UPOV

International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

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Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees **TWO/58/2**

Fifty-Eighth Session
Virtual meeting, July 6 to 9, 2026

Original: English
Date: July 14, 2026

REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION FROM MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance

1. The Technical Committee (TC), at its forty-seventh session, held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2011, agreed to request the Office of the Union to invite experts to submit written reports to the Office of the Union in advance of the Technical Working Party (TWP) sessions in order that a document containing those reports could be prepared by the Office of the Union. The TC noted that TWP experts would be invited to make a brief oral summary of their written report at the session and would also be encouraged to make reports under the agenda item "Experiences with new types and species", as appropriate. The TC also noted that TWP experts would have an opportunity to raise questions concerning matters of interest (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 9 and 10).

2. Written reports were invited by the Office of the Union in Circular E-26/034 of April 27, 2026. The following reports were received (in alphabetical order):

- ✓ Members of the Union: Annexes I to VI: European Union, France, Japan, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand and the United Kingdom

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

EUROPEAN UNION

CPVO statistics and activities

Statistics

The Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO) applications decreased in 2025, with 2897 applications in total (previous year: 3268, -12%).
The distribution between crop sectors was as follows:

- Ornamental and Forestry, 1000 applications (34.5% of the total number of applications), previous year (1130 applications, 34.6%),
- Agricultural, 953 applications (32.9%), previous year (1133 applications, 34.6%),
- Vegetable, 723 applications (25%), previous year (747 applications, 22.9%),
- Fruit, 221 applications (7.6%), previous year (258 applications, 7.9%).

The decrease in the number of applications in 2025 compared to 2024 was of -11.5% in the ornamental and forestry sector, -16% in the agricultural sector, -14% in the fruit sector and -3% in the vegetable sector.

In 2025, the CPVO Office granted 2 762 titles for Community protection, and 31 798 titles were in force by the end of the year. National authorities from all over the world regularly base their decisions on applications for CPVRs on technical examinations carried out on behalf of the CPVO (international cooperation, takeover of reports). In 2025, the CPVO provided 574 technical reports to 38 countries (1266 in 2023 and 588 in 2024), among which 315 in the fruit sector, 219 in the ornamental sector, 21 in the vegetable sector and 19 in the agricultural sector. The five countries from which most requests emanated were United Kingdom (138), Chile (86), Egypt (78), Brazil (76), and Colombia (74). More statistics are available on the CPVO website: Statistics | CPVO (europa.eu)

Administrative Council (AC)

The CPVO is supervised by an Administrative Council (AC) comprising representatives of the Member States and the European Commission and their alternates. In 2025, the members of the AC took note of the following:

- Preliminary Horizon scanning report: This work aims to provide the AC with balanced and contrasted information to support informed decision-making on substantive policies. The analysis will also enable the CPVO to better anticipate and respond to market dynamics, as well as evolving application flows.
- Strategic Discussion on the Future of Variety Testing of the EU PVR System: three working groups
  - ❖ Working Group I, cost effectiveness of DUS testing in the EU. Entrusted Examination Offices (EOs) are reflecting on optimizing DUS testing capacities within the EU and reducing duration of DUS testing. A survey has been launched to support bilateral discussions between EU Member states in view of increasing centralisation of DUS testing.
  - ❖ Working Group II, potential involvement of breeders in DUS testing: the potential involvement of breeders should be subject to the establishment of a clear framework and stringent oversight, transparency, and quality safeguards. Discussions ongoing.
  - ❖ Working Group III, strategic revision of the functions of the Quality Audit Service (QAS): the QAS Procedure Manual and the Entrustment Requirements were revised involving all entrusted EOs.
- European Commission launched the evaluation of the CPVO Basic Regulation (COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 2100/94), the study to be ready by the end of 2026/beginning 2027.

In 2025, 29 technical protocols were adopted by the AC, with most of the revisions based on the UPOV TGs.

