

# UPOV

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

## UPOV Press Release No. 78

Geneva, December 12, 2008

### COSTA RICA ACCEDES TO THE UPOV CONVENTION

Today Costa Rica deposited its instrument of accession to the UPOV Convention and will become the sixty-seventh member of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) on January 12, 2009.

The purpose of the UPOV Convention is to encourage the development of new varieties of plants by granting breeders an intellectual property right on the basis of a set of clearly defined principles. To be eligible for protection, varieties need to satisfy certain conditions, such as being distinct from existing, commonly known varieties and sufficiently uniform and stable. New varieties of plants are one of the most powerful tools to enhance food production in a sustainable way, to increase income in the agricultural sector and to contribute to overall development.

The Secretary-General of UPOV, Mr. Francis Gurry, welcomed the deposit of the instrument of accession of Costa Rica to the UPOV Convention (1991 Act) and expressed his satisfaction that UPOV has now reached 67 members.

The members of UPOV are:

Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica (as of January 12, 2009), Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

UPOV is an intergovernmental organization which is based in Geneva.

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