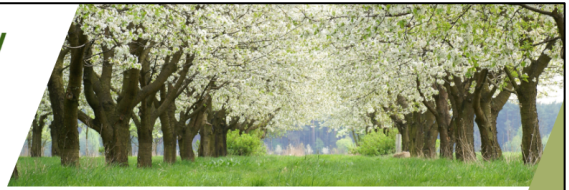
## Guidance on implementing the UPOV system

Current developments– scope of the plant breeder’s right:

- **Essentially Derived Varieties (EDV)** – new adopted guidance on 27 October 2023 – document UPOV/EXN/EDV/3 available at [https://www.upov.int/explanatory\\_notes/en/](https://www.upov.int/explanatory_notes/en/)  
CAJ item for updates on EDV matters – Oct. 2024

## Technical Webinars

UPOV



DEVELOPING INDIVIDUAL AUTHORITIES' TEST GUIDELINES IN THE ABSENCE OF UPOV TEST GUIDELINES

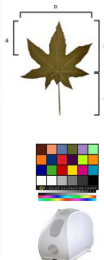
Technical Webinars

UPOV

IMAGE ANALYSIS IN DUS EXAMINATION

Technical Webinars

UPOV



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### Technical Working Parties

Matters for information Technical Webinars

- Developing individual authorities Test Guidelines in the absence of UPOV Test Guidelines
- Image analysis in DUS examination
- DUS examination of Pepper varieties in Turkey
- Involving breeders in DUS Examination
- Selecting similar varieties with electronic tools
- How to organize DUS examination with information provided by the applicant
- Disease resistance and physiological characteristics in DUS examination
- Data processing techniques in DUS examination
- Phalaenopsis DUS Testing at Nakuinbou, Netherlands
- How to organize DUS examination and international cooperation
- International harmonization in DUS examination
- Developing and using UPOV Test Guidelines
- Using molecular markers in DUS examination and the role of the BMT

DEVELOPING INDIVIDUAL AUTHORITIES' TEST GUIDELINES IN THE ABSENCE OF UPOV TEST GUIDELINES

Technical Webinars

0:00

2024

Developing individual authorities Test Guidelines in the absence of UPOV Test Guidelines

Video chapter times:

Germany 10:23, Japan 19:05, Argentina 28:38, South Africa 32:54, United Kingdom 40:17

[https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar\\_videos.html](https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar_videos.html)



## COMMUNICATION call for our role and impact to be clearly known and understood inside and outside the UPOV community

### Video 1 Farmer-Breeders



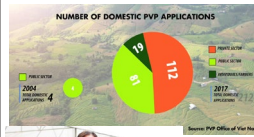
How farmers can benefit from using PVP to protect their own new varieties

### Video 2 Flower Industry



How Da Lat has become the center of the horticultural sector

### Video 3 Transformation of Seed Industry



Evolution of seed industry after UPOV membership

### Video 4 National Agricultural Policy



What is the impact of PVP on the economy in Viet Nam?

Role of PVP in agricultural policy

## UPOV International Certificate on Plant Variety Protection (UPOV PVP Certificate)

Join the UPOV PVP Certificate program to demonstrate your knowledge and expertise in plant variety protection!

UPOV will launch the UPOV PVP Certificate program to promote the acquisition of knowledge and recognition of expertise, as well as opportunities for continuous learning on PVP matters.

**Launching in April 2024!**

### UPOV PVP CERTIFICATE

Acquire international recognition of your expertise in UPOV matters and benefit from continuous learning opportunities!





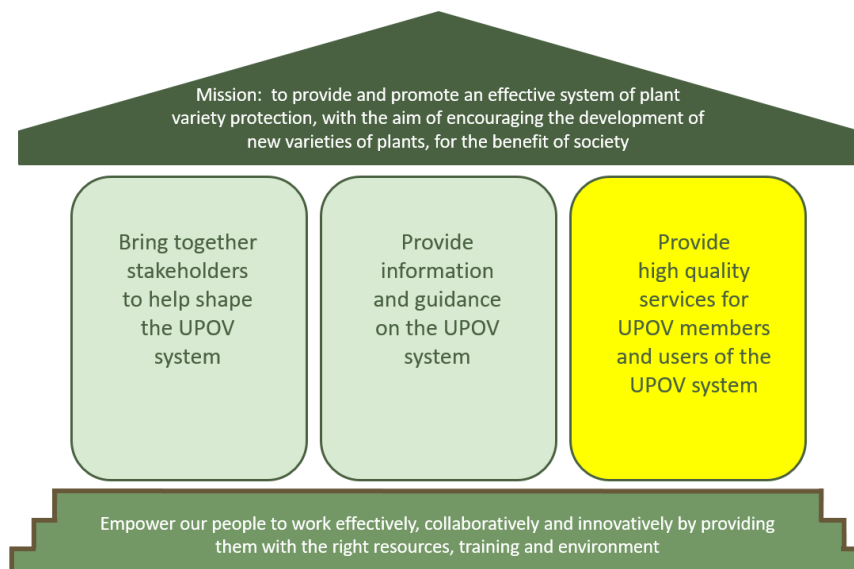
## UPOV Training UPOV Distance Learning Courses