Coleus	*Coleus scutellarioides* (L.) Benth. (syn. *Plectranthus scutellarioides* (L.) R. Br. ; *Coleus blumei* Benth.; *Solenostemon scutellarioides* (L.) Codd)	CPVO/TP-327/1-Corr
sour cherry, duke cherry	*Prunus cerasus* L., *Prunus* × *gondouinii* (Poit. & Turpin) Rehder	CPVO/TP-230/2
apple rootstocks	*Malus* Mill.	CPVO/TP-163/2-Rev
Amaryllis	*Hippeastrum* Herb.	CPVO/TP-181/2
apple (fruit varieties)	*Malus domestica* (Suckow) Bork.	CPVO/TP-014/3
Rice	*Oryza sativa* L.	CPVO/TP-016/4
Carnation	*Dianthus* L.	CPVO/TP-025/2-Corr
Spinach	*Spinacia oleracea* L.	CPVO/TP-055/5-Rev.5-Corr
Tomato	*Solanum lycopersicum* L.	CPVO/TP-044/5
swede, rutabaga	*Brassica napus* L. var. *napobrassica* (L.) Rchb.	CPVO/TP-089/1-Rev
Kale	*Brassica oleracea* L. var. *costata* DC.; *Brassica oleracea* L. var. *medullosa* Thell.; *Brassica oleracea* L. var. *sabellica* L.; *Brassica oleracea* L. var. *viridis* L.; *Brassica oleracea* L. var. *palmifolia* DC.	CPVO/TP-090/2
Chinese cabbage	*Brassica rapa* L. subsp. *pekinensis* (Lour.) Hanelt; hybrids between *Brassica rapa* L. subsp. *pekinensis* (Lour.) Hanelt and *Brassica rapa* L. subsp. *chinensis* (L.) Hanelt; hybrids between *Brassica rapa* L. subsp. *pekinensis* (Lour.) Hanelt and *Brassica rapa* L. var. *rapa*; *Brassica* ×*turicensis* O. E. Schulz & Thell.	CPVO/TP-105/2
sweet pepper, hot pepper, paprika, chili	*Capsicum annuum* L.	CPVO/TP-076/3
vegetable marrow, squash	*Cucurbita pepo* L.	CPVO/TP-119/1-Rev.2
Melon	*Cucumis melo* L.	CPVO/TP-104/2-Rev.3
Statice	*Limonium* Mill., *Goniolimon* Boiss., *Psylliostachys* (Jaub. & Spach) Nevski	CPVO/TP-168/1
Oncidium	*Oncidium* Sw.; x*Oncidesa* Hort.; x*Ionocidium* Hort.; x*Zelenkocidium* J.M.H. Shaw.	CPVO/TP-283/1-Corr
ling, Scots heather	*Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull	CPVO/TP-094/2
turnip rape	*Brassica rapa* L. subsp. *campestris* (L.) A. R. Clapham.	CPVO/TP-185/1
oilseed rape	*Brassica napus* L. ssp. *Napus*	CPVO/TP-036/4
raspberry, black raspberry	*Rubus idaeus* L.; *Rubus* x *neglectus* Peck; *Rubus occidentalis* L.; *Rubus idaeus* L. x *Rubus parviflorus* L.	CPVO/TP-043/3
Strawberry	*Fragaria* L.	CPVO/TP-022/4
sweet cherry	*Prunus avium* (L.) L.	CPVO/TP-035/3
red clover	*Trifolium pratense* L.	CPVO/TP-005/1-Rev
Weigela	*Weigela* Thunb.	CPVO/TP-148/2
industrial chicory	*Cichorium intybus* L. *partim*	CPVO/TP-172/2-Rev
Asparagus	*Asparagus officinalis* L.	CPVO/TP-130/2-Rev
Lettuce	*Lactuca sativa* L.	CPVO/TP-013/6-Rev.5-Corr
cucumber, gherkin	*Cucumis sativus* L.	CPVO/TP-061/2-Rev.3

Pending new species

The CPVO is looking for cooperation for the testing of varieties from the following list of species. If interested, please contact the CPVO representatives participating to the relevant TWPs:

Sector	Species name
Vegetables	*Agaricus bitorquis* (Quél.) Sacc. 1887
Vegetables	*Fusarium flavolapis*
Vegetables	*Inonotus obliquus* (Fr.) Pilát
Vegetables	*Rhizophagus* sp.
Vegetables	*Sideritis scardica* Griseb.
Vegetables	*Sideritis perfoliata* subsp. *athoa* (Papan. & Kokkini) Baden
Vegetables	*Sideritis raeseri* Boiss. & Heldr.
Vegetables	*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe
Ornamentals	*Dietes bicolor* (Steud.) Sweet ex Klatt
Ornamentals	*Eucalyptus* x irbyi R. T. Baker & H. G. Sm. (syn. *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* Maiden x *E. gunnii* Hook. f.)
Ornamentals	*Liquidambar styraciflua* L.
Ornamentals	*Bergera koenigii* L. (syn. *Murraya koenigii* (L.) Spreng.)
Ornamentals	*Quercus* x *auzandrii* Gren. & Godr. x *Quercus* x *morisii* Borzí (syn. Q. x *mixta* Vill. ex Colm.)
Ornamentals	*Rumex crispus* L.
Ornamentals	*Turnera ulmifolia* L.
Ornamentals	*Ugni molinae* Turcz.
Ornamentals	*Ziziphora clinopodioides* Lam.
Fruits	*Carica papaya* L.
Agriculturals	*Paspalum vaginatum* Swartz (vegetatively propagated)
Agriculturals	*Cenchrus clandestinus* (Hochst. ex Chiov.) Morrone (syn. *Pennisetum clandestinum* Hochst. ex Chiov.) (vegetatively propagated)
Agriculturals	*Scorpiurus vermiculatus* L.

<u>CPVO Ornamental sector</u>

The table hereunder shows the 10 most important ornamental species subject of CPVO applications over the last 5 years.

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total 1995-2025
Rosa L.	168	200	131	152	149	5602
Phalaenopsis Blume	130	102	94	103	65	1978
Chrysanthemum L.	83	83	76	88	57	4210
Calibrachoa	68	37	36	55	47	1892
Hydrangea L.	55	30	57	33	38	892
Pelargonium	44	18	24	13	15	1881
Anthurium	14	40	6	27	21	969
Lilium L.	36	18	19	10	20	1438
Dianthus L.	40	15	14	11	14	1198
Alstroemeria L.	24	17	18	18	16	693
Total per year	662	560	475	510	442	

The outcomes of the EU Ornamental Expert Meeting (OEM25)

The CPVO held its annual meeting with EU ornamental experts on 15–16 April 2025 at the premises of CREA-OF, San Remo, Italy. Experts from EU examination offices attended the meeting, alongside representatives of CIOPORA. In addition to revising several CPVO technical protocols, the group discussed the following item:

- Assessment of Distinctness of varieties with different methods of propagation
- Correcting the species name during the procedure
- Revision of the requirement to submit photographs and Revised guidance on picture quality
- Consideration of species material in the Distinctness assessment
- Lack of uniformity in a characteristic not part of the Test Guidelines
- Current policy in Examination Offices as regards the payment for material of reference varieties
- Uniformity standards for variegated varieties (practice at examination offices)
- Identification of similar varieties using Google Lens

The Office finances a number of R&D projects; all reports of finalized R&D projects are published on the CPVO web site: https://cpvo.europa.eu/en/about-us/what-we-do/research-and-development.

- The CPVO presented the ongoing initiatives regarding:
    - the development of Guidelines for the setting of molecular databases
    - the creation of new EU working group on digital phenotyping

[Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

FRANCE

Number of applications:

In France, the DUS activity, either in the framework of national listing, or PBR, or in the framework of international cooperation for DUS testing, has slightly decreased in 2025 compared to previous years.

In 2025, 2191 applications were received for National listing, and for National or European Plant Breeders' Rights, or for international cooperation for DUS testing:

- 1380 are new applications
- 811 are requests for take-over reports for application already tested or in test.

See figures on the table below:

	National Listing	National PBR	EU PBR	International cooperation	total
Number of applications in 2025 for new testing	980	106	186	108	1380

Main activity remains on agricultural species.

In total in 2025, GEVES carried out more than 3100 DUS cycles, mainly on its premises.

Crop sector	Main species tested
Agricultural	Maize, oilseed rape, wheat, barley, sunflower, soybean
Vegetable	Lettuce, tomato, melon, cauliflower, pepper, squash
Fruit	Peach, vine, apple, sweet cherry, apricot, Japanese plum, pear
Ornamental	Hydrangea, Lavandula, Chrysanthemum, Buddleja, Salvia, Echinacea, Hibiscus

Detailed figures can be found on the annual report available on our website.

Information on GEVES:

GEVES is the Examination Office of France, in charge of DUS and VSCU evaluation of new plant varieties and is designated as National Reference Laboratory in seed quality, GMO detection, plant health (matrix seeds).

GEVES website can be consulted here www.geves.fr

Description files can be found on the website for the varieties listed on the French catalogue. https://www.geves.fr/catalogue-france/
You can subscribe to our NEWSLETTER available both in French and in English to receive the latest information on GEVES's expert activities in plants and seeds, at national and international levels. Please subscribe here : https://www.geves.fr/newsletter-en/

The International System of Cooperation for DUS is active and efficient. For more information, the international cooperation service of GEVES can be contacted here: clarisse.leclair@geves.fr and camille.zitter@geves.fr
In 2025, the international cooperation service of GEVES received more than 800 takeover requests, mainly from the EU but also from all over the world.

Carole Dirwimmer continues in her role as the Chair of the UPOV Technical Working Party for Fruits (TWF).

Information on INOV:

The French National Office for PBR (INOV) has received 106 applications in 2025, out of which 98% were tested for DUS by GEVES.

INOV is involved in UPOV PRISMA for all genera and species.

INOV has announced the publication of its new fee schedule, which includes updated administrative fees. The fees relating to the DUS examination are those applied by the French or foreign Examination Office, in

accordance with Article 2 of this decree. Regarding the procedure: the revision of INOV fees was jointly approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and is published in the form of a decree in the Official Journal. More information here GEVES Newsletter n°68. Contact INOV : inov@geves.fr

Molecular markers in DUS testing:

Regarding the use of molecular markers, GEVES has provided data to the UPOV survey.
France is using in routine molecular markers for the management of variety collection according to UPOV guidance model "Combining Phenotypic and Molecular Distances in the Management of Variety Collections", for maize, sorghum, spring barley, durum wheat. Projects are ongoing on Oilseed rape and common wheat and being finalized for Hydrangea.
GEVES is using in routine several markers for several traits in the framework of UPOV model "Characteristic-Specific Molecular Markers", in accordance with the technical guidelines in force.
For more information on BMT, please contact: GEVES BIOGEVES rene.mathis@geves.fr.

Disease resistance tests in DUS testing:

Regarding the use of disease resistance characteristics, GEVES uses in routine disease resistance characteristics, processed in bio assays, for DUS results. GEVES provides also services, facilities, protocols, identified standards and strains for such activities to Examination Offices and seed companies, all over the world. For more information, please contact: GEVES SNES sophie.perrot@geves.fr

Digital phenotyping in DUS testing :

Regarding digital phenotyping for DUS testing, GEVES uses 2D image analysis on a routine basis, using detached plant organs that are scanned or photographed and then analyzed by AIM. GEVES is interested in developing the use of drones and pedestrian sticks to phenotype certain DUS characteristics, such as plant natural height for lucerne. For more information, please contact: GEVES clarisse.leclair@geves.fr

R&D projects:

GEVES is involved in several collaborative R&D projects dealing with DUS and co-founded by the CPVO:

- ToBrAg, project to update DUS resistance tests (biotests and markers) according to pests' evolution with the practical cases of resistance tests to ToBRFV for tomato and pepper, and the resistance test to Aphis gossypii on melon, together with the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Spain, Italy and breeders.
- SNPsNAP: "SNP markers for guiding DUS testing in winter oilseed rape: Validating the new model". It is the second follow up of an earlier project which validated a set of SNP markers for KasPAR assays on bulk samples as a tool for the management of the variety collection, together with Germany, Spain, Slovakia.
- Lettuce project: International harmonization and validation of a SNP set for the management of lettuce variety collection, together with the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Germany, Spain.
- CPVO Tomato database: Development and implementation of an internationally accepted SNP database to assist the tomato DUS testing, together with the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Poland, Hungary, Spain, Italy.

GEVES is involved in the Belis project, funded by the European Union: Breeding European Legumes for Increased Sustainability. GEVES is contributing to the project through its work on optimizing DUS, with the use of molecular markers for the management of the *Pisum sativum* variety collection.

