



INTERNATIONALER  
VERBAND  
ZUM SCHUTZ VON  
PFLANZENZÜCHTUNGEN  
  
GENÈVE, SCHWEIZ

UNION INTERNATIONALE  
POUR LA PROTECTION  
DES OBTENTIONS  
VÉGÉTALES  
  
GENÈVE, SUISSE

UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL  
PARA LA PROTECCIÓN  
DE LAS OBTENCIONES  
VEGETALES  
  
GINEBRA, SUIZA

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

## PRESS RELEASE

### UPOV Press Release No. 89

Geneva, March 30, 2012

#### UPOV Council Holds Extraordinary Session

The Council of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) held its twenty-ninth extraordinary session on March 30, 2012.

Round-up of key developments:

#### Ratification of the 1991 Act

The Council was informed that Ireland, which had been a member of the Union since November 8, 1981, had deposited its instrument of ratification of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention on December 8, 2011, and had become bound by the 1991 Act on January 8, 2012. A full list of the members of the Union can be consulted at <http://www.upov.int/members/en/>.

#### Observers

Observer status was granted to the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) for the Council, the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), the Technical Committee (TC) and the Technical Working Parties (TWPs). A list of observers in UPOV Bodies can be consulted at <http://www.upov.int/members/en/observers.html>

#### Extension of the appointment of the Vice Secretary-General

The Council extended the appointment of Mr. Peter John Button, Vice Secretary-General, from December 1, 2012, until November 30, 2015, and expressed its appreciation for his excellent performance.

#### Symposium on the benefits of plant variety protection for farmers and growers on November 2, 2012

The Council endorsed the plans for the "Symposium on the benefits of plant variety protection for farmers and growers" (Symposium), to be held in Geneva on November 2, 2012.

The aim of the Symposium is to provide illustrations of how plant variety protection can improve incomes for farmers and growers by supporting the development and supply of new, improved varieties that are suited to their needs. The Symposium will also provide examples of how farmers and growers can use plant variety protection as breeders.

The Symposium will be webcast.

### Test Guidelines

The Council welcomed the adoption by the Technical Committee of eight new UPOV Guidelines for the Conduct of Tests for Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (Test Guidelines) and eight revised Test Guidelines. The new Test Guidelines were for Blue Honeysuckle, Buckwheat, Canna, Echinacea, Hemp, Heuchera & Heucherella, Oncidium and Shiitake. The Test Guidelines revisions were for Durum Wheat, French Bean, Kalanchoe, Kiwifruit, New Guinea Impatiens, Parsnip, Radish and Strawberry.

### Experience of members of the Union in the Examination of New Plant Varieties

The Council noted that the number of genera and species for which members of the Union had practical experience in the examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability (DUS) had increased from 2,679 in 2011 to 2,726 in 2012 (+1.75%). The Council also noted that information on members of the Union with practical experience in DUS examination was freely accessible via the GENIE database.

The reports of the Council and of the Technical Committee can be consulted at:  
[http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=25504](http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=25504)  
[http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=25503](http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=25503)

### Distance Learning Course DL-205

On-line registration for the UPOV Distance Learning Program "Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention" is now open.

The timetable for the session is as follows:

Study period: May 7 to June 10, 2012  
Final exam: June 4 to 10, 2012

On-line registration is available between March 26 and April 29, 2012. After April 29, registration will not be possible. For Category 1 and 2 participants, all endorsements must be provided by April 29, 2012.

The categories of participants are as follows:

#### *Category 1:*

Government officials of members of the Union endorsed by the relevant representative to the UPOV Council  
*No fee*

#### *Category 2:*

Officials of observer States / intergovernmental organizations endorsed by the relevant representative to the UPOV Council  
*(One non-fee paying student per State / intergovernmental organization;  
Additional students: CHF1,000 per student)*

#### *Category 3:*

Others  
*Fee: CHF1,000*

Please note that registration of participants in categories 1 and 2 must be accompanied by an endorsement from the representative to the UPOV Council of the UPOV member or observer, as appropriate, formally nominating the participant.

More detailed information concerning the course content and on-line registration is available on the UPOV website: [http://www.upov.int/resource/en/dl205\\_training.html](http://www.upov.int/resource/en/dl205_training.html).

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