Code	Course	Session	Study period	Registration period
DL-205	Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention	Session 1	06-Mar to 10-Apr 2024	08-Jan to 11-Feb 2024
		Session 2	09-Oct to 13-Nov 2024	29-Jul to 08-Sep 2024
DL-305A	Administration of Plant Breeders' Rights (Part A of DL-305 course: Examination of applications for plant breeders' rights)	Session 1	06-Mar to 10-Apr 2024	08-Jan to 11-Feb 2024
		Session 2	09-Oct to 13-Nov 2024	29-Jul to 08-Sep 2024
DL-305B	DUS Examination (Part B of DL-305 course: Examination of applications for plant breeders' rights)	Session 1	06-Mar to 10-Apr 2024	08-Jan to 11-Feb 2024
		Session 2	09-Oct to 13-Nov 2024	29-Jul to 08-Sep 2024
DL-305	Examination of applications for plant breeders' rights	Session 1	06-Mar to 10-Apr 2024	08-Jan to 11-Feb 2024
		Session 2	09-Oct to 13-Nov 2024	29-Jul to 08-Sep 2024

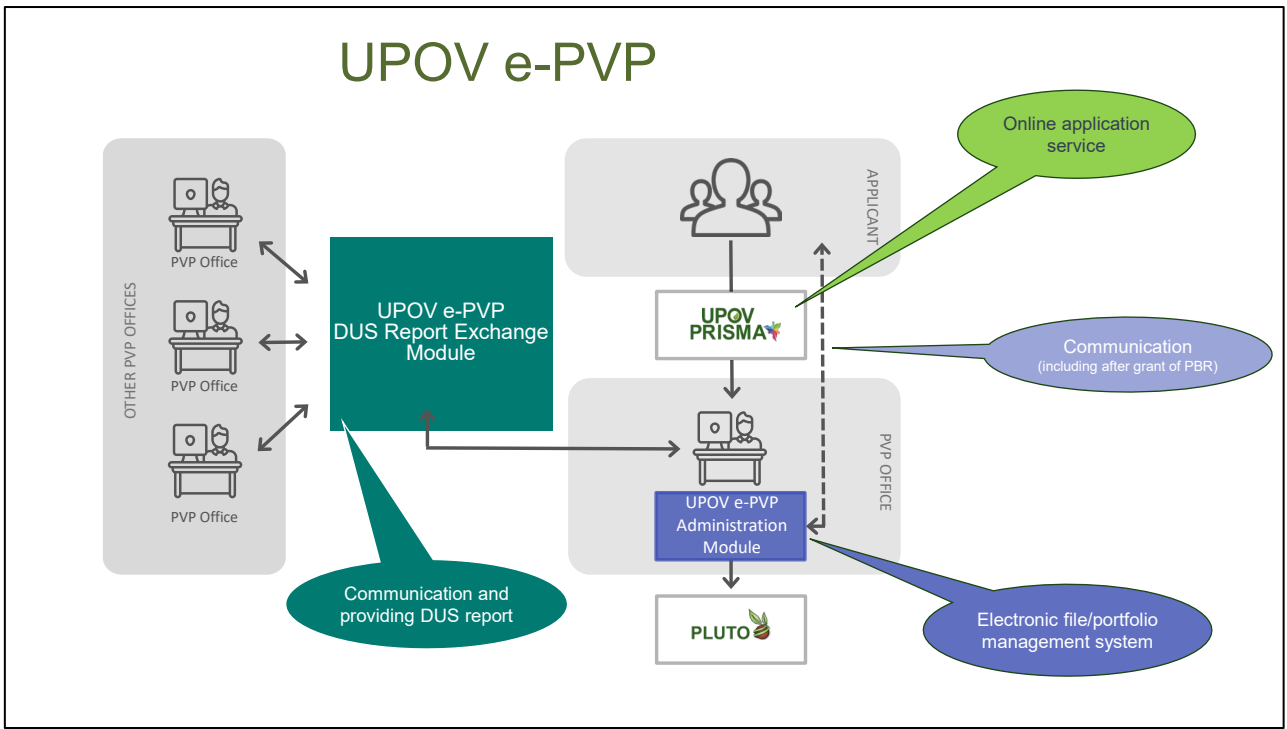
The UPOV Courses are hosted on the WIPO eLearning Center.  
For enquiries contact: [dl205\\_admin@upov.int](mailto:dl205_admin@upov.int)

UPOV

## UPOV Strategy House



UPOV



## Launch of UPOV e-PVP in Viet Nam, September 28, 2023



## UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module

In October 2023, the UPOV Council welcomed the expressions of commitment from **Ghana** to join **UPOV e-PVP** and from **Canada**, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) of the **European Union** and **Netherlands** (Kingdom of the) to join the **UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module**



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[End of Annex III and of document]