

INTERNATIONALER VERBAND  
ZUM SCHUTZ VON  
PFLANZENZÜCHTUNGEN  
GENÈVE, SCHWEIZ



UNION INTERNATIONALE  
POUR LA PROTECTION  
DES OBTENTIONS VÉGÉTALES  
GENÈVE, SUISSE

INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF  
NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

UPOV Press Release No. 31

Geneva, June 25, 1998

RATIFICATION BY GERMANY OF THE 1991 ACT  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW  
VARIETIES OF PLANTS

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany deposited its instrument of ratification of the 1991 Act of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants on June 25, 1998.

UPOV is an intergovernmental organization which 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 intellectual property right to the breeder of a new plant variety. The member States of UPOV grant such a right in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, under their national legislation.

Germany, which is already a member State of UPOV, is the seventh State to ratify the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. The 1991 Act will enter into force for Germany one month after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, i.e., on July 25, 1998.

The 1991 Act of the Convention makes the protection of all species of plants mandatory for member States after the expiration of a transitional period and strengthens the protection afforded to plant breeders. It does, however, leave protected varieties available, as at present, for use as a source of variation for the development of other varieties.

The strengthened protection for plant breeders will increase the incentive provided by the Convention for plant breeding and will lessen the threat to breeders from piracy of protected plant varieties and plagiaristic breeding activities.

[End]