

THE NEED TO SUSTAIN “SMALL” BREEDERS

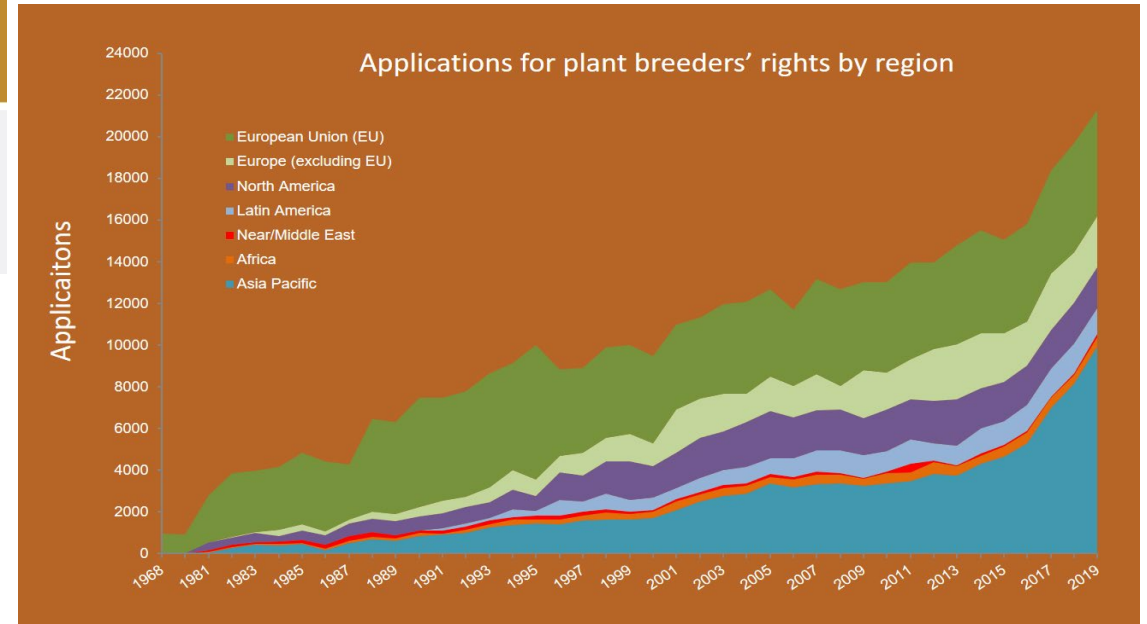
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GLOBAL CHALLENGES - PLANT BREEDING A PART OF THE SOLUTION



Source: UN and UPOV

EXPLOIT THE POTENTIAL OF PLANT BREEDING

- New plant breeding techniques and different methods for developing locally adapted plant materials, e.g. participatory plant breeding, show new opportunities to work with the global challenges.
- Progress in improving varieties could be made faster and more resource-efficiently.



Photo: *Johan Ascard*, Illustration: *Creative common*

INCENTIVIZE THE SITUATION FOR “SMALL” BREEDERS OR BREEDING INITIATIVES

- Opportunities to streamline and simplify plant breeding work may be utilised.
- New business models could be explored where commercial, and public interests jointly contribute resources to drive development forward.
- Proven ways to support development through, e.g. investments or support financed with public funds might be considered when possible.
- The question of how the UPOV community can assist in alleviating the economic impact perceived by less resourceful members of the breeding community deserve to be discussed.



Photo: Conny Thålin

HOW CAN THE UPOV COMMUNITY ASSIST?

Within the framework of UPOV, the efforts made to explore the possibilities that molecular methods can have for DUS testing. This is an excellent example of work that can contribute to incentivize the situation. This work should therefore continue, including efforts made to:

- reduce the effect that the costs of obtaining and maintaining plant breeding rights have on development activities,
- facilitate access to patented new breeding technologies and their results, and
- facilitate the handling of several forms of intellectual property rights such as plant breeders' rights and patents at the same time.

We would welcome an analysis of options that may exist within the UPOV community to address these issues. Ultimately, if we are to handle the challenges ahead, all ideas are needed.

Photo: *Urban Wigert*