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UNION INTERNATIONALE
POUR LA PROTECTION
DES OBTENTIONS VÉGÉTALES

GENÈVE, SUISSE

INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF
NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) is an intergovernmental organization based on the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, signed in Paris in 1961 and revised in Geneva in 1978. UPOV cooperates in administrative matters with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and has its headquarters in the WIPO building in Geneva, Switzerland.

The purpose of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants is to recognize and to ensure an exclusive property right to the breeder of a new plant variety.

The member States of UPOV grant such a right as provided for in the frame of the Convention and based on national legislation. To be eligible for protection, varieties have to be on the national list of botanical genera or species eligible for protection, distinct from commonly known varieties and sufficiently homogeneous and stable.

Seventeen States are members of UPOV: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

On December 2 and 3, 1986, the 25th anniversary of the signing of the UPOV Convention will be commemorated in Paris, under the auspices of the French Ministry of Agriculture. On the morning of December 2, the UPOV Council will meet. The UPOV Council is the body which takes all necessary decisions to ensure the efficient functioning of the Union. The meeting will be followed by a Symposium, featuring lectures on "The Contribution of Plant Breeding to Food Production" and on "Plant Breeding: a Common Undertaking for Laboratories, Experimental Networks and Firms." The Symposium will continue on the morning of December 3, and the participants will thereafter be able to enjoy an excursion.

More than 100 experts, including representatives from member and observer States, intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations, are expected to attend.