GEVES was involved in the INVITE project, funded by the European Union. One follow-up of INVITE, conducted by GEVES, is to explore the potential use of UPOV model Combining Phenotypic and Molecular Distances in the Management of Variety Collections for common wheat in France, and a presentation will be given during TWM et TWA meetings in 2026.

In 2024, the INVITE project validated the reproducibility of molecular markers associated with resistance/susceptibility to Tomato mosaic virus (ToMV), Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV), and Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. lycopersici race 1 (EU)/2 (US). Validation work continued in 2025 to verify specificity on tomato varieties registered in France and was successfully completed. These characteristic-specific molecular markers can now be used as an alternative to biotests in France.

GEVES is involved in Allegrodactyle: a French project to develop targeted molecular markers in cocksfoot. If successful, the final aim would be to describe cocksfoot variety collection and use these molecular data to guide the choice of varieties for relevant comparisons in the field.

[Annex III follows]

ANNEX III

JAPAN

1. Number of applications in 2025

Year	Total number	(2025/2024)	Ornamental	(2025/2024)
1978 to 2025	38336	-	30177	-
2024	599		439	
2025	531	(89%)	361	(82%)

Top 5 of application for Ornamental in 2025
Rosa 66, Chrysanthemum 60, Hydrangea 31, Petunia and Calibracoa 27 (18, 9), Dianthus 21, Total: 205

2. Number of granted in 2025

Year	Number	(2025/2024)	Ornamental	(2025/2024)
1978 to 2025	31307	-	24462	-
2024	703		518	
2025	769	(109%)	522	(101%)

Top 5 applications for Ornamental in 2025
Rosa 76, Hydrangea 70, Chrysanthemum 50, Petunia and Calibracoa 29 (19, 10), Limonium 23, Total: 248

3. National test guidelines harmonized with UPOV TGs in 2025

Common name of plants (12)
Kangaroo paw, Brown mustard, Citrus L.-Group1, Citrus L. - Group 3, Citrus L. - Group 4, Citrus L. - Group 5, Pumpkin, Butternut Squash, Vegetable Marrow, Apple Rootstock, Oxypetalum, Poplar

4. National test guidelines developed for new type of species in 2025

Genera or Species (5)
Cephalanthus occidentalis L., Isatis tinctoria.L, Origanum L., Paulownia L., Valeriana fauriei Briq.

Web-site: https://www.maff.go.jp/j/shokusan/hinshu/info/sinsa_kijun_jp.html

5. Other

✓ As from 2016, MAFF have agreed with Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, Switzerland, Viet Nam, the European Union, the Russian Federation, Kenya, Mexico, Israel, the Netherlands (Kingdom of), Türkiye, Canada, Peru, Singapore, the United States of America, Colombia and the United Kingdom to provide the results of DUS examination in Japan free of charge for the examination of the varieties that have been applied to the examination authority of the relevant countries. Japan continuously provides other UPOV members with examination reports under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC). Japan had provided 28 DUS examination reports in total to other countries in 2025.

✓ Since 2016, based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Center for Seeds and Seedlings,

NARO (NCSS) and Naktuinbouw have established Calibration Manuals for DUS technical harmonization. “Calibration manual for Mandevilla” will be completed in 2026, and it will be published through both websites. With addition of this, a total of 13 Calibration Manuals will be available for third country.

✓ In addition, a three-year extension of the MOU between Naktuinbouw and NCSS, which expired in March 2024, was concluded up to March 2027 in order to contribute international harmonization in cooperation with Naktuinbouw. In extending the MOU, it was newly agreed to provide technical cooperation on DNA analysis for disease resistance in DUS test, DNA variety identification techniques for plant variety protection.

[Annex IV follows]

ANNEX IV

NETHERLANDS (KINGDOM OF THE)

Naktuinbouw Variety Testing developments

- The Unit Variety Testing includes a DUS team of 40 employees, incl. one unit manager, 6 employees specialized in disease resistance and 3 employees working in international activities. Also a support team, a trial management team with 2 cultivation managers and a project team. In total there are 70 employees and supplemented with temporary (circa 18) staff in summer. The unit works together with the teams of the unit Identity and Quality (laboratories) especially with Molecular Marker team and team Bioinformatics.
- The Variety Testing Unit yearly offers a number of courses on Plant Breeders' Rights and/or Listing. In 2025 many courses could be organised again in person.
- Applicants more and more use the online systems of UPOV and CPVO for filing their applications for listing and/or Plant Breeders' Rights. Nowadays it is possible to apply in the Netherlands (Kingdom of the) for Plant Breeders' Rights as well as for Listing for all species using UPOV Prisma.

Number of applications received

In 2025, 2338 applications were received for testing for the first year for National listing, and for National or European Plant Breeders' Rights. Applications of the same variety for Listing as well as PBR, in vegetables and in agricultural crops are split in this table.

2024	NL listing	NL PBR	EU PBR	TOTAL
Agriculture	252	62	18	332
Vegetable	725	582	38	1345
Ornamental (incl. trees)		151	510	661
TOTAL	**977**	**795**	**566**	**2338**

International projects

- The EU project INVITE on the improvement on DUS and VCU. Naktuinbouw is one of the partners in this program. 2024 was the last year of this project. Naktuinbouw will continue with follow up project to get usable tools for Analysis with drones in Ray-grass, to use an app for some characteristics in tomato and to continue the work on common databases.
- Naktuinbouw continues to support IPKey projects.
- The Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO) funds a project to develop a disease resistance test for ToBRFV in tomato and for Aphis gossypii in melon.
- Another CPVO project is to develop SNP marker set for lettuce together with Germany, Spain and France.

Other projects

Methodology projects that are funded by the Board for plant varieties in the Netherlands are e.g.

- Selecting similar varieties with image analysis and AI.
- Developing SNP-set for courgette/zucchini
- SNP set for bean has been developed and is complete. It is now being used to search for similar varieties according to "UPOV model 2" in our DUS procedure.
- Protocol verification and future protocol revision of seed shallot varieties
- Showcase: characterization of leaves using image analysis
- Marker development for MNSV and Fom in Melon
- Development and implementation of an international accepted SNP database to assist the tomato DUS testing (in cooperation with CPVO)

- Validation of reproducibility of tomato resistance markers for Inclusion in CPVO protocol
- Follow up identification and implementation of DNA markers for morphological traits in tomato (already validated are green shoulder and determinate/self-pruning)

International cooperation 2026

- Since 2021, Naktuinbouw has participated in the Collaborative Seed Program in Nigeria. One of the project's goals is to set up a PVP system in the country. Phase 2 of this project is underway.
- Under SeedNL SeedLaws Toolbox, Naktuinbouw participated in a project with India. The overall goal of this collaboration was to assess India's seed quality assurance ecosystem and, through Dutch–Indian technical exchange, identify practical pathways to strengthen seed health testing, laboratory quality systems, sampling, accreditation, traceability and international trust in India's seed sector.
- Under TAIEX together with CPVO, Naktuinbouw hosted a delegation from Thailand in March. The visit was focused on the benefits of UPOV based PVP system.
- Under TAIEX together with CPVO, an inception visit took place in Guatemala in March and Naktuinbouw will receive a delegation from Guatemala in September, focused on the benefits of UPOV 1991 and how the overall seed sector works in the Netherlands.
- Under the funding from RVO, Naktuinbouw joined a inception mission focused on potatoes in Nigeria in June.
- Under the funding from Asian Development Bank and request from National Horticulture Board (NHB), India, Naktuinbouw is providing trainings for phytosanitary and field health to set up Clean Plant Centres in India.
- Naktuinbouw joined an innovation mission to Ivory Coast and Senegal in April.
- In October, Naktuinbouw will join a fact-finding mission to Ethiopia, focused on potatoes.

PVP Development Program (Toolbox)

- This tool helps countries develop, improve, and implement their Plant Breeders' Rights system. In 2026, 13 projects were granted in: Albania, ARIPO Symposium, Armenia, ASEAN-5 workshop, China, Egypt, Ghana, Malaysia, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Bridging Perspectives on PVP, UPOV Prisma Support, Uzbekistan
- For more info contact: PVPToolbox@naktuinbouw.nl

Plant Breeders Rights training course

- From September-December 2026, the training course on Plant Breeders Rights will be presented as an e-course with weekly online plenary sessions where the contents will be discussed. At present, we have received (multiple) subscriptions from Malaysia, the Gambia, the Philippines, Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Viet Nam, Brazil, Guatemala, and the Netherlands (Kingdom of the). There are still places available.
- Study load is 80-100 hrs depending on prior knowledge. Upon completion, 20 credits for the UPOV PVP Certificate programme are awarded.
- More information and subscription: https://www.naktuinbouw.com/knowledge-education/training-courses/plant-breeders-rights-for-food-security-and-economic-development or contact l.pinan.gonzalez@naktuinbouw.nl

[Annex V follows]

ANNEX V

NEW ZEALAND

1. In 2025, the New Zealand Plant Variety Rights Office (NZ PVRO) received 109 new applications for plant variety protection. Applications for ornamental varieties continued to decline, with 16 new applications received during the year. Roses remained the most significant genus, accounting for 40% of all ornamental applications, followed by Magnolia, Hydrangea, Lomandra, Lavender, and Dianthus.

2. New Zealand operates under the Plant Variety Rights Act 2022 and its associated Regulations, which came into force in January 2023. This legislation incorporates all provisions of the 1991 UPOV Convention while also addressing New Zealand's Treaty of Waitangi obligations in relation to indigenous plant species. To support these obligations, a Māori Plant Variety Committee (MPVC) has been established and is now fully operational. The Committee is responsible for assessing applications involving taonga (treasured) plant species. Since 2023, the NZ PVRO has received two applications for native plant varieties, both of which are currently under assessment by the PVRO and the MPVC.

3. The holding of variety collections for ornamental genera is becoming increasingly difficult with the changing priorities of existing or potential collection providers and the associated high and rising costs. Looking into the future, the role of permanent living collections for testing of ornamentals will continue to decrease and descriptions and photos will become more important for identifying varieties of common knowledge and in supplementary examination. The New Zealand scheme is dependent on cooperation with other parties for access to living plant material and when these partnerships end or change negatively, the testing impact is large with no clear alternative in the short to medium term. In addition to the reduction in collection resources, breeders are more frequently asking about the use of foreign test reports. Many imported varieties under application have already been granted Rights or are under test elsewhere in the world. These two factors have resulted in the need to reassess the current New Zealand practice for use of foreign test reports.

4. Drafting work has begun for a national test guideline for *Senicio candidans* DC, following an application for an Australian bred variety and revision of the national test guideline for *Carex* L. is underway following applications for varieties belonging to a Japanese species. Previous experience has only been with New Zealand native species.

5. The first application has been made for a variety of *Arthropodium cirrhatum* (G. Forst) R. Br. , a new species. A descriptor and testing protocol is being developed for use in the 2027/28 growing season.

6. In response to questions from breeders, PVRO has developed new information materials regarding completing the technical questionnaire and the duration of DUS testing. The documents are available at
https://www.iponz.govt.nz/about-ip/pvr/technical-guidance/current/the-duration-of-dus-testing-and-fee-requests/
https://www.iponz.govt.nz/about-ip/pvr/technical-guidance/current/the-tech/

[Annex VI follows]

ANNEX VI

UNITED KINGDOM

1. The Plant Variety Rights Office (PVRO) for the United Kingdom (UK) comprises the United Kingdom Controller of Plant Variety Rights, and the Plant Varieties and Seeds team within the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). APHA is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). It has responsibility for the delivery of United Kingdom PBRs, and the coordination and delivery of variety listing within the United Kingdom. Contact details are available on the Gov.UK website: UK Variety Listing and PBR. The National Lists and Seeds Committee (NLSC) advises the PVRO and makes recommendations to them. The Controller who sits in Defra is responsible for the decision making required for the granting of United Kingdom PBRs.

2. In 2025, the United Kingdom received 779 applications for United Kingdom PBRs for agricultural (308), fruit (66), ornamental (104) and vegetable (301) species. Of these, 487 tests were not conducted in the United Kingdom, but carried out by UPOV members where the United Kingdom DUS Test Centres did not have testing capability.

3. DUS testing in the United Kingdom is conducted at Niab (www.Niab.com), AFBI (www.afbini.gov.uk), and SASA (www.sasa.gov.uk). Niab carry out the testing of Wheat (winter and spring), Barley (winter and spring), Oats (winter and spring), Oilseed Rape (winter), Sugar Beet, Field Beans (winter and spring), Fodder Kale, and ornamental plants which include Chrysanthemum, Rose and a range of species of shrubs and herbaceous perennials. AFBI perform DUS testing of perennial ryegrass, Italian ryegrass, hybrid ryegrass and white clover. SASA conduct the DUS testing for potatoes, field pea, swede, turnip rape and vegetable peas. The DUS Test Centres, the PVRO and Defra are working together to support innovation and to ensure that DUS examinations can meet the opportunities of gene edited plant varieties.

4. The United Kingdom has implemented a customised version of the UPOV e-PVP administration module and the UPOV DUS exchange module. This will further complement the use of UPOV PRISMA as the compulsory application pathway for PBR and variety listing in the United Kingdom.

5. The United Kingdom authorities are working together to develop a United Kingdom Plant Variety and Seeds (PVS) Strategic Roadmap spanning PBR, variety listing, and setting standards for marketing and certification of seed and other plant propagating material within the context of the UK-EU SPS Agreement. It is expected to be published in 2027. This will be the first United Kingdom PVS strategy, and its development is an opportunity to set out a shared vision, priorities and actions, and work in partnership with industry and stakeholders to deliver these over the next 5 years.

6. The United Kingdom and Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on the examination of plant varieties for the purpose of PBR in 2025. Following on from this, the United Kingdom hosted a DUS examiner from Japan for a two-week training visit at Niab, Cambridge in May 2026. The visit encompassed a broad schedule covering DUS testing arrangements within the United Kingdom, practical DUS testing at Niab for agricultural and ornamental species, current research and development activities and a breeder visit.

7. The United Kingdom continues to support the UPOV distance learning courses by providing tutors. Technical and administrative staff at our test centres take advantage of the distance learning opportunities through DL205 and DL305.

8. Colleagues across the United Kingdom have also benefitted from attending three recent UPOV technical webinars. Peter Scotting (APHA) presented in the third webinar on ‘Phytosanitary matters that impact access to plant material for DUS examination’.

9. Hilary Papworth continues in her role as the Chair of the UPOV Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO). As does Margaret Wallace (Niab) in her role coordinating a sub-group of the Technical Committee focusing on issues relating to Test Guidelines and the web-based TG-Template. Furthermore, the fourth Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM) was held from 2 – 5 June 2026 at Jesus College, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

10. The United Kingdom is actively driving development and implementation of new techniques to DUS testing through several collaborative or internal projects:

- A revised version of DUST is currently being developed. This version will include a more robust interface, along with improved input and output formats. The software is being tested by DUS centres in the United Kingdom and feedback from these test centres will be used to further refine the user interface.

- The United Kingdom is also implementing the new COYU with splines method in parallel with the existing COYU method during a changeover period. To support the transition, guidance has been developed on how to deal with extrapolation.

- Initiatives exploring the use of molecular approaches in DUS work continues using barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) as a case study. This first project, completed in 2025, was a proof of concept for the use of molecular markers to predict DUS phenotypes and to inform the selection of similar varieties for the growing trials. The next phase will be to genotype the remaining varieties in the variety collection, optimise and validate the genomic prediction models in parallel to current DUS testing procedures and explore technical barriers to implementation. Niab are progressing with implementing a smaller marker set to be used to validate seed stock authentications and varietal identification in barley.

- Niab continues their investigation into the use of UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) within a DUS testing situation, exploring the potential to replace or supplement current methods for assessment of phenotypic characteristics.

- SASA are conducting trials with True Potato Seed (TPS) material to establish how they would conduct DUS testing in the United Kingdom for TPS candidates. The current protocol only allows tubers to be submitted for trials, whereas seeds would be submitted for TPS candidates. This preliminary work includes growing the seeds in the glasshouse to determine emergence rates and the number of weeks required before material could be transplanted to the field. Uniformity of the lightsprout, growing plant, and tuber characteristics is being assessed. Due to the risk of Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd) with TPS, the seeds are planted in a high containment glasshouse. Biosecurity measures are in place, and material must test negative for PSTVd before plants are removed from the glasshouse.

[End of Annex VI and of document]