

## UPOV Press Release 118

Geneva, November 2, 2018

### **UPOV Council Holds its Annual Session**

The Council of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) held its fifty-second ordinary session on November 2, 2018.

#### **Round-up of key developments:**

##### Examination of the Law of Afghanistan

The Council recommended that Afghanistan incorporate certain amendments in the “Plant Variety Protection Act” and recommended that, once the amendments have been incorporated in the Act, the amended Act be submitted to the Council for examination.

##### Observers in UPOV bodies

Observer status was granted to:

- Afghanistan in the Council, the Administrative and Legal Committee, the Technical Committee and the Technical Working Parties;
- Nigeria in the Council, the Administrative and Legal Committee and the Technical Committee;
- the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) in the Administrative and Legal Committee, the Technical Committee and the Technical Working Parties.

##### Adoption of documents

The Council adopted revised versions of the following documents:

UPOV/INF/16	Exchangeable Software
UPOV/INF/22	Software and Equipment Used by Members of the Union
UPOV/INF-EXN/11	List of UPOV/INF-EXN Documents and Latest Issue Dates
TGP/5 Section 1	Experience and Cooperation in DUS Testing: Model Administrative Agreement for International Cooperation in the Testing of Varieties
TGP/7	Development of Test Guidelines
TGP/0	List of TGP documents and latest issue dates

All adopted documents will be published in the UPOV Collection (see [http://www.upov.int/upov\\_collection/en/](http://www.upov.int/upov_collection/en/)).

## FAQ on the benefits of new varieties of plants for society

The Council adopted the following FAQ on the benefits of new varieties of plants for society:

### *Feeding the World*

*New varieties of plants are an essential and sustainable means of achieving food security in the context of population growth and climate change. The availability of an increasing choice of healthy, tasty and nutritious food at affordable prices relies on new varieties that are adapted to the environment in which they are grown and which provide a viable income for farmers.*

### *Improving lives in rural and urban areas*

*In rural areas, innovation in agriculture and horticulture is important for economic development, with production of high value varieties of fruit, vegetables and ornamentals providing increased income for farmers and employment for millions of people around the world. At a time of increasing urbanization, new varieties support the development of urban agriculture and the growing of ornamental plants, shrubs and trees that contribute to improving the urban environment.*

### *Respecting the natural environment*

*Improved yield, more efficient use of nutrients, resistance to plant pests and diseases, salt and drought tolerance and better adaptation to climatic stress are some of the features that enable new varieties to increase productivity and product quality in agriculture, horticulture and forestry, whilst minimizing the pressure on the natural environment.*

## UPOV PRISMA

The UPOV Council agreed to extend the introductory phase for UPOV PRISMA until December 2019, during which UPOV PRISMA will be free of charge.

UPOV PRISMA is an on-line, multi-lingual tool for making plant breeders' rights' applications in participating UPOV members. UPOV PRISMA currently has 30 participating UPOV members, covering 69 countries (see <http://www.upov.int/upovprisma/en/index.html>)

## Cooperation in the Examination of New Plant Varieties

In 2017, the number of plant genera and species for which there were agreements between members of the Union for cooperation in the examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability totaled 2,018 (2.4 percent increase).

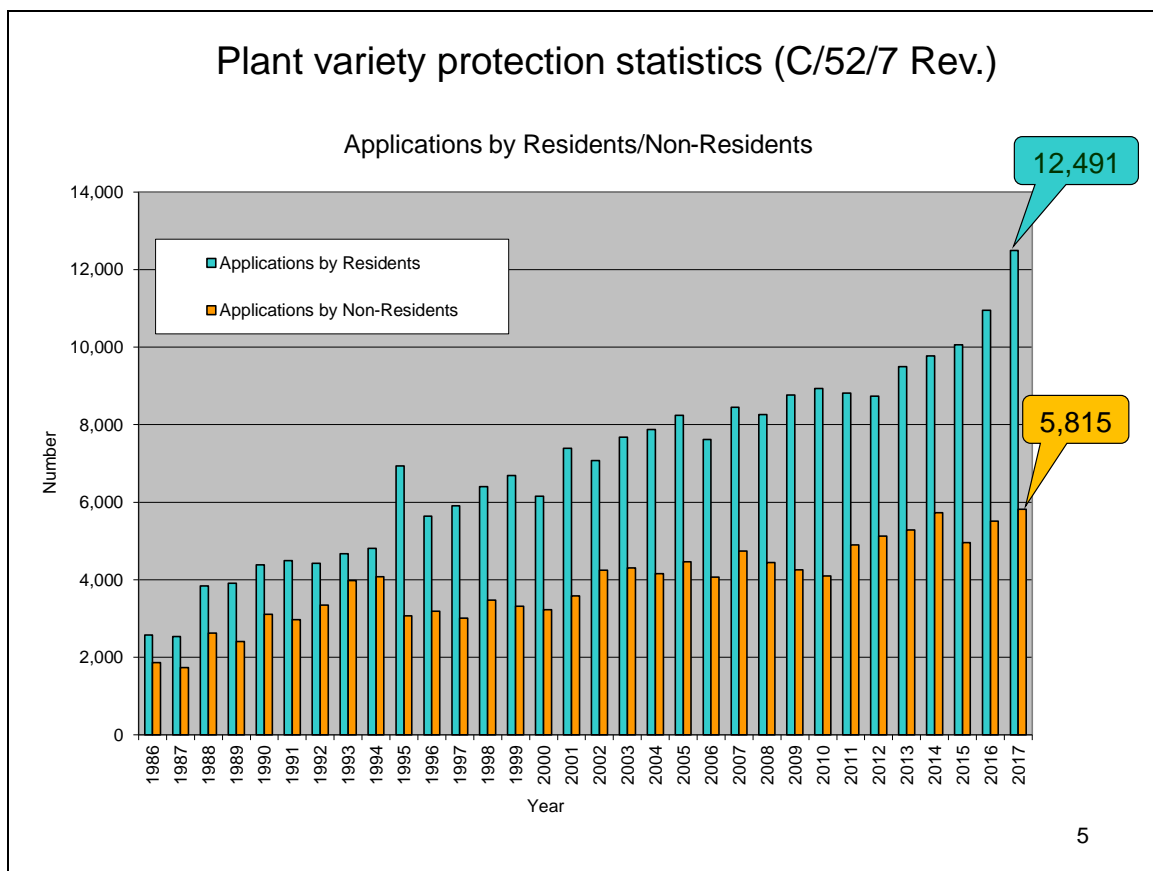
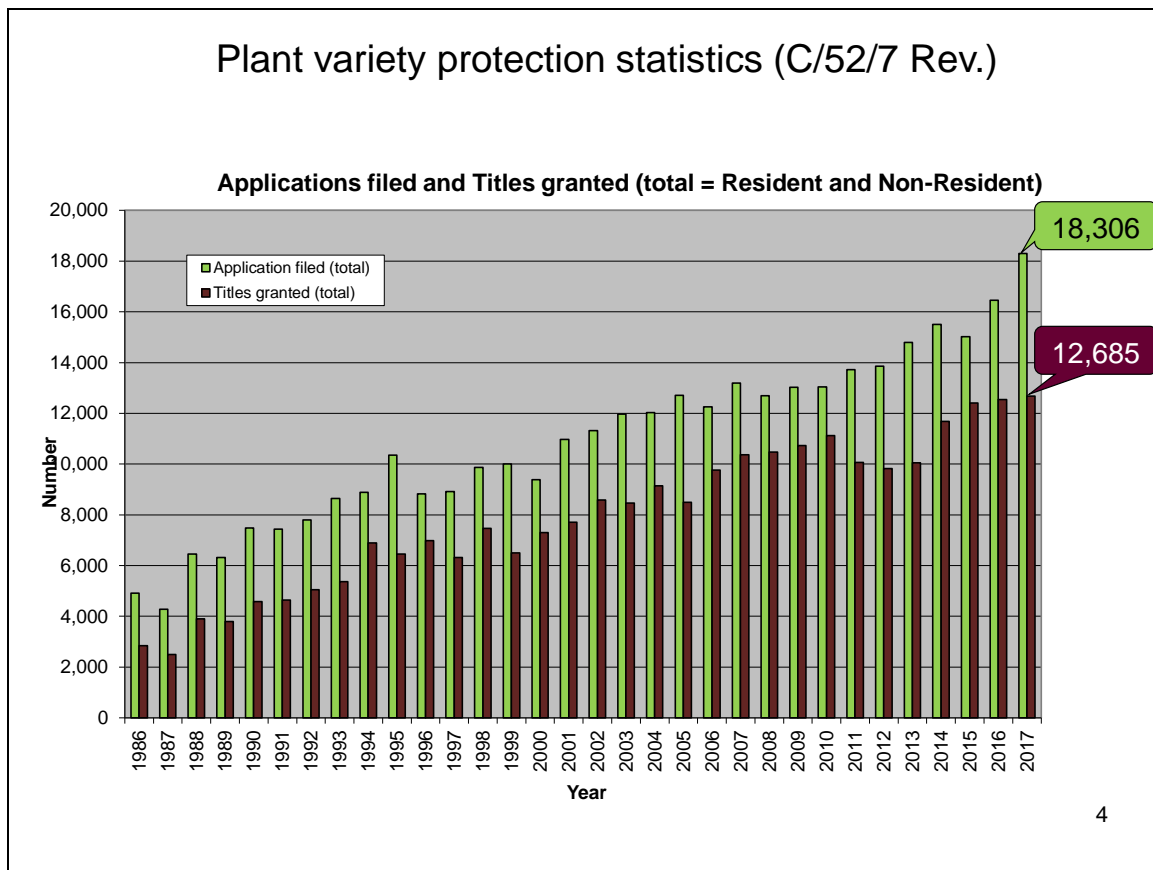
## Plant Variety Protection Statistics

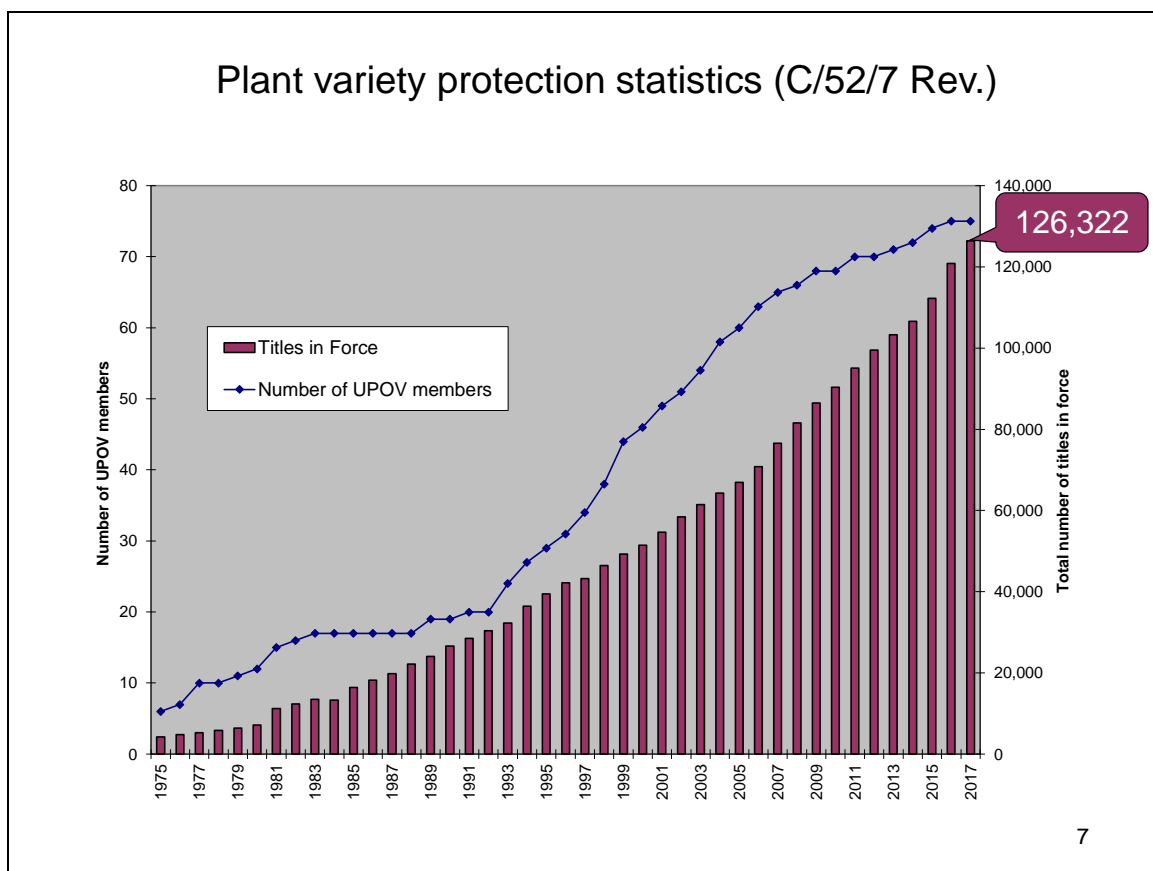
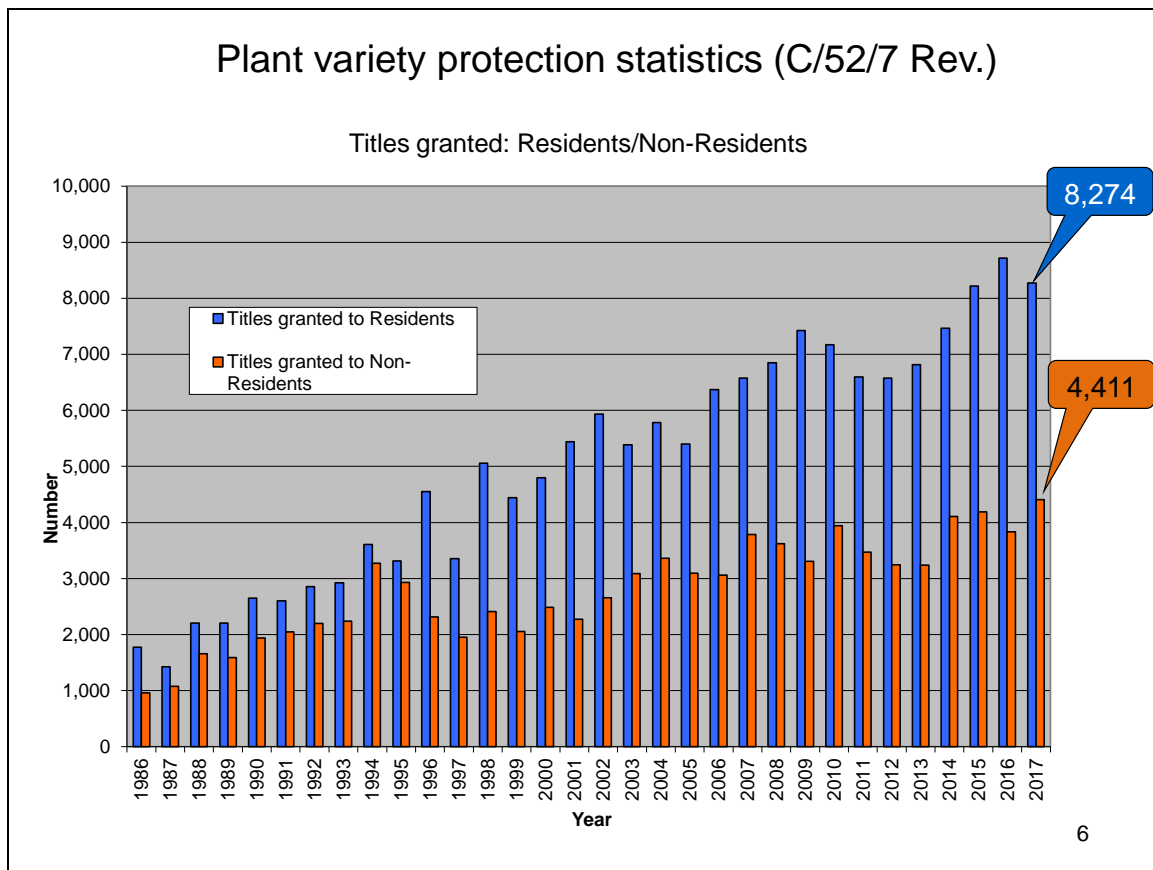
The number of applications for plant variety protection increased from 16,455 in 2016 to 18,306 in 2017 (11,2 percent increase).

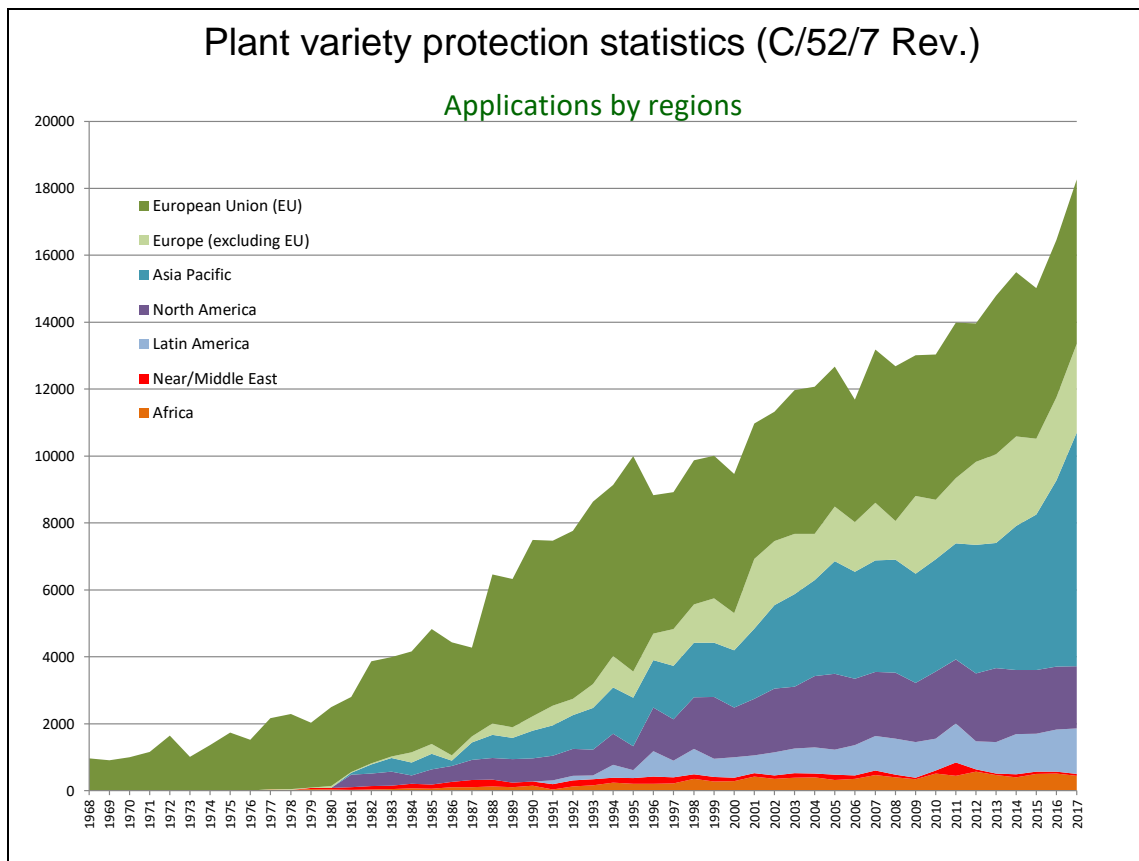
The number of titles granted increased from 12,550 in 2016 to 12,685 in 2017 (1.5 percent increase).

The total of 126,322 titles in force in 2017 represented a 4.6 percent increase on figures for 2016 (120,734).

The following graphs indicate trends in applications filed and titles granted since 1986. Information is also provided on the 10 members of the Union receiving the largest number of applications in 2007, 2016 and 2017 and an analysis of applications by residence of breeders for the same years:

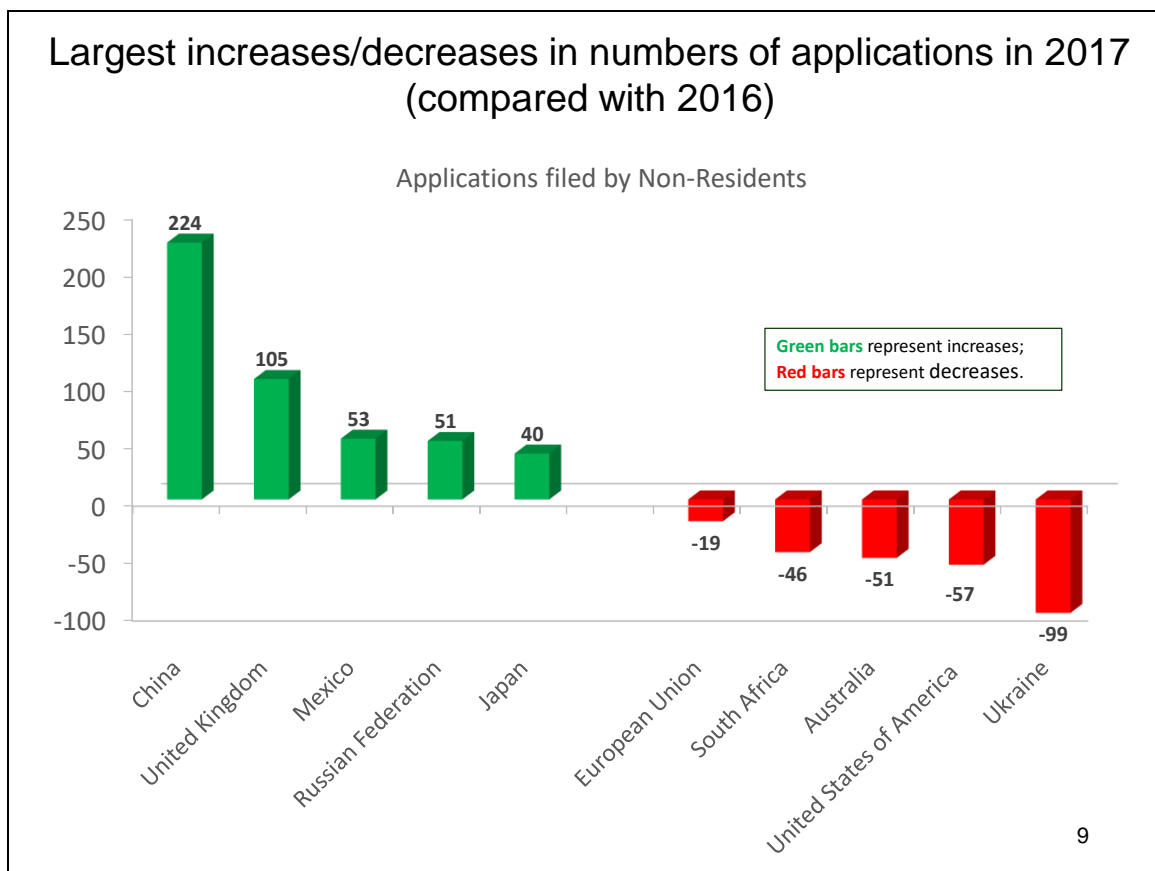
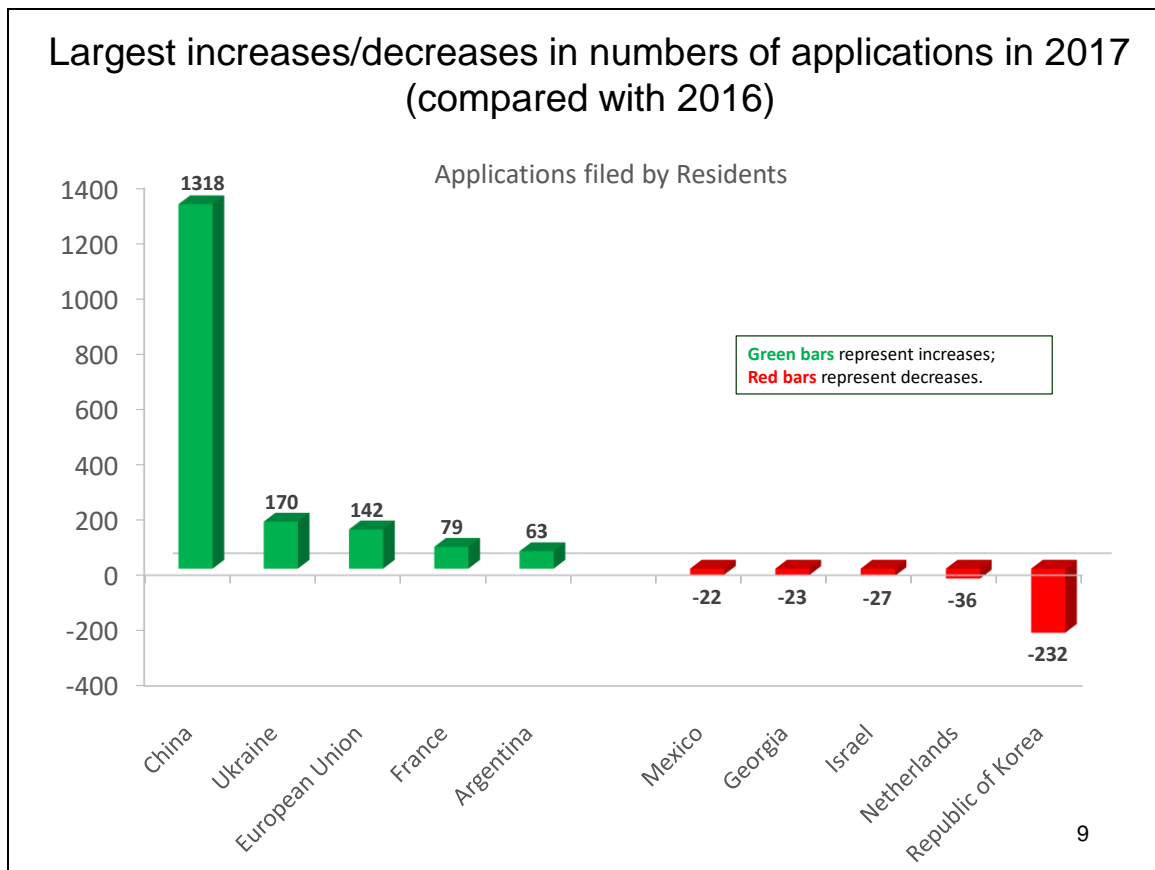


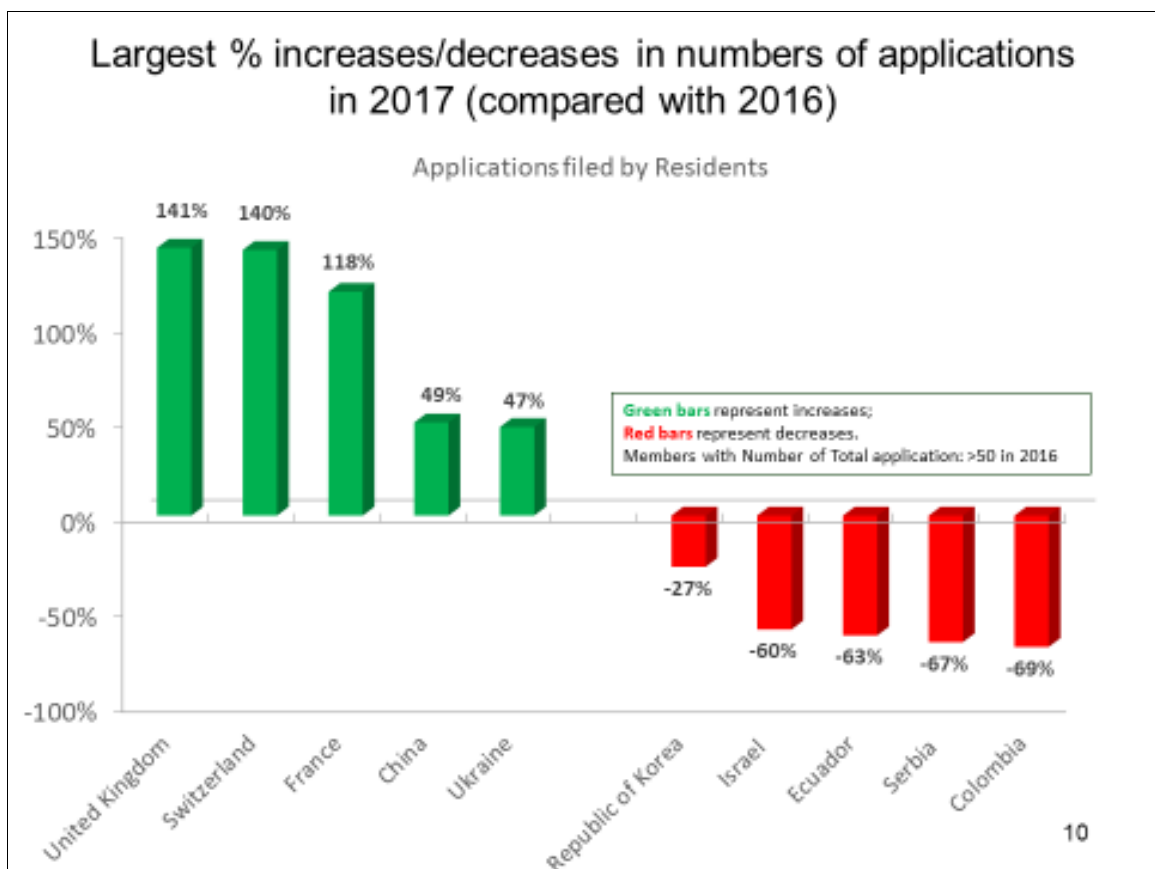
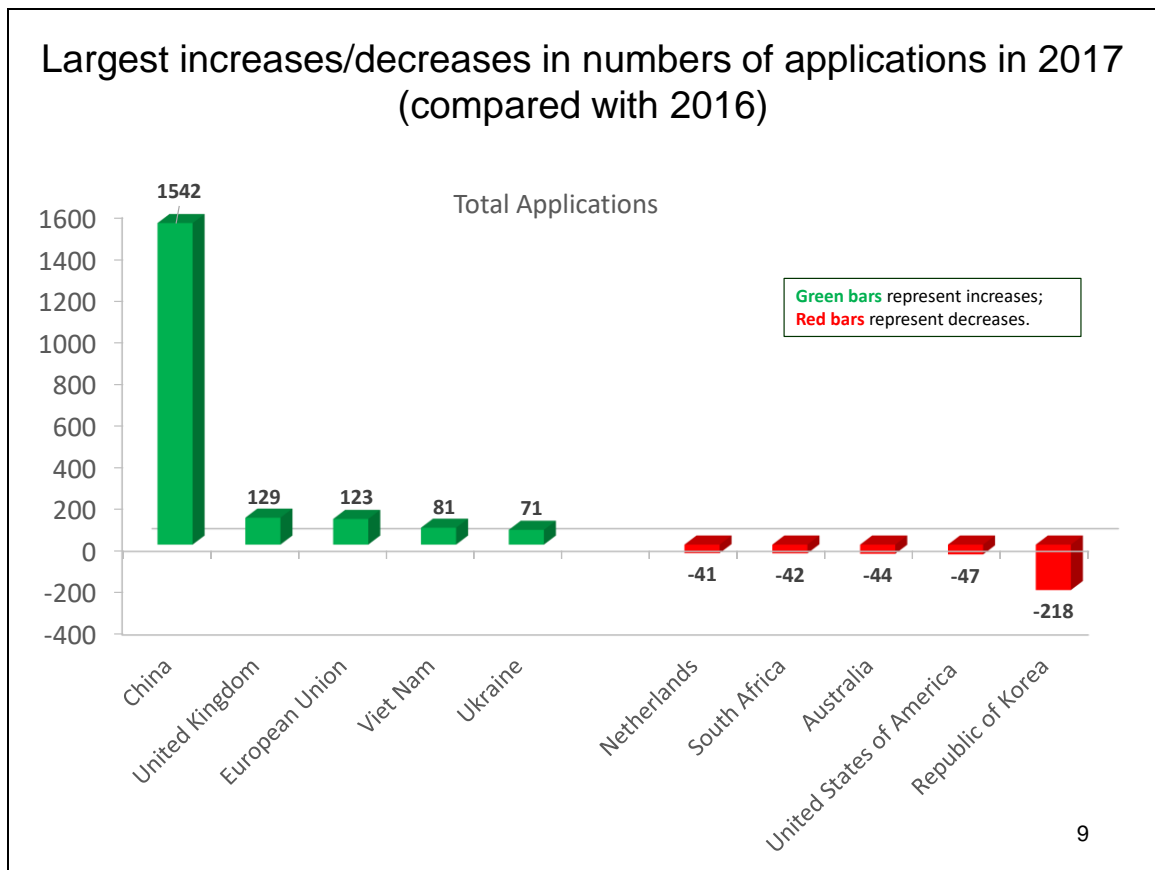


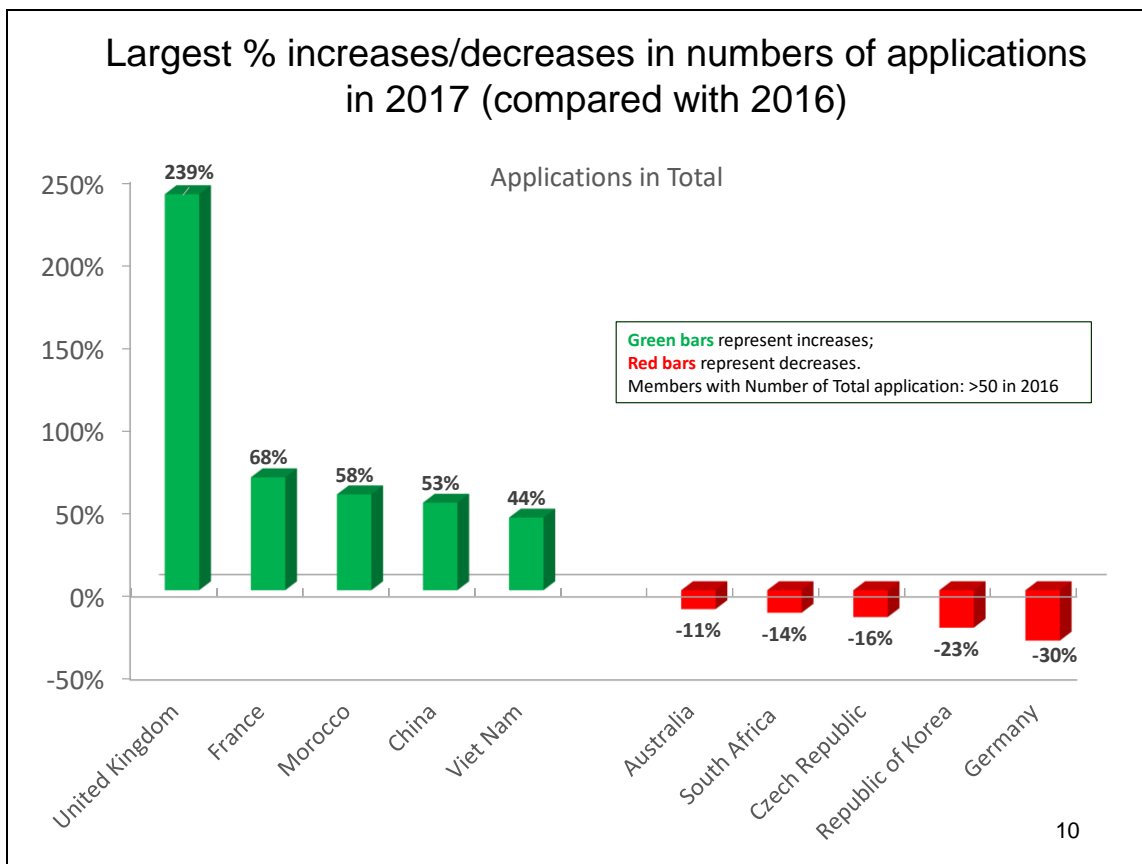
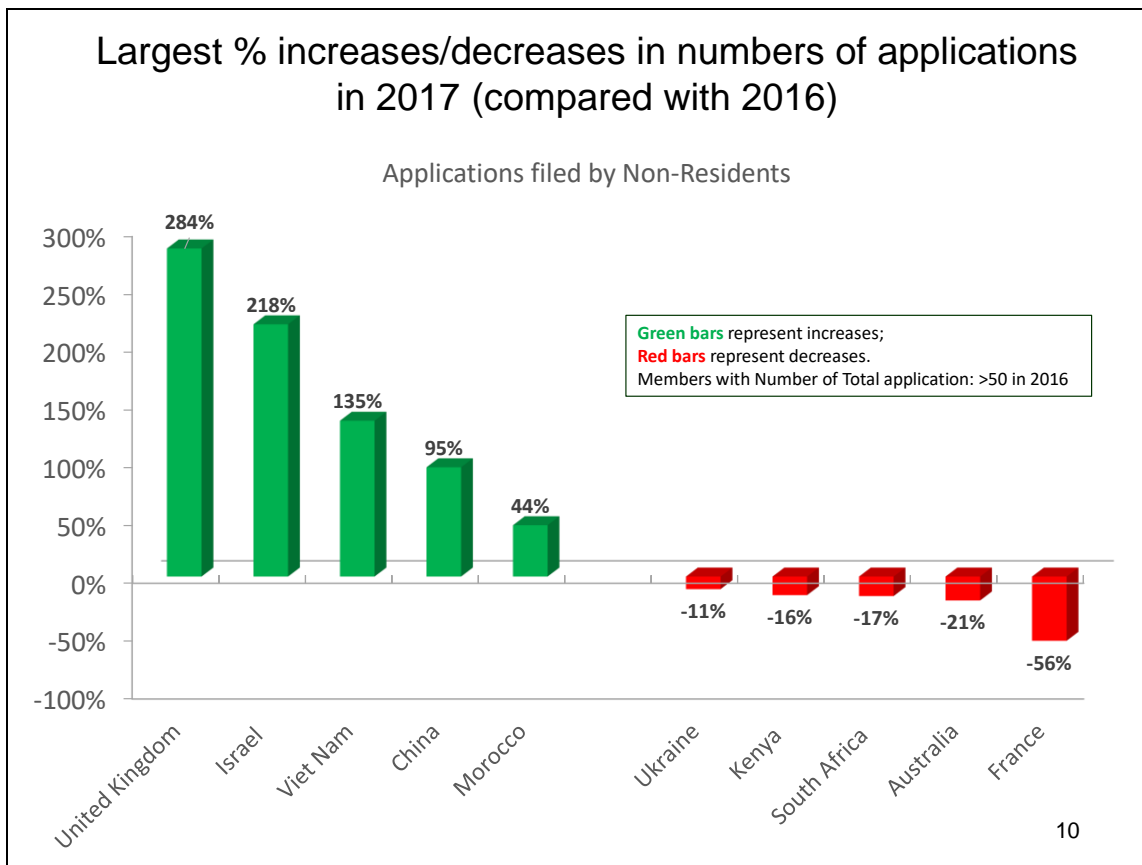


### Top 10: UPOV members by number of applications

Rank	2007		2016		2017	
	Member	Number of applications	Member	Number of applications	Member	Number of applications
1	European Union	2,968	European Union	3,299	China	↑1, 4,465
2	United States of America	1,485	China	↑3, 2,923	European Union	↓1, 3,422
3	Japan	1,406	United States of America	↓1, 1,604	United States of America	1,557
4	Russian Federation	885	Ukraine	↑3, 1,274	Ukraine	1,345
5	China	877	Japan	↓2, 977	Japan	1,019
6	Netherlands	846	Republic of Korea	↑2, 966	Russian Federation	↑2, 807
7	Ukraine	560	Netherlands	↓1, 804	Netherlands	763
8	Republic of Korea	527	Russian Federation	↓4, 772	Republic of Korea	↓2, 748
9	Canada	430	Australia	↑1, 387	Australia	343
10	Australia	336	Brazil	↑2, 326	Brazil	339









### Top 10: UPOV members by number of titles issued

Rank	2007		2016		2017	
	Member	Number of titles issued	Member	Number of titles issued	Member	Number of titles issued
1	European Union	2,616	European Union	2,980	European Union	2,865
2	United States of America	1,374	China	↑2 2,132	China	1,646
3	Japan	1,338	United States of America	↓1 1,703	United States of America	1,604
4	China	596	Japan	↓1 914	Ukraine	887
5	Ukraine	555	Republic of Korea	↑3 834	Japan	↓1 812
6	Canada	442	Russian Federation	↑1 592	Netherlands	↑1 672
7	Russian Federation	431	Netherlands	↑2 588	Russian Federation	↓1 641
8	Republic of Korea	424	Brazil	↑5 301	Republic of Korea	↓3 541
9	Netherlands	366	South Africa	↑1 247	Brazil	↓1 327
10	South Africa	225	France	↑13 200	Australia	↑3 244

Note: In 2016, Ukraine did not report number of titles issued.

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### Top 20: Country of residence of applicants (2017)

Rank	Country of residence of breeder	Applications filed as:				
		Resident			Non-resident	Total
		Resident	CPVO (EU member States)	Total		
1	China	4,004	0	4,004	37	4,041
2	Netherlands	638	1,349	1,987	1,333	3,320
3	United States of America	822	0	822	1,262	2,084
4	France	146	449	595	473	1,068
5	Germany	32	328	360	505	865
6	Japan	611	0	611	254	865
7	Republic of Korea	628	0	628	15	643
8	Russian Federation	597	0	597	4	601
9	Ukraine	534	0	534	4	538
10	Switzerland	12	0	12	311	323
11	Australia	147	0	147	154	301
12	Argentina	234	0	234	55	289
13	Italy	5	106	111	132	243
14	United Kingdom	41	63	104	132	236
15	Brazil	200	0	200	25	225
16	Denmark	5	139	144	75	219
17	Viet Nam	212	0	212	0	212
18	Spain	0	116	116	90	206
19	Israel	18	0	18	145	163
20	Belgium	3	121	124	35	159
<b>Sum of top 20</b>		8,889	2,671	11,560	5,041	16,601
<b>Others</b>		839	93	932	653	1,585
<b>Total</b>		9,728	2,764	12,492	5,694	18,186

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## Top 20: Country of residence of applicants

Rank	2007		2016		2017	
	Residence	App. #	Residence	App. #	Residence	App. #
1	Netherlands	2,600	Netherlands	3,129	China	↑1 4,041
2	United States of America	1,764	China	↑3 2,720	Netherlands	↓1 3,320
3	Germany	1,336	United States of America	↓1 2,035	United States of America	2,084
4	Japan	1,283	France	↑3 1,050	France	1,068
5	China	818	Germany	↓2 934	Germany	865
6	Russian Federation	777	Republic of Korea	↑2 886	Japan	↑1 865
7	France	621	Japan	↓3 761	Republic of Korea	↓1 643
8	Republic of Korea	388	Russian Federation	↓2 614	Russian Federation	601
9	Ukraine	318	Ukraine	364	Ukraine	538
10	Australia	314	Australia	316	Switzerland	↑1 323
11	United Kingdom	253	Switzerland	↑5 312	Australia	↓1 301
12	Argentina	243	Brazil	↑8 271	Argentina	↑2 289
13	Denmark	225	Denmark	254	Italy	↑4 243
14	Italy	193	Argentina	↓2 233	United Kingdom	↑1 236
15	Spain	181	United Kingdom	↓4 220	Brazil	↓3 225
16	Switzerland	178	Spain	↓1 199	Denmark	↓3 219
17	New Zealand	176	Italy	↓3 199	Viet Nam	↑3 212
18	Israel	174	Israel	186	Spain	↓2 206
19	South Africa	144	Czech Republic	↑3 164	Israel	↓1 163
20	Brazil	121	Viet Nam	↑22 162	Belgium	↑8 159

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### Background

UPOV is an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva, with 75 members, covering 94 States.

The purpose of UPOV is to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society.

The members of UPOV are:

African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, México, Morocco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